



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

National Report TO MESO-AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (MACHC) XVI MEETING,

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

07 to 12 DECEMBER 2015

The Hydrographic highlight this year is the hosting of this prestigious MACHC 16th Meeting, for which we are all present here.

1. HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE:

The National Hydrographic Office (NHO) was established on the 21 June 2010, under the auspices of The Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS). The terms of reference for the operation of the NHO are based on the framework provided by the IHB. The NHO is still in its embryonic stage of development; however it is strongly committed to the hydrography capacity building program of the Caribbean Region.

2. SURVEYS

2.1 The Main Harbour of St. John's:

The St. John's Harbour was surveyed to determine the amount of sediment to be removed before the sweeping operation began by the Royal Buscarlis Dredging Company. Upon completion of the sweeping operation another survey was carried out to determine the actual depth of the harbour.

2.2 The United States Navy Fleet Survey Team

The United States Navy Fleet Survey Team in conjunction with the Antigua & Barbuda Port Authority, the Antigua & Barbuda Coast Guard and the Dept. Of Marine Services (ADOMS) are currently carrying out a specialized survey of the St. Johns Harbour and its approaches. Date of completion for this survey is set for on or about December 15, 2015.

2.3 IALA's stage 2 Technical Mission to Antigua and Barbuda

IALA's stage 2 Technical Mission to Antigua and Barbuda was comprehensively carried out during the period of November 30 and December 04 by Mr Stephen Bennett and Mrs Gerardine Delanoye. This special mission was commissioned to ascertain the correctness of the charted and uncharted Aids to Navigation in the State of Antigua & Barbuda. After a successful mission we await the final report.

2.4 TIDE STATIONS.

The tide station on the sister island of Barbuda is functioning and is monitored by NOAA of the USA and the Antigua & Barbuda Meteorological Office.

3. CHARTS AND PUBLICATIONS:

Charts 2065 and 2066

Assessment for the upgrading of **Charts 2065 Northern Antigua and 2066 Southern Antigua** were done by the ADOMS team, The Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority and the National Parks Authority.

Charts were examined for imperfection and inaccuracies before printing by our chart producers,

4. MSI

4.1 Existing infrastructure for transmission

Maritime Safety Information (MSI's) is generated by the Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS) in conjunction with the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority, The Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force Coast Guard, The Fisheries Division and other local maritime interests. The information is checked by the NHO for correctness before transmitted to the UKHO for the prompt updating of maritime charts and official Notices to Mariners.

All local notices to mariners are channeled through the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force Coast Guard who has the capacity to disseminate the information.

5. CAPACITY BUILDING

5.1 Antigua & 5.2 Required Training

Antigua & Barbuda will continue to focus on the development of our capacity building program, the following areas of training will be addressed in the interim.

- (1) Nautical Cartography Category “B” in the interim stage
- (2) Hydrography levels “1” and “2”
- (3) Office Administration and communication

6. S-55 LATEST UPDATE

The UKHO provides the information for the updating of the S-55 database

7. OCEANOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES

No activity recorded

8. CONCLUSIONS

In the past year, The Department of Marine Services & Merchant Shipping (ADOMS) and the National Hydrographic Office (NHO) have been working closely with the UKHO, the MACHC, IALA and the USN Fleet Survey team to promote the collaborative efforts in development of Hydrography in the State.

In the foreseeable future, the NHO wishes to continue to collaborate with other NHO's of the OECS with respect to the sharing of information, data, and equipment when acquired. The capacity building efforts already in process will continue and this will only serve to ensure that the requisite resources are in place to effectively manage and service the industry regionally.