



MARITIEME AUTORITEIT SURINAME

Country Report

**11th MEETING OF THE MESO AMERICAN AND
CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (MACHC)**

**8 - 12 November 2010
Paramaribo, Suriname**

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1. The Maritime Authority Suriname (MAS)

The MAS is the statutory body that enforces maritime and shipping legislation in Suriname. The organization was constituted in 1998 by promulgation of the law. The MAS ensures safe navigation on all Surinamese waterways. The mandate encompasses both the maritime area as well as the internal waterways. The company is commercially exploited and is also in charge of pilotage, the maritime administration and casualty investigation.

Based on the fact that the Surinamese ports are situated along the rivers, it is important to have adequate hydrographic coverage and updated hydrographic data of the major ports, harbors, coastal area and the rivers, to facilitate the safe movement of ships.

The Hydrographic division deals with:

- depth Measurements in the coastal area and internal waters;
- topographic survey;
- tidal measurement;
- turbidity measurements;
- C.T.D. measurements;
- environmental monitoring
- planning of aids to navigation;
- obstacle determination;
- bottom sampling
- Notice to Mariners.

Through these activities, the MAS makes a contribution to the objectives of IHO and MACHC. The MAS, in representing the Government of Suriname, also makes a contribution through the support of activities undertaken by these two organizations. In this context, inter alia, we can name:

- the execution of the IHO Strategic Plan;

- the operations of the Hydrography and Cartography in Inland Waters Working Group(HCIWWG);
- the establishment of Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) within the hydrographic offices;
- the operations of INT Chart Committee.

More Information about the organization such as history, mission, vision, goals can be found on the website www.mas.sr .

2. Surveys

MAS also provide high quality hydrographic services to private companies. In 2010 MAS mostly conducted hydrographic surveys in the Suriname River for dredging preparation, monitoring of the channel and chart production.

The total area surveyed, is approximately 249 nautical miles.

Bathymetric data beyond 300m was made available by other State institutions, including topographic data for the coastal area.

3. Charts

The nautical paper charts of Suriname are a joint production with NLHO. The draft Memorandum of Understanding with NLHO contains provisions for the updating of paper charts and the production of ENC's. At present the paper charts are updated through Notice to Mariners and hydrographic surveys.

4. Maritime Safety Information

NAVIGATIONAL INFORMATION (S-53)

SERVICE	Yes	No	Partial	NOTES
LOCAL WARNINGS	X(NtM)			
COASTAL WARNINGS			X	
NAVAREA WARNINGS	X			
INFORMATION ON PORTS AND HARBOURS ¹			X	

Notices to Mariners are generated by the Hydrography division and promulgated locally.

5. S-55 Latest Update

Status of hydrographic surveys

Routine re-surveys are required in the port areas, which lie in unstable river regimes. The Surinamese coastal waters are subject to frequent changes because of sediment deposit from the mud banks, and a number of areas, especially the main shipping rivers require regular surveys and investigation.

	A	B	C
Offshore passage /Small	100	100	0
Landfall Coastal passage/Medium	100	60	0
Approaches Ports/Large	100	100	0

¹ Confirm that a system exists for passage of information on changes in ports and harbours to the responsible charting authority.

A = percentage which is adequately surveyed.

B = percentage which requires re-survey at larger scale or to modern standards.

C = percentage which has never been systematically surveyed.

Status of Nautical Charting

	A	B	C
Offshore passage/Small	100	0	0
Landfall Coastal passage/Medium	60	0	0
Approaches Ports/Large	100	0	0

A = percentage covered by INT series, or a paper chart series meeting the standards in M-4.

B = percentage covered by Raster Navigational Charts (RNCs) meeting the standards in S-61.

C = percentage covered by ENCs meeting the standards in S-57.

Some charts are in need of revision, and are based on outdated source material. The charts of the Suriname and Corantijn river, as transport links between the Atlantic ocean and the main ports, are up to date. The area east of 55°W is not covered by coastal/medium scale charts.

6. Capacity Building

In November 2009 one employee attended a Multibeam Course in Brazil.

In August 2010, one employee completed a 12-month Postgraduate training course in Ocean Bathymetry at the University of New Hampshire, USA.

In August 2010 one employee attended a course in Law of the Sea and Policy in Rhodes, Greece

In September 2010 two employees attended the Basic ENC and ENC production course in Jamaica.

Future plans:

The growth in the shipping industry in Suriname results in extension of the survey area and intensification of surveys, therefore the MAS has to optimize and reorganize the hydrographic department.

This includes;

- establishment of a cartographic unit for the production of paper charts and ENCs;
- acquire equipment that can be use efficiently such as Side Scan, GIS, MB system and meet IHO standards;
- extension of tidal station in the coastal area;
- extension of base points along coastal area and riverbanks;
- extension of survey area;
- determination of LAT;
- establishing a Marine Safety Information System;
- collaboration with several institutions national and international.

7. Other activities

A press release was issued in connection with the celebration of World Hydrography Day. Our monthly publication of June, which is published in a local newspaper, was dedicated to the importance of hydrography as an economic enabler.

Collaboration with the University of Suriname regarding the research of pending issues in the coastal area and internal waters are in preparatory phase.

The MOU with NLHO is being revised mainly for the production of ENC.

8. Conclusion

Great effort has been made to guarantee safe navigation in the Surinamese waterways, but there are still challenges ahead. MAS is willing to share experience with other hydrographic offices and is looking forward to cooperate more with countries in the region.