NHC62 B4

National Report of Iceland

This report gives the summary of the activities that have taken place within the Icelandic Coast Guard - Hydrographic Department (ICG-HD) since the last report given at the NHC-61 meeting in March 2017.

1. Icelandic Coast Guard – Hydrographic Department

A new organizational chart for the Icelandic Coast Guard was adopted in December 2017. The Hydrographic Department (ICG-HD) is now a part of Siglingasvið (Maritime division). The organizational setup of the ICG-HD is effectively unchanged except for this change. The HD is no longer directly under the Director General but is now under the head of Maritime division. The staff of the HD is the same as before, 8 persons.

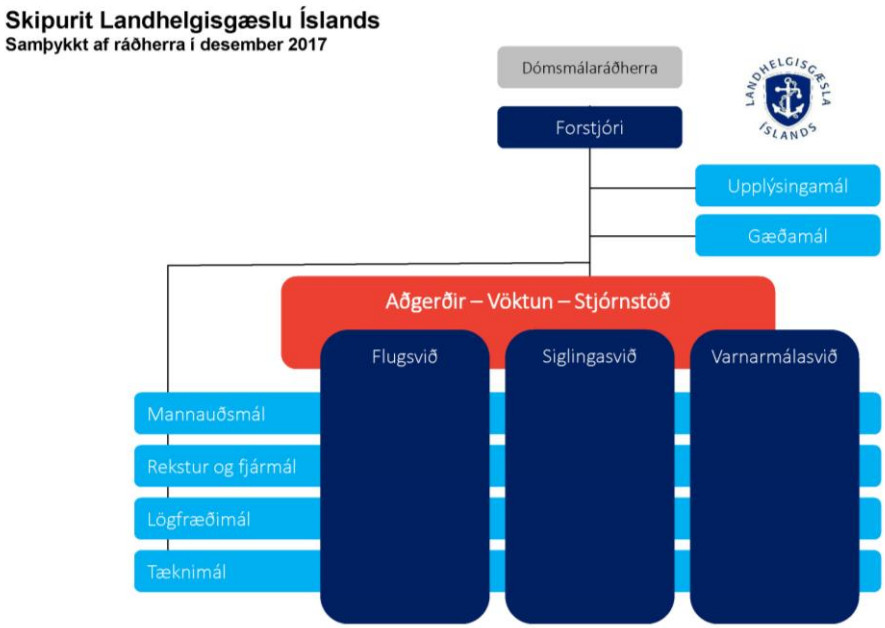

Fig. 1 The new organizational chart of the ICG.

As mentioned in last year's National Report, the Government of Iceland agreed to secure funding for a project based on 10-15 year plan to survey the EEZ of Iceland. The project, which the Marine & Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI) leads, will continue this year. ICG-HD will take part in the project as planned.

2. Hydrographic Surveys

Scheduled hydrographic surveys were carried out for total of 73 days in 2017. The survey work included a start of the project of surveying in Breiðafjörður, a wide bay on the west coast of Iceland. The project,

which will take several years to complete, includes both resurveying large parts of bay and surveying of numerous previously unsurveyed areas.

The tidal range in Breiðafjörður is in the range of 4.0 to 4.5 m at spring tide, the maximum for Iceland. Tidal currents are strong. Especially in the many narrow channels and sounds. Navigating in the bay is at times a challenge. The inner half of the bay is filled with islands, rocks and shoals. Many underwater rocks and shoals are uncharted.

The southern part of Breiðafjörður was surveyed in the years from 1999 to 2002 using single beam echo sounder. The project which started last summer will focus on covering the northern and eastern parts of Breiðafjörður.

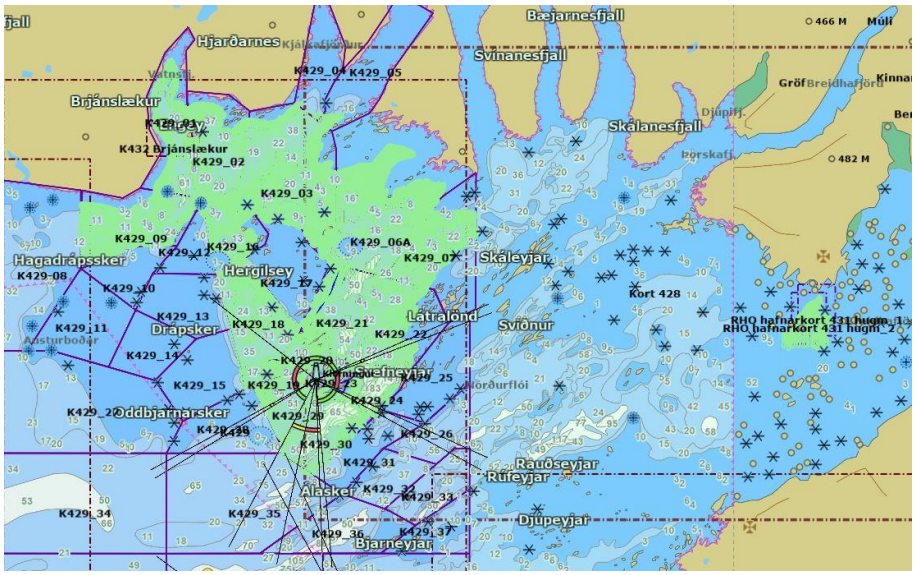

Fig. 2 Surveyed area in Breiðafjörður in 2017 (green).

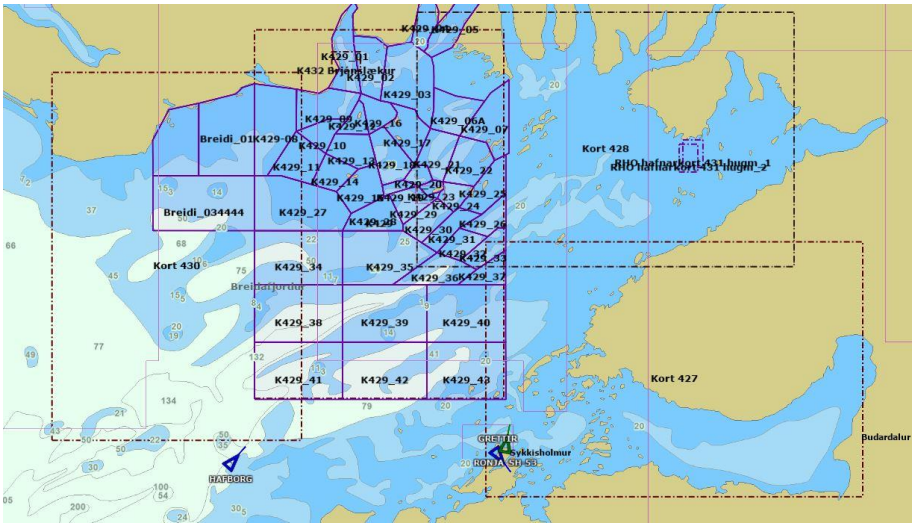

Fig. 3 Planned 1:50 000 charts in Breiðafjörður and planned survey areas of part of the bay.

Various equipment on board the 27 years old BALDUR was renewed in 2017 and the plan is to renew the multibeam echo sounder. A tender will be put forward this spring.

While executing a survey on 18th of June 2017 some 4 nautical miles north of the island Flatey BALDUR hit an underwater rock. No one was hurt as this was no more than a touch but it resulted in a damage to one of the two propellers and the propellers shaft. Repairs took a while and BALDUR returned to survey work on 20th of July.

In addition to the above mentioned activities some contract work was carried out for the Port Authorities in Reykjavík.

3. New charts & updates

Printed charts

Two New Editions have been published since last NHC meeting, one A3 size harbour plan and one standard nautical chart. One chart was reprinted. Six harbour plans were updated following NMs.

National No.	Title	Scale	Pub. month
33	Alviðruhamrar - Vestmannaeyjar	1:100 000	05/2017
313	Þorlákshöfn	1:10 000	11/2017

ENC production

Ten new editions, there of one new cell, and 8 updates were made on the 72 ENC Cell´s produced in Iceland 2017.

Plans for 2018

The CARIS GIS to CARIS Paper Chart Composer (PCC) transition, which started in 2016, is expected to finish later this year. Sixty eight charts out of the 80 Icelandic charts have been brought into the PCC environment. The transition from CARIS GIS to CARIS Paper Chart Composer did progress a somewhat slower than planned. There were many issues to solve and resources in terms of manpower limited.

Work on incorporating CARIS BASE Editor (BE) in to the Chart Production process is progressing slower than expected. The original plan was to work on PCC and BE simultaneously but the plan was abandoned and BE put on hold until the autumn of 2017. The main reason being that the GIS to PCC transition took up more time than anticipated for those involved. The plan is to pick up pace regarding BE in the spring 2018.

4. New publications & updates

The annual nautical publications, *Tide Tables 2018* and *Tide Almanac 2018*, where published in the autumn of 2017. Five issues of *Notices to Mariners* were published in 2017, 45 NMs in total. The pdf-publications, *List of Lights* and *Catalogue of charts* where updated and are available at www.lhg.is.

5. MSI

The Icelandic Coast Guard runs VTS and MSI service is an integrated part of that operation.

6. C-55

Last update in November 2016. Update planned October 2018.

7. Oceanographic activities

The project to survey the EEZ of Iceland which the MFRI leads and ICG-HD will take part in as planned has led to a decision to install a Sub-bottom profiler on board ICG-HD survey vessel BALDUR.

8. Capacity Building

A CARIS HIPS training course was held in December 2017 in cooperation with the MFRI. Attendees came from both the ICG-HD and the MFRI.

A French military student, studying hydrography at ENSTA in Brest, came to do 12 week internship at the Icelandic Coast Guard last summer. The internship included among other things surveying on BALDUR and work in both survey section and cartography section of the ICG_HD.

9. Other activities.

IHO RHCs, WGs and other work
Members of ICG-HD staff attended the following:

The second IC-ENC Technical Conference in May 2017.
Meetings of the ARCH in August 2017 and NSHC in March 2018.
Meeting of the Nordic Chart Production Expert Group (NCPEG) early October 2017.
Meeting of the Nordic Hydrographic Technical WG late October 2017.

MSDI
ICG-HD was involved in SDI work in Iceland in relation to adoption of the INSPIRE directive, which the National Land Survey of Iceland lead. The issue of MSDI has been raised with in the HD but resources do not allow that much effort is put into MSDI matters. Iceland however joined the ARMSDIWG under the IHO ARHC in November 2016 in spite of thin resources. It resulted in the fact that Iceland has been inactive in the work of ARMSDIWG up till now.

ICG-HD has through the involvement in SDI work in Iceland made depth contours from nautical charts available via Data portal which the National Land Survey of Iceland operates. This is a part of a SDI project that NLSI leads. Data portal “Lýsigagnagátt” https://gatt.lmi.is/geonetwork/srv/eng/catalog.search#/home

Baseline for Territorial Waters
The Icelandic Parliament “Alþingi” passed law on Baseline, Territorial Limits etc. in June 2017. It was an update to previous law from 1979 on the same. The new laws include a Contiguous zone. The ICG-HD will in the near future publish New Editions of the coastal and transit charts affected.

This report highlights the main activities of the Icelandic Coast Guard, Hydrographic Department since the last NHC meeting.