

Urban Planning & Development Authority



المملكة العربية السعودية
الخطوط الجوية العربية السعودية

HYDROGRAPHIC SECTION



**QATAR NATIONAL REPORT
TO THE
3RD ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION MEETING**

MONACO, 8 – 9 JUN 2009

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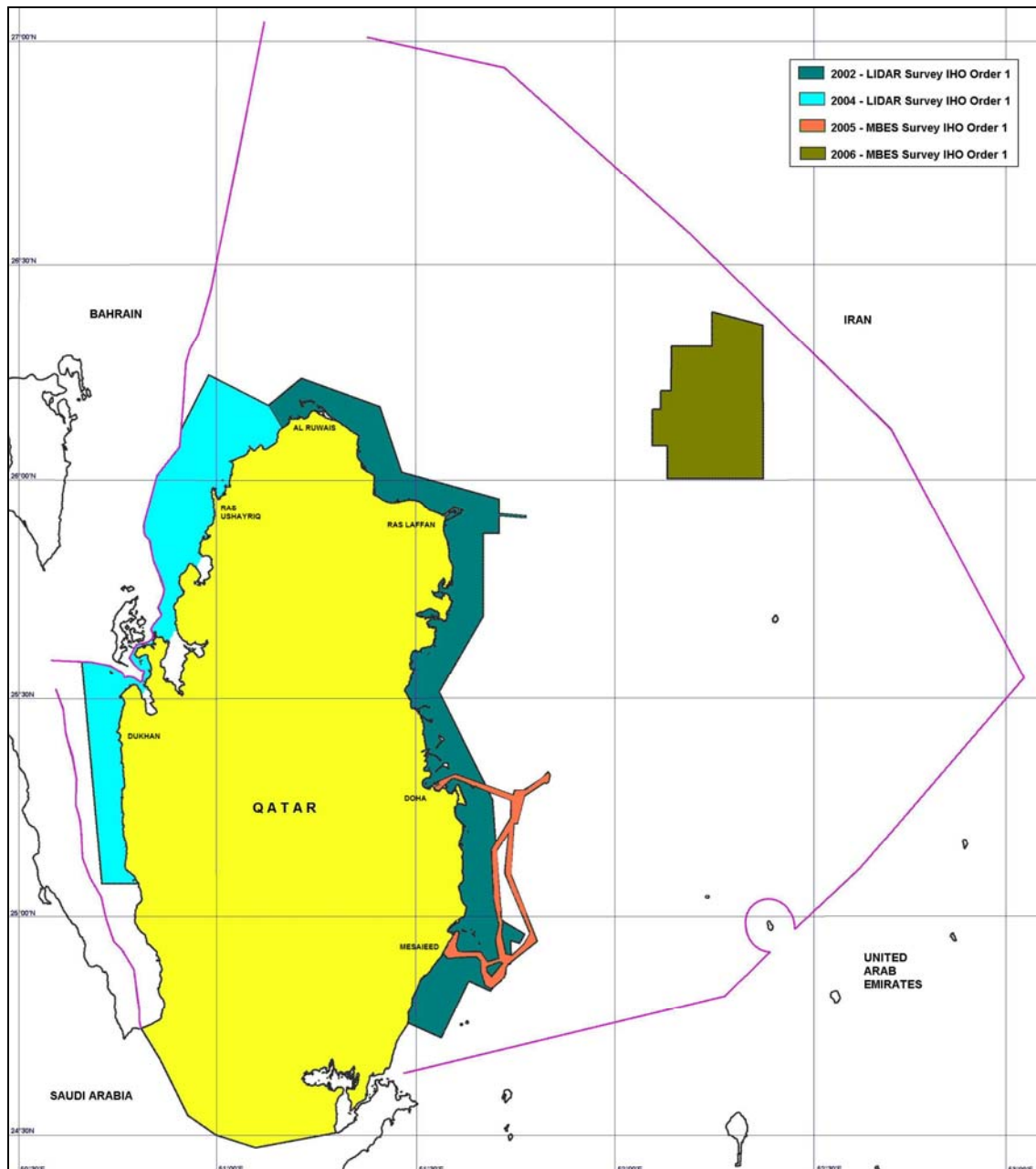
1. Hydrographic Office / Service

This report summarizes the activities of the Hydrographic Section of Qatar carried out since the 2nd RSAHC meeting in 2006.

Highlights of the report:

- There is no significant change in the internal organizational structure
- Adequately surveyed area increased 4%
- Very good coverage with ENC's and paper charts
- There are no new publications for mariners
- Qatar is building hydrographic surveying capacity
- Needs for hydrographic personnel and training
- Hydrographic Standards defined in new Qatar Survey Manual

2. Surveys



Adequately surveyed areas have been increased with two surveys concluded by the USA Naval Oceanographic Office in 2005, and French Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service in 2006.

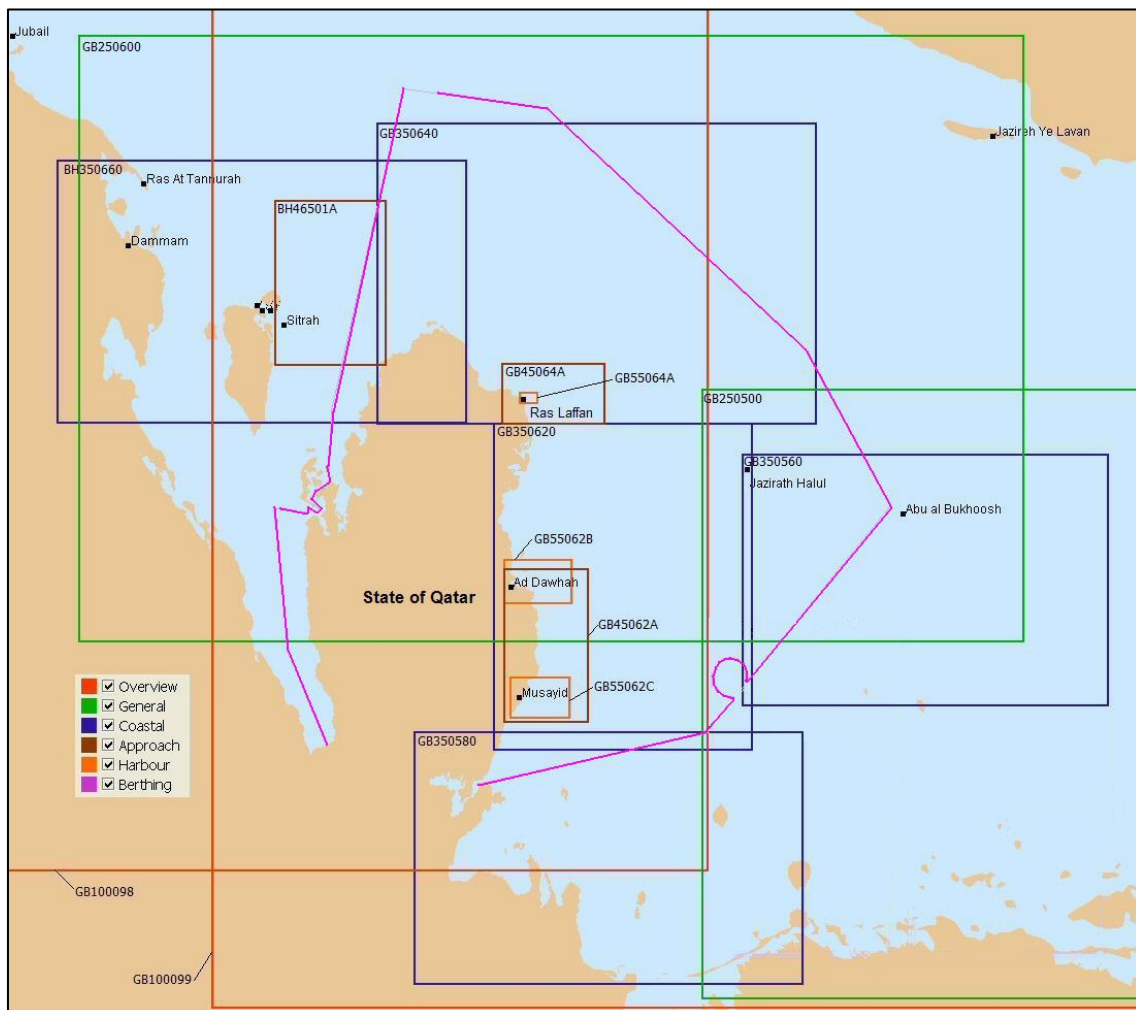
3. New charts & updates

Hydrographic Section does not produce any form of navigational charts. The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office is producing charts for the waters of Qatar. Information is available through the UKHO and RENCs. There is very high percentage of coverage of major shipping routes, approaches and harbours in Qatar.

Extract from the latest IHO Status Report on ENC Coverage:

Coastal State	Have ENCs been released that cover <u>International voyages?</u> None or very limited coverage Gaps exist in ENC coverage Good/Relatively few if any gaps	ENC Producer Nation(s)	Remarks	Member of a RENC?
Philippines	Gaps exist in ENC coverage	GB	includes some AVCS ENCs	YES
Poland	Good/Relatively few if any gaps	PL		YES
Portugal	Good/Relatively few if any gaps	PT		YES
Qatar	Good/Relatively few if any gaps	GB		

Extract from an International Centre for ENCs:



4. New publications & updates

Except the Tide Tables and tidal information for 6 stations spread across Qatar, there are no other publications for mariners published by Hydrographic Section. The Customs and Ports General Authority co-operating with the Middle East Navigation Aids Services (MENAS) and the UKHO for updating publications of Qatari sea area.

5. MSI

The Hydrographic Section has no direct MSI or GMDSS responsibility. The Customs and Ports General Authority is responsible for the MSI in Qatari sea area and information is available in the latest MSI update for the IHO special publication S-55.

6. S-55

Hydrographic surveying extract from the latest update of the S-55 submitted to the IHB and the Chairman of RSAHC in May 2009:

	A	B	C
Depths < 200m	14	66	20

Percentage of adequately surveyed area has been increased for 4% since the last RSAHC meeting.

7. Capacity Building

- Tender for construction of one hydrographic survey vessel in due course
- Qatar Survey Manual completed
- Negotiating a bilateral arrangement for cooperation in hydrography
- Definition of hydrographic responsibilities in legislation
- Hydrographic personnel
- Training will be needed after delivery of the new equipment and vessel

8. Oceanographic activities

The HS is running a tide gauge network which consists of 6 tidal stations around the coast: Mesaieed port, Doha port, Ras Laffan port, Al Ruwais, Ras Ushayriq and Dukhan. Tidal stations are operational from two years up to more than fifteen years. The latest tidal study for Qatar was done in 1977, therefore a new tidal study is necessary.

9. Other activities

The HS is actively involved in various national and regional projects around Qatari coast and sea area as follows:

- New Doha Airport
- New Doha Port
- Qatar – Bahrain Causeway
- Dolphin Pipeline

- Ras Laffan Port Extension
- Maritime boundary project

10. Conclusions

Qatar is still building a basic hydrographic surveying capacity. Multibeam survey equipment has been purchased and acquisition of a new survey vessel is under processing.

The next stage will be recruiting and training of hydrographic personnel. Assistance and cooperation with the IHO and the RSAHC will be needed for successful conclusion of this phase of hydrographic capacity building in Qatar.

Further information on this report can be obtained from:

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