

Kuwait national report

Hydrographic activities in Kuwait works under ministry of communications, transport sector, technical department.

The technical department was established at 1982 but the hydrographic activities starts at 1986 when the first hydrographic survey was executed at that time

The hydrographic survey control runs the activities by two main sections

1) Drawing and marine charts section

This section mainly deal with cartography and charts corrections and updates notice to mariners and navigations warning manually and automatically

2) Hydrographic survey section

Deal with the data collection by hydrographic survey boats or commercial surveys

Both sections cooperate with the navigation aids section at same department and with marine department at same sector that responsible for other marine issues such as safety of navigation

Therefore most of the problems encountered in data collection reduced to minimum

Surveys

1) Main major hydrographic surveys was conducted in Kuwait In 1986 and 1998 at 10 years intervals

These surveys cover more than 90 per cent of Kuwaitis waters

2) Small area surveys executed times to times depending upon new marine projects ,this mainly done by Kuwait oil companies and other cable laying companies with coastal inshore projects

3) Small hydrographic survey vessel usually hired commercially every 3 years to execute the small hydrographic survey

The main specifications of such existing vessel as follows:

40 feet in length and 10 ft width

Catamaran

Air conditioned and fully equipped with

Multibeam echo sounder and Eiva software for both bathymetric and data processing

Tide gauge and other necessary hydrographic equipments

The vessel run by the company with our surveyors supervision and follow up

4) The new major coming planned projects now start and expected to be executed at the beginning of 2008

This project will mainly includes the northern areas where high sedimentations alter the depths there

Also the project will cover all the Kuwaiti waters to updates the huge changes happens at last 10 years in anew facilities on shore and off shore mainly at coastal areas

A net work of tide gauges will be established at this project and an aerial liader survey is also included especially at northern areas where a lot of khiran (small shallow and non accessible channels exists)

The estimate time of such project will be 2 years

Charts and ENC

Kuwait install finally anew compete system for charts production and updates

The system deals with the charts updates and ENC

The system was installed by Caris Co. and includes most of the software necessary for the work

It's expected to issue anew charts by the beginning of 2007

Kuwait has 22 charts produced until now

11 of which in Arabic

And 11 of which in English

No ENC yet produced

Pleasure charts planned to be issued since these type of charts are highly recommended and had a demand in fisheries boats that exceeds 15000 pleasure and fishing boats

Problems encountered

- 1) Lack of experience in technical staff works in hydrographic survey and cartography with less no of trained people
- 2) Difficulty in surveying some areas in Kuwaiti waters due to mines and unsafe navigation especially at northern areas adjacent to Iraq
- 3) No coordination between adjacent countries to execute the survey of shared waters or produces the nautical charts

MSI

There is a coastal station but it is not according to the new GMDSS plan
It's necessary to coordinate between regional countries in such matter

Capacity building

It's planned for IHO to have a technical support visit in 2006-
But still no arrangements or communications made until now
There is a matter of intent between Kuwait and UKHO to sign a bilateral agreement

Training was received from UKHO last year for a standard course in cartography, and another one this year but due to lack of person Kuwait apologize to participate in such course
There is a need to cooperate in another field of training and hydrographic surveying especially for shared areas at north of Kuwait

Oceanographic and other activities

A new meteorological data collection system was established 2 years before in Kuwait

This system contains 8 of shore stations distributed in Kuwait waters and run by the general public environment authority and can measure wave and tides also besides environmental parameters

Another 8 shore stations now being established by the meteorological department in civil aviation also in progress with a work station to be linked in our hydrographic office to show online data about tide and waves and currents

Suggestions

- 1) Speed up with bilateral arrangements with UKHO and cooperate with other hydrographic organizations
- 2) Revise a chart scheme for Kuwait during the next year
- 3) Hydrographic survey projects to be done with latest standards for IHO and preferably with technical support and consultancy of them if possible
- 4) More training of Kuwaiti staff needed in a field of charts updating and other levels of hydrography like cat A
- 5) An urgent need to adopt the ENC for territorial waters and other adjacent waters for other countries to complete the chart scheme for the region

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