



UNITED KINGDOM  
NATIONAL REPORT

TO THE

15<sup>TH</sup> MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEAS  
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION MEETING

MALTA

22<sup>ND</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2007



**NOTE:** This report concentrates on UK's activities of direct relevance to the MBSHC region. Further details of UKHO's role and other activities may be found on the UKHO website: [www.ukho.gov.uk](http://www.ukho.gov.uk).

## **1. UNITED KINGDOM HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE (UKHO)**

### **New Chief Executive and National Hydrographer**

1.1 UKHO has a new Chief Executive and a new National Hydrographer. Mr Mike Robinson was appointed Chief Executive in July 2006, following the retirement of Dr Wyn Williams, and Rear Admiral Ian Moncrieff took up the appointment of National Hydrographer in December 2006. Both attended the XVII<sup>th</sup> International Hydrographic Conference in May 2007.

### **Changes in UKHO Organization**

1.2 UKHO's organization continues to evolve with changes in both organization and personnel. Within the Operations Directorate, the Chart Branch functions have been aligned with new production processes. The contacts for discussion of charting matters for most of the MBSHC region are Mr Graham Denslow and Mrs Anne Kearle. Contacts for Spain and France are Mr Peter Snowden and Mr Mark Halliwell.

UKHO's bilateral arrangements within the MBSHC region are developed and looked after by Mr Keith Packer.

UK's hydrographic representation in international fora is coordinated by Mr Chris Smith and Mrs Liz Dunn.

Contact details are provided at the end of this report.

### **Changes to Production Systems**

1.3 UKHO continues to work towards a fully digital production flowline to replace the existing analogue and digital system. Known as the Production Systems Programme (PSP), the project is designed to build the production foundation for the future. To date, the UKHO's working archive has been catalogued and documents captured in digital format, and geo-referenced. Receipt and distribution of source data documents in digital format is now being implemented, managed by workflow software. Other case by case projects are being developed for specific items, as appropriate.

## **2. SURVEYS**

2.1 Details of the management of civil hydrographic surveys in UK Home Waters are provided on UKHO website. UK's National Hydrographic Committee has met on an annual basis for many years and provides the necessary breadth of interests to ensure that all requirements are taken into account when prioritizing UK's civil hydrographic survey programme.

2.2 Any requests for survey assistance from nations within this RHC will be assessed within the MOD, with advice from UKHO. UKHO can also contribute to project management of hydrographic surveys.

2.3 UK hydrographic surveys in MBSHC region, carried out by HMS Roebuck in early 2006, are:

- approaches to Marsaxlokk (in conjunction with the Malta Maritime Authority) and
- Gibraltar.

## **3. CHARTS AND PUBLICATIONS**

### **3.a. CHARTS**

3.a.1 Information on UK's chart portfolio is provided on the UKHO website. The following paragraphs provide information specifically relevant to the MBSHC region.

3.a.2 The following charts have been published since the 2005 MBSHC meeting:

GB Chart Number	INT Chart Number	Title	Published
NE 165		Menorca to Sicilia including Malta	17 May 2007
NE 176	INT 307	Cap Bon to Ra's At Tin	22 Dec 2005
NE 176	INT 307	Cap Bon to Ra's At Tin	17 May 2007
NE 354 (re-adoption)	INT 3361	Port of Genova West Part	5 Apr 2007
NE 355 (re-adoption)	INT 3362	Port of Genova East Part	5 Apr 2007
NE 204		Sedmovrace to Trieste and Ravenna to Venezia	10 May 2007
NE 220		Otok Vis to Otok Susak and S. Benedetto del Tronto to Ravenna	10 May 2007
NE 849		Ports in Western Cyprus	1 Jun 2006
NE 916		Ports and Harbours in Golfo di Napoli	30 Nov 2006
NE 973		Approaches to Augusta and Siracusa	2 Mar 2006
NE 908		Golfo di Napoli and Golfo di Salerno	6 Sep 2007
NE 915 (re-adoption)	INT 3386	Port of Napoli	5 Jul 2007
NE 963		Ports on the North Coast of Sicilia	26 Jul 2007
NE 1198		Istanbul Bogazi (The Bosphorus)	15 Dec 2005
NE 1158 (re-adoption)		Istanbul Bogazi Kuzeyi (Northern Bosphorus)	13 Apr 2006
NE 1198 (re-adoption)		Istanbul Bogazi (The Bosphorus)	13 Apr 2006
NE 1204		Approaches to Porto Torres	18 Oct 2007
NE 1205		Oristano and Approaches	27 Apr 2006
NE 1213	INT 3350	Bonifacio Strait	24 Nov 2005
NE 1439		Sicilia to Nisos Kriti	22 Dec 2005
NE 1440		Adriatic Sea	10 May 2007
NE 1467		Approaches to Ravenna	10 May 2007
NE 1483		Approaches to Chioggia, Malamocco, Venezia and Marghera	10 May 2007
NE 1571		Plans in the Western Aegean Sea	31 Aug 2006
NE 1608		Approaches to Canakkale Bogazi (The Dardanelles)	15 Dec 2005
NE 1625		Nisos Khios to Ildir Korfezi	4 May 2006
NE 2101 (re-adoption)	INT 3657	Mersin Limani	9 Feb 2006
NE 2101 (re-adoption)	INT 3657	Mersin Limani	30 Aug 2007
NE 2121		Cap de Fer (Ras el Hadid) to Iles Cani	17 May 2007
NE 2122		Bizerte to Capo San Marco	17 May 2007
NE 2123		Capo Granitola to Capo Passero	22 Dec 2005
NE 2124		Isola di Lampedusa to Capo Passero including Malta	22 Dec 2005
NE 2202		Port Yuzhnyy	28 Sep 2006
NE 2429		Canakkale Bogazi (The Dardanelles)	15 Dec 2005
NE 2243		Odesa, Illichiv'sk and Approaches	19 Jan 2006
NE 2399		Burgas and Approaches	30 Aug 2007
NE 2408		Igoumenitsa with Approaches	11 May 2006
NE 2437		Ras Tarf to Oran	19 Oct 2006
NE 3403	INT 3216	Cap Afrique to Misratah	22 Dec 2005

3.a.3 Charts scheduled for publication in the next six months include: GB 356 (INT 3360) (re-adoption), 2236, 131, 822, 1909, 1985, 1990. Charts scheduled beyond that include: GB 205 (INT 3492) (new adoption), 1531, 3357 (INT 3560) (new INT chart), 1418, 3119, 1591, 3313, 331745 & 142.

## ENCs

3.a.4 UKHO, having completed ENC production for UK home waters, is now engaged in the production of ENCs for other areas where it is Primary Charting authority. Full details of UK's ENC coverage are provided on UKHO website where there is both an online catalogue and a more functional downloadable digital catalogue (see below).

3.a.5 UKHO, along with other European hydrographic offices was a founder member of the International Centre for ENCs (IC-ENC) RENC which is the route to market for UK ENCs. IC-ENC concentrates its efforts on the validation and consistency of ENC data and leaves the marketing of ENCs to the shipping industry to its value added resellers. Details can be found on the IC-ENC website (ic-enc.org).

3.a.6 Within the Mediterranean, UK has so far published 28 ENC cells, three of which have been released through IC-ENC since the last MBSHC meeting.

## 3.b. PUBLICATIONS

### General

3.b.1 Information on UK's publication portfolio is provided on UKHO website. The following paragraphs provide information specifically relevant to the MBSHC region.

### Paper publications

3.b.2 The status of Admiralty Sailing Directions in the MBSHC region is as follows:

#### *New Editions Published:*

NP 24	Black Sea and Sea of Azov Pilot	February 2007
NP 45	Mediterranean Pilot Vol I	September 2005
NP 46	Mediterranean Pilot Vol II	September 2007
NP 47	Mediterranean Pilot Vol III	December 2005
NP 48	Mediterranean Pilot Vol IV	October 2006
NP 49	Mediterranean Pilot Vol V	March 2006

#### *New Editions to be Published*

NP 24	Black Sea and Sea of Azov Pilot	March 2010
NP 45	Mediterranean Pilot Vol I	December 2008
NP 46	Mediterranean Pilot Vol II	September 2010
NP 47	Mediterranean Pilot Vol III	January 2009
NP 48	Mediterranean Pilot Vol IV	October 2009
NP 49	Mediterranean Pilot Vol V	April 2009

### Digital Publications

3.b.3 UK continues to develop digital equivalents to its existing paper publications; these have the two advantages to the mariner of providing additional functionality and minimising the task of updating. Since the 2005 MBSHC meeting, UK has published a digital catalogue and a digital version of Admiralty List of Radio Signals (Vol 6) – Admiralty Digital Radio Signals Volume 6 (ADRS6); these supplement the existing Total Tide and Admiralty Digital List of Lights products.

3.b.4 The Admiralty digital catalogue may be downloaded free from the UKHO website; it includes details of all paper and digital charts and publications and is updated weekly. It is a useful tool to check on the ENC coverage within the region and to show the latest edition dates of both charts and publications.

#### 4. MSI

4.1 The UK's principal responsibility in the MBSHC region is for the British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar. UK maintains close liaison with Spain, the coordinator for NAVAREA III (covering the Mediterranean area).

4.2 UK also maintains close liaison with France, the coordinator for NAVAREA II.

#### 5. CAPACITY BUILDING

##### **Offer of and/or demand for Capacity Building**

5.1 UK fully supports the IHO CBC strategy and particularly its emphasis on getting Phase 1 and appropriate Phase 2 capacity in place to enable coastal states to meet their obligations under SOLAS Chapter V Regulations 4 and 9. UK will continue to contribute resources to both CBC initiatives and to bilateral assistance.

5.2 Since the last MBSHC meeting in 2005, UK has participated in numerous technical visits and workshops, in a number of RHC regions.

##### **Training received, needed, offered**

###### *Training provided by UKHO*

5.3 Details of the training opportunities offered by UKHO are detailed on the UKHO website. Training is offered in Marine Cartography, Hydrographic Data Processing, Chart Correction, S-57 and ENC production. A newly designed Phase 1 skills course will be offered in 2008.

5.4 The UKHO has been recognised by the International Advisory Board as meeting its M-8 Standard of Competence for Nautical Cartographers - Category B. for its Hydrographic Data Processing and Marine Cartography course with specialism The Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC). The course is currently offered in a modular format:

Marine Cartography

Hydrographic Data Processing

The Electronic Navigational Chart

Each module is of five weeks duration and students will be issued with a certificate of attendance for each module. On successful completion of all three modules, students will be issued with a certificate of programme completion.

###### *ENC Training and Assistance*

5.5 UKHO strongly supports the successful uptake of ECDIS using ENC, and is happy to assist other nations to produce, maintain and distribute ENCs. The following courses, detailed in IHO S-47 (Training Courses in Hydrography and Nautical Cartography), are provided:

- A 5 week course at the UKHO which includes an introduction to ENC and S-57; and ENC Production Training, made as generic as possible (using Hydroservice dKart Software).
- A 2 week course off site which is non-system specific and provides an introduction to ENC and S-57.

5.6 Sponsorship is offered in the form of bursaries which cover the cost of tuition (and, in certain circumstances, travel, food and accommodation charges). There is a selection process, to ensure that sponsorship is offered to the countries considered to benefit most from the free tuition in line with the IHO Capacity Building programme. Sponsorship is available for all such courses, subject to availability and selection.

5.7 Training courses can be delivered at the UKHO's training centre or for larger groups the trainers can conduct courses in the organisation's offices. In addition, the training team can tailor bespoke courses to meet specific needs. Further details can be found on the UKHO website ([www.ukho.gov.uk](http://www.ukho.gov.uk)) or obtained by contacting UKHO's Cartographic Training Manager directly ([peter.westcott@ukho.gov.uk](mailto:peter.westcott@ukho.gov.uk)).

### *Training at Hydrographic and Meteorological Training Group (HMTG)*

5.8 HMTG (formerly known as the RN Hydrographic School) in Plymouth delivers courses which are nationally and internationally certified, with accreditation provided by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), The University of Plymouth, the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Council and the Institute of Marine Engineers, Scientists and Technicians (IMarEST).

5.9 Courses include the 14 week hydrographic element of RN Officers' combined HM training, FIG/IHO Category B course. After about four years at sea, officers wishing to become specialists in surveying return to HMTG for the HM Advanced Survey Course (HMASC), which has replaced the former Long Course. The HMASC lasts for 21 weeks and is accredited as FIG/IHO Category A.

5.10 Both Category A and Category B courses are open to attendance by overseas personnel (military and civilian) and applications are encouraged for these highly competitive courses.

5.11 HMTG has scope to deliver customised training for overseas naval and civilian students in Hydrographic Survey Planning, Data Gathering and Data Processing as well as initial Data Management to meet the needs of developed and developing Hydrographic Offices. Such courses can, by mutual agreement, involve both training at the UKHO and at HMTG.

## **6. S-55 LATEST UPDATE**

6.1 UK has established internal procedures to ensure the annual updating of the S-55 entries for UK Home Waters and its Overseas Territories, including, within the MBSHC area, Gibraltar. The most recent update was posted on the IHO website in May 2007.

6.2 UK has also provided assistance to update S-55 entries to countries where UKHO retains the primary charting responsibility, recognizing that local input remains critical to the maintenance of S-55 as an up-to-date and authoritative reference document.

## **7. OCEANOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES**

7.1 UKHO's Maritime Environment Information Centre (MEIC) maintains databases of oceanographic information collected by the RN, or obtained during exchange with other nations. Data exchange is an important source of data and so MEIC are always keen to discuss new exchanges. Through participation in the Argo project and in the UN's International Oceanographic Data Exchange (IODE), MEIC work with the international oceanographic community. On behalf of the RN MEIC make periodic releases of data to international data centres including US NODC, for inclusion in the World Ocean Database, and British Oceanographic Data Centre (BODC).

7.2 The UK national repository for oceanographic data collected for scientific purposes, including data from UK-sponsored research cruises anywhere in the world, is BODC ([www.bodc.ac.uk](http://www.bodc.ac.uk)), funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), and located in Liverpool. The main centre for scientific oceanography is the National Oceanography Centre in Southampton ([www.noc.soton.ac.uk](http://www.noc.soton.ac.uk)).

7.3 UKHO continues to support GEBCO and IBC by the depositing of available digital passage sounding data at the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry, hosted by the National Geophysical Data Center, NOAA, USA.

7.4 Global sea levels are monitored as part of the GLOSS project, by the Permanent Service for Mean Sea Level (PSMSL) which also resides under POL.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

UKHO continues its commitment to carrying forward hydrographic activities through the work of the IHO's Regional Hydrographic Commissions, and notes that each exhibits its own particular opportunities and challenges.

Taunton, October 2007

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