



BANGLADESH
NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC REPORT
FOR THE 7TH NIOHC MEETING

PATTAYA, THAILAND
27TH FEB– 02TH MAR 2007

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1. **HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE**

a. Bangladesh Navy (BN) hydrographic department was established in 1980. Since then BN has been conducting hydrographic survey at sea and coastal belt area of Bangladesh. Digital surveying system was introduced in 1996 with the assistance of French Govt. Simultaneously old Naval Chart Depot was updated with digital data handling facilities and renamed as BN Hydrographic and Oceanographic Center (BNHOC) to provide shore based supports to the survey units. Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), a govt. organization, conducts hydrographic survey in our huge river system, which is playing a vital role to the national economy. They are mainly focusing the inland water ways, using by the riverine cargo vessels and passenger liners.

b. Under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Defence (MOD) BN Hydrographic Directorate deals with the international maritime affairs. BN Hydrographic department has about 29 survey specialized officers and 200 sailors.

c. BN Hydrographic and Oceanographic Center (BNHOC) is situated in the Naval Base Chittagong, act as the hub of survey department. It is mainly coordinating the survey activities and responsible for the verification of field data, production and distribution of nautical charts, storage of data, tidal prediction and many other survey related activities. Along with service personnel, there are numbers of civilian staffs working in BNHOC.

2. **SURVEYS**

a. **Coverage of New Surveys:** The two key shipping routes and the area close to the fringe of islands in the southern part have been surveyed.

b. **New Technologies or Equipment:** Nil.

c. **New Ships:** Nil.

d. **Problem Encountered:** Nil.

3. **NEW CHARTS & UPDATES**

a. **ENCs:** BN Hydrographic department feels the necessity of ENC project, however, the department could not yet been able to execute the ENC charting scheme as per the requirement of IHO.

b. **RNCs:** Nil.

c. **INT Charts:** INT chart 7425 and 7426 are at the final stage of production. However INT Chart 7428 needs few more coastal and topographic data to complete the ancillary information required for safe navigation.

d. **Problems Encountered.** South-western coast of Bangladesh is highly unstable due to the erosion and enormous silt deposition. Therefore, tremendous problem encountered to update the INT Chart 7428. Moreover, the Sunderban (one of the largest mangrove in the world) is very tricky and needs special care to draw coastline and other topographical information.

4. **NEW PUBLICATIONS & UPDATES**

a. **New Publication:** Nil.

b. **Means of Delivery e.g. Paper/ Digital:** Paper.

c. **Problems Encountered:** Nil.

5. **MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (MSI)**

a. **Existing infrastructure for transmission:** DG Shipping and POMMD has already introduced a MSI to all sea going vessel including warships.

b. **GMDSS:** DG Shipping, POMMD, both the ports (Chittagong and Mongla Port) have taken a step to procure the GMDSS equipment as per master plan.

c. **Problems Encountered:** Nil.

6. S-55

S55 Update

Update was done in March 2006 and following is the current Status:

Bangladesh Updated 15 March 2006 INT Region J

Status of Hydrographic Surveys

A1/A2=% adequately surveyed 0-200m/>200mm
 B1/B2=% requiring re-survey at larger scale or to modern standards 0-200m/>200mm
 C1/C2=% which has never been systematically surveyed 0-200m/>200mm

A1 A2 B1 B2 C1 C2
 95 98 3 2 2 0

Comment

The southern coastline of Bangladesh is Highly Unstable. However Periodical surveys are called out in the important areas and precautionary notes are put on charts.

Stats of Nautical Chart

A= % Covered by INT Chart,B= % covered by RNC,C= % covered by ENC

Offshore passage/Small

Landfall Coastal passage/Medium

Approaches port/large

Comments

A B C
 90 0 0

A B C
 70 0 0

A B C
 90 0 0

Comment

The Bangladesh Navy does not yet have a commercial chart production facility. Bilateral agreements are under consideration. INT charts will be published once a production facility is available or a bilateral agreement is reached.

Status of Maritime Safety information.

Local Warning
 YES

Coastal Warning
 YES

Port Information
 YES

NAVAREA Warning
 YES

A system exists for port and harbour Information to be sent to the charting authority

Via NAVAREA VII co-ordinator

Master Plan
 YES

Area A1
 YES

Area A2
 YES

Area3
 YES

NAVTEX
 YES

SafetyNet

Received / sent to India
 (Implementation in progress by DG shipping & POMMD)

7. **CAPACITY BUILDING.** Being a member state of IHO Bangladesh enjoys an excellent bilateral relationship with France, India, Italy, UK, USA and other organization like IHO & IMO for providing enormous support. Bangladesh would welcome the opportunity to continue the relationships with all the IHO member states to exchange views and gathered knowledge for the development of Hydrographic aspect. Recently, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) is going to provide Tsunami Warning equipment to Bangladesh which will be installed in a suitable coastal area. However Bangladesh needs development for the following:

a. **ENC:** Necessary training and equipment is essential for the development of ENC production and its capabilities.

8. **OCEANOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES.** BN Hydrographic Department has very limited capabilities to conduct oceanographic activities. Thereby no major oceanographic activities carried out by BN Hydrographic department.

9. **CONCLUSION.** Bangladesh is one of the largest deltic state in the world. Her coastline is highly unstable therefore it is required to update the charts of her coastal area periodically. However, Bangladesh Government has taken keen interest for effective use of her navigable channels and conduct periodical survey along the shipping routes to keep her Sea Lines of Communications open and safe. BN has taken effective measures to produce three charts of INT series at the earliest. The National Hydrographic Committee of Bangladesh is devoted to achieve the national goal in coordination with our various maritime agencies.