

# MESOAMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

17th Meeting, Belém, Brazil 2016

## NATIONAL REPORT – Guatemala

### **1. Hydrographic Office/Service:**

Directorship of Maritime Affairs and National Commission of Hydrography and Oceanography.

### **2. Surveys:**

During 2016 hydrographic surveys were conducted in different areas, located in the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea in conjunction with the Port Authorities and Fleet Survey Team (USA).

In the Pacific Ocean: In Puerto Quetzal were conducted hydrographic surveys after dredging operations in a new terminal of containers TCQ (docking area and shelter area).

In the Caribbean Sea, was performed the hydrographic survey special order in the harbors, channel and anchorage areas with the Fleet Survey Team.

### **3. New charts and updates:**

Guatemala doesn't have resources for the production of nautical charts. However, in the past US promulgated new charts and updates of Guatemalan Waters. Besides that, the Directorship of Maritime Affairs is trying to finalize the agreement with the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO).

#### 4. New publications:

Not applicable. US promulgate nautical publications of Guatemalan Waters.

#### 5. MSI:

NGA (US) is the NAVAREA IV and XII Coordinator within the IMO/IHO World-Wide Navigational Warning Service. (Including maritime areas of Guatemala). Consequently, the Department of Hydrography and Oceanography has direct communication with this agency in order to share maritime safety information.

#### 6. IHO PUBLICATION S-55

Status of hydrographic survey of all navigable waters, including internal waters, out to the limits of the EEZ: Survey coverage, where:

A = percentage which is adequately surveyed.

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

C = percentage which has never been systematically surveyed.

	A	B	C
Depths < 200m	10	60	30
Depths > 200m	0	0	100

#### 7. Capacity Building:

Training course on hydrographic data processing, one Navy Officer, 12-15th of July, Veracruz, Mexico

Training course on Maritime Safety Information in the island of St. Lucia 16-18<sup>th</sup> August

Workshop on multibeam data processing, one Navy Officer, 22-26<sup>th</sup> August Cartagena Colombia,

Symposium on Oceanography, fisheries, aquaculture and Climate Change, three Navy Officers, 21-23th September, San Carlos University, Guatemala.

Course of Ocean Observation and Hydrographic surveys in Busan, two Navy Officers, September 26<sup>th</sup> till October 14<sup>th</sup> , City of Busan, Republic of Korea.

Training course on Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure in Veracruz, one Navy Officer, 03-07 October, in Veracruz, Mexico.

Training course on Maritime Safety Information, one Navy Officer, 28-30<sup>th</sup> November, Veracruz Mexico.

E-learning Basic Course of Hydrography, 12 navy officers, Directorship of Maritime Affairs, Guatemala, still on going.

8. **Oceanographic activities:** profiles of temperature, salinity and depth, moreover, seafloor sampling as part of the hydrographic survey in Amatique Bay.
9. **Other activities:** posicioning of aids to navigation in Puerto Barrios and Santo Tomas de Castilla.

## 10. Conclusions:

Guatemala promotes research throughout the National Hydrographic and Oceanographic Commission, uniting human and material resources with the purpose of creating spatial data of the country. Moreover, other governmental institutions like universities and Ngo's, however, the change of government and authorities has a direct effect in the national activities.

Interagency cooperation is vital for Guatemala in order to achieve the international responsibilities. Besides that, our national capacities are growing with the support of the MACHC, however, the lack of equipment is our main weakness.

