



OMAN

**NATIONAL REPORT TO 8TH NORTH INDIAN
OCEAN HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

GOA, INDIA

14 - 17 April 2008

Executive summary

Hydrographic Department is under Royal navy of Oman and it consists of :

- **Hydrographic Survey Unit.** Set up to cover the Sultanate's requirements for hydrographic surveys by undertaking the task of carrying out coastal and large scale surveys. Other duties include carrying out all beach surveys, establishing tide database and defining tide affects for all the Sultanate's coasts as well as following up, maintaining and calibrating tide equipment installed within the main ports of the Sultanate.
- **National Hydrographic Office.** Set up to compile and issue charts covering Omani waters to the standard specifications of the International Hydrographic Office as well as monitoring navigational safety of users of Omani waters and maintaining hydrographic information and surveys.

The roles of a national hydrographic services in Oman are:

- To provide the nautical data required for safe navigation to preserve life at sea and enable maritime trade and other operations.
- To provide sufficient nautical data to support naval operations in defence of the state. Naval ships require the same navigational products as merchant ships.
- To provided hydrographic services in the National Interest. These include surveys or nautical products which are not conducted in support of the safety of navigation or defence but are still essential to the development of a coastal state.
- To support maritime boundary delimitation and enforcement of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, (UNCLOS)

1. Hydrographic Service.

The ministry of communications, being the authority responsible for the safety of navigation in the territorial waters, has agreed that the Ministry of Defence represented by the Royal Navy of Oman undertakes the affairs relating to the management of and supervision over the Hydrographic Authority. The Royal Navy of Oman undertaking the responsibility of hydrographic work, charting and issuing of hydrographic publications.

2. Surveys.

- Very successful surveys were carried out by RNOV AL SEEB, RNOV AL MABRUKAH and Hydrographic Survey Unit. These surveys were carried out after a very useful training was kindly provided by UKHO on MBES surveys in general and data processing using CARIS HIPS & SIPS software. These survey tasks have covered large unsurveyed areas at Musandam Peninsular and Batnah coast.
- In June 2007 Oman was hit by Tropical Cyclone (GUNO) witch caused a lot damage on most of the costal areas from Ra's AL Had to Muscat area. The hydrographic department had planned and conducted check surveys for the major ports (Port Sultan Qaboos and Sohar Port) and some critical areas. Beach surveys were successfully conducted at many of those coastal areas to support amphibious landings carried out by Royal Navy of Oman for the logistic support after the cyclone.
- Recently this year hydrographic department completed a joint survey task for all Units (RNOV Al Mabrukah, RNOV Al Seeb and Hydrographic Survey Unit) to support construction on new industry port. This survey was for the possible approaches and the port channel and tidal surveys.

3. New charts & updates.

ENC's

No Omani ENC's produced yet. However, we are currently studying the options for converting our existing paper charts to ENC's.

RNCs

Not applicable - NHO charts are in vector format only.

INT charts

The following Omani charts in medium and large scales will be published as "INT" charts in AREA "J" Indian Ocean :

INT 749	OM1	The Sultanate of Oman
INT 7173	OM250	Approaches to Port Salalah
INT 7191	OM254	Eastern Approaches to Muscat
INT 7192	OM255	Western Approaches to Muscat
INT 7201	OM257	Approaches to Mina Sohar
INT 7200	OM301	Sur to Qalhat
INT 7172	OM1201	Port salalah to Bandar Janjari
INT 7186	OM1212	Ras Al Had to Abu Da'wud
INT 7198	OM1216	Sohar to Ras Daba
INT 7188	OM3505	Muscat to Lima

National Paper charts

Oman NHO produced 21 paper charts in different scales, out of scheme of 52 charts.

Other Charts

A large number of special **military** products were made to meet the requirements of the military.

4. New publications & updates.

Oman National Hydrographic office (NHO) issued the fifth edition of the yearly **Oman Maritime Book** . The information contained in the book is intended to provide the mariner with comprehensive information regarding tide and wrecks in Oman, and navigational light and radio signal information and distance table for Oman and selected adjacent waters. The book is not yet available in digital format.

5. Maritime Safety Information (MSI).

- MSI of Oman is an national co-ordinate network with the Ministry of Transport and Communications. MSI provides the service such as broadcasting the Navigation warning through Muscat Radio covering Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea. Oman Operating with One NAVTEX station Located in Al Watayah in Muscat Area.

- The ministry of transport and communications is the authority for GMDSS on Oman. The general telecommunication organization is responsible to the ministry of communications for all radio and satellite communications aspects of GMDSS. The royal air force of Oman operates the rescue coordinate centre and is responsible for coordinating search and rescue operations in Oman's area.

6. **S-55** latest update (Tables)

Survey coverage, where;

A = percentage which is adequately surveyed.

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

C = percentage which has never been systematically surveyed.

Depth	A	B	C
< 200 m	40 %	10 %	50 %
> 200m	10 %	5 %	75 %

7. **Capacity Building**

- Training of hydrographic technicians is being undertaken 'in-house'. Currently there are three groups of trainees at different levels of training. This is a big commitment for a small office but we have no alternative.
- One of these groups will receive a 2 week basic marine cartography course in early May. This will be presented by two visiting trainers from the UKHO as part of the close co-operation between the two offices within the bi-lateral agreement.
- Use is made of other Oman institutions for relevant parts of our training, for instance foundation course subjects. We hope to be able to offer places on our courses to neighbouring countries from 2010.
- Two of our junior officers attended the UKHO 5 week cartographic course under the bursary scheme. Higher level training is also arranged overseas, but this is costly and we hope to provide more advanced training in three or four more years.
- For all of the training we are short of instructors, so any outside assistance that can be given, possibly by visiting trainers, would be immensely useful.

8. **Oceanographic activities.**

No oceanographic activities exist yet in Oman.

9. **Other activities.**

Publicity

The national press in Oman printed several articles highlighting World Hydrographic Day, with the assistance of the NHO.

Symposium

As part of Oman's commitment and effort towards capacity building in the region we hosted a visit by two members of the IHO in February 2007. During this visit they gave a very effective presentation to attendees from different but relevant government departments. To build on this we intend to hold an international symposium in Muscat in 2009. All attendees at this conference are invited to submit papers appropriate to the symposium theme, which is " **Hydrography and Its Role in Maritime Safety and National Development** ".

Participate in IHO Working Group

- Participate in IHO Conferences.
- Participate in WEND.

10. Conclusions.

Hydrographic Service in Oman continues to develop and gain experience in the latest hydrographic and cartographic technologies. Oman NHO produced 21 paper charts and no Omani ENC's produced yet. However, we are currently studying the options for converting our existing paper charts to ENC's. Oman intend to hold an international symposium in Muscat in 2009.