



**THE HYDROGRAPHIC
AND
TOPOGRAPHIC BRIGADE
OF THE SEYCHELLES COAST
GUARD
REPORT FOR 2008**

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1.0 General

The Hydrographic and Topographic Brigade of the Seychelles Coast Guard was established in 1981. The function of this unit is to conduct hydrographic surveys of the harbours and adjoining coastal waters of Seychelles. The data collected by this unit includes bathymetry, tides, currents, topography and geodesy. The data are used for updating of navigational charts, publications, civil engineering (such as building of jetties, reclamation works etc) and for military purposes.

This unit is headed by Lt Col Michael Rosette of the Seychelles Coast Guard.

2.0 S55 Update

Needs to be updated, as new survey was conducted in the Western Approaches to Mahe Island in 2008:

Seychelles Updated 28 September 2005 INT Region H

Status of Hydrographic Surveys

A1 A2 B1 B2 C1 C2

15 0 50 0 35 100 Comment:

1. Depths beyond the shell edge fall away dramatically from 50m to 2000m. The majority of this area is covered only by passage soundings.

Status of Nautical Charting

Comments

A B C A B C A B C

100 100 0 100 100 0 100 100 0

Status of Maritime Safety Information.

Local Warning Coastal Warning Port Information NAVAREA Warning

YES NO YES YES

Passed UKHO in NAVAREA VII Co-coordinator.

A1/A2 = % adequately surveyed 0-200m/>200m

B1/B2 = % requiring re-survey at larger scale or to modern standards 0-200m/>200m

C1/C2 = % which has never been systematically surveyed 0-200m/>200m

A = % covered by INT Charts, B = % covered by RNC, c = % covered by ENC

Offshore passage/Small Landfall coastal passage/Medium Approaches

Ports/Large

3.0 Surveys

3.1 Coverage of new surveys:

Upon requests made towards the Indian Navy Hydrographic Services to assist Seychelles in resurveying part of the Western Approaches to Mahe Island, the Indian Navy Hydrographic survey vessel “INS Sarveshak” was dispatched to Seychelles and conducted the survey in January and February 2008.

The hydrographic Brigade in collaboration with the Ministry of National Development and Dredging Company “Jan de Nul” conducted minor surveys around Mahe, Praslin and La Digue island in preparation for dredging and reclamation projects.

The Brigade also assisted the Seychelles Public Utilities in the laying and positioning of an undersea electrical cables from Round Island (Praslin) to La Digue island.

3.2 Equipments

The Brigade continues to maintain its equipment. No new equipment was procured in 2008.

4.0 New Charts & Updates

The Hydrographic Brigade has no capacity both manpower and equipment to produce charts. All charts are still being published by the UK Hydrographic Office. (UKHO)

The hydrographic Brigade continues to supply the UKHO with information for updates of charts.

5.0 New Publications & Updates

All publications for Seychelles are compiled and published by the UKHO. The Hydrographic Brigade supplies the UKHO with information for updates of publications.

6.0 Maritime Safety Information (M.S.I)

The Seychelles Radio Coastal Station operated by a private company (Cable & Wireless Seychelles Limited) broadcast radios navigational warning on HF and VHF radio. No GMDSS facilities are available presently.

Seychelles Coast Guard operates a Maritime Rescue Coordination Subcentre which is part of the East African Rescue Coordination Centre.

7.0 Maritime Boundary Delimitation

Seychelles and Mauritius concluded an agreement on a median line between Coetivy, Alphonse, Farquhar and Providence (Seychelles) and Agalega island (Mauritius).

The two countries also completed and submitted to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of Continental Shelf a joint partial submission for the Extended Continental Shelf in the Region of Mascarene Plateau.

8.0 Capacity Building

8.1 Training

The Hydrographic Brigade was affected by departure of Lieutenant R. Matatiken that left the service. In spite of being awarded several training opportunities, due to staff limitation some of the training mostly related to Tsunami Inundation Mapping Project under IOC (UNESCO) were given to the GIS centre of Ministry of National Development.

9.0 Conclusion

The Exclusive Economic Zone of Seychelles is more than 1.2 million kilometre square, therefore hydrographic data is important for exploitation of resources. The lack of qualified hydrographers and survey recorders is a great setback for the Hydrographic Brigade. The lack of human resources need to be addressed as a priority if the country wants to maintain a hydrographic section that has the

capacity to undertake surveys and provide necessary data and information required by different stakeholders.