



## National Hydrography



*Belize Port Authority, Survey Report - 2011*

# National Hydrographic Survey Report 2011

## Belize, Central America

**Organization:** Belize Port Authority  
**Ports Commissioner:** Major (Ret'd.) John Flowers  
**Lead Hydrographer:** Mr. Michael A. Jenkins  
**Surveying Team:** Mr. Darrel Ramclam  
Mr. Zachary Young  
Mr. Osborne Vernon  
Mr. Rennick Baizar  
**Survey Vessel:** MV SEA KING

As the Gulf of Honduras (GOH) Project comes to an end, we would like to say “Thank you” for allowing Belize to be an integral part of this special project for the gulf region. Belize has certainly benefited from the program and takes this opportunity to highlight hydrographic work conducted by my unit over the last few months in and around Belize City and the Big Creek area despite the few difficulties we encountered in the process of getting started.

With an investment of over \$75,000 US in MV SEA KING, the vessel is now operational and is presently conducting hydrographic surveys on a daily basis since the first week in October 2011. Prior to the successful start the Gulf Of Honduras Project provided the Belize Port Authority (BPA) with three (03) consecutive years of training that were very beneficial with the exception of the first training which was lacking in on sea training. However, a lot was learnt from the trainings that were received and the survey team is now able to maintain, set up, trouble shoot, collect bathymetric data and conduct processing. This is observed through our daily work that processing of these data using the Hypack software requires more training for achieving the goals set by the Project.

Since the last training in February 2011 surveys have been done in the turning basin of the Port of Belize Limited (PBL) and at Big Creek Port. Surveys were also conducted in a new proposed shipping channel. This new channel will allow for much larger vessels to call to our Port. Surveys conducted were done without the support of a functional tide gauge which at this time needs to be calibrated. To help alleviate some of the problems one of the privatized Port has purchased their own tide gauge which will be installed and maintained by the BPA and will be used for surveys within the zone of the gauge.

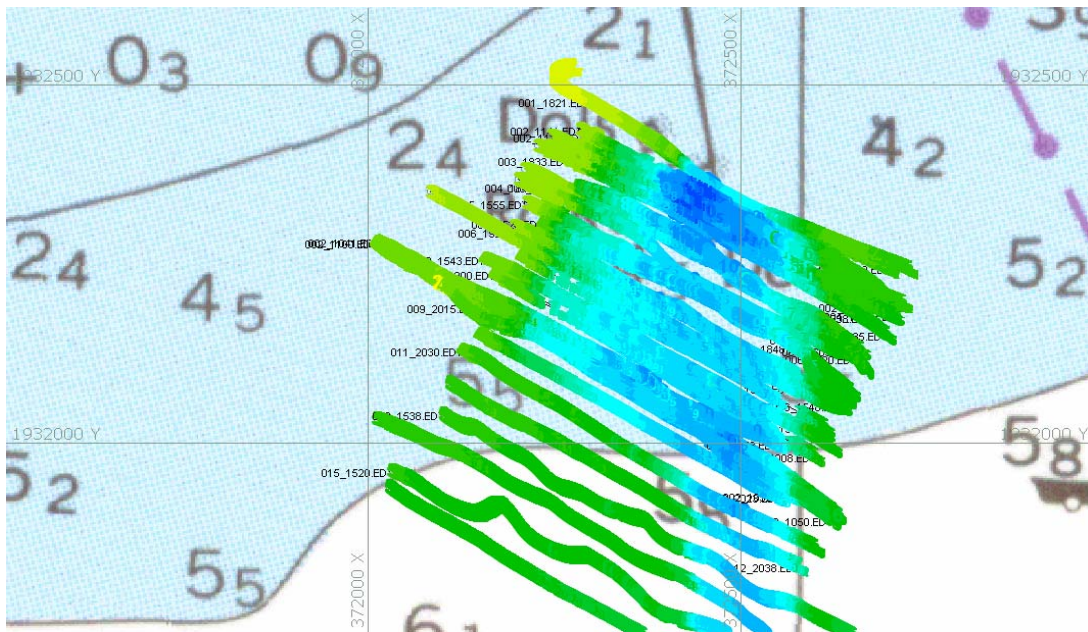
It is important to note that Belize is still in its infancy stage as it pertains to hydrographic surveys. But it is also encouraging to see that although there have been many problems encountered along the way; the Authority was still able to provide in the last few months useful survey data to the Ports. It is understood that all surveys will have to be redone when the tide gauge has been properly installed and the Authority is hopeful that these areas mentioned will be ready to be delivered to UKHO in Taunton England by March of 2012.

Our survey team which has no other internal support is at an important stage in the development and sustainability of Hydrography. The Belize Port Authority recognizes the need for one additional training which would primarily be data collection and data processing. It may also be of use that the other participating countries namely Honduras and Guatemala be a part of this training since our survey vessel has the capacity to carry fourteen (14) people.

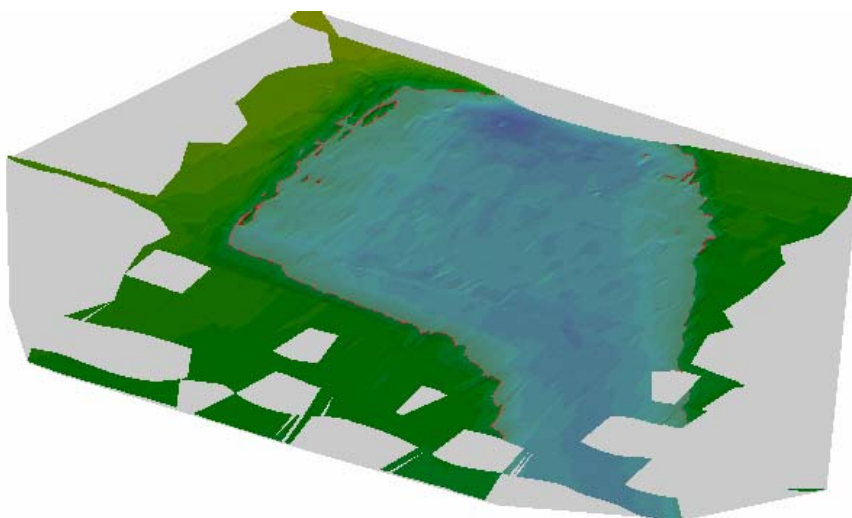
Hydrography has had some major set backs in Belize but with the dedication from the Government of Belize it is anticipated that survey work will be a continuous work throughout the year. 2012 should see Belize Hydrographic team delivering substantial data to our UKHO partners in this project.

The following are areas as depicted below were surveyed during the year 2011:

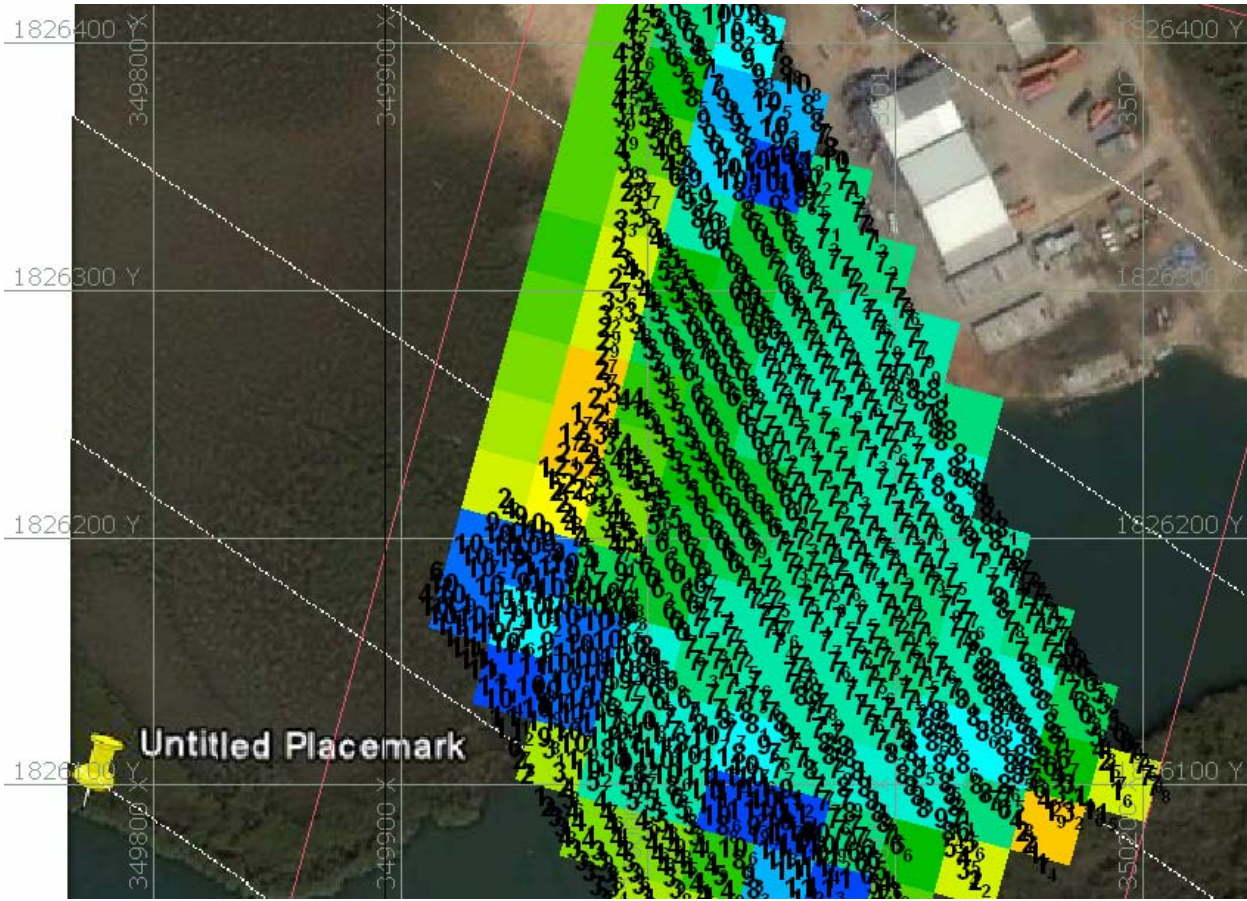
Figures 1:



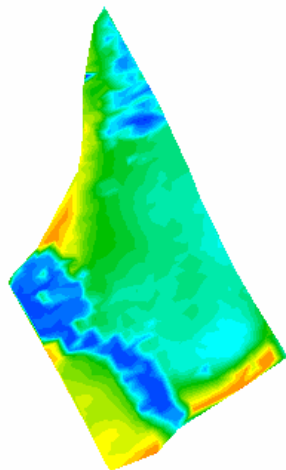
Figures II:



Figures III:



Figures IV:



Figures V:

