



**OMAN**

**NATIONAL REPORT TO 3<sup>rd</sup> ROPME SEA AREA  
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

**Monaco**

**08 - 09 June 2009**

## **Executive summary**

**The Hydrographic Department is under Royal Navy of Oman consists of :**

- **Hydrographic Survey Unit.** Set up to cover the Sultanate's requirements for hydrographic surveys by undertaking coastal and large scale surveys. Other duties include carrying out all beach surveys, establishing tidal database and defining tidal 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. This unit has a very dedicated section for Multibeam Echo Sounder data processing and analyzing to support charts production.
- **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 all Omani waters and maintaining hydrographic information and surveys.

**The Roles of 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 Hydragraphic 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 the RNO Hydrographic units. These surveys were carried out after a very comprehensive training provided which included MBES surveys in general and data processing using CARIS HIPS & SIPS software. These survey tasks have covered large unsurveyed areas at Musandam Peninsula and Batinah coast.
- In 2008 the hydrographic department carried out three surveys in the capital area for the different government authorities and later of this year a major survey done for the RNO operation requirements.

### **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 published as "INT" charts in AREA "J" Indian Ocean :

INT 749	OM1	The Sultanate of Oman	Edition November 2004
INT 7173	OM250	Approaches to Port Salalah	Edition February 2005
INT 7191	OM254	Eastern Approaches to Muscat	Edition July 2004
INT 7192	OM255	Western Approaches to Muscat	Edition June 2003
INT 7201	OM257	Approaches to Mina Sohar	Edition March 2008
INT 7200	OM301	Sur to Qalhat	Edition June 2006
INT 7172	OM1201	Port salalah to Bandar Janjari	Edition October 2004
INT 7186	OM1212	Ras Al Had to Abu Da'wud	Edition August 2004
INT 7198	OM1216	Sohar to Ras Daba	Edition November 2005
INT 7188	OM3505	Muscat to Lima	Edition June 2004

### National Paper charts

Oman NHO produced 21 paper charts in different scales, out of scheme of 52 charts. And OM1215 published on 27 May 2009.

### 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.

<b>Depth</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>&lt; 200 m</b>	40 %	10 %	50 %
<b>&gt; 200m</b>	15 %	10 %	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 has received a 2 week basic marine cartography course in early march, which was 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 where the new survey technicians sent to the high college of technology for the math and Sciences courses. We hope to be able to offer places on our courses to neighbouring countries from 2010.
- 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.
- RNO is always keen to search for suitable courses in different countries to bring up the experience and knowledge level of Hydro specialists.

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.

**Participate in IHO Working Group**

- Participate in IHO Conferences.
- Participate in WEND.
- Formally becoming full member of the NIOHC soon.

## 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.