



UNITED KINGDOM NATIONAL REPORT

TO THE

7TH SAIHC

HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION MEETING

Saint Denis, La Réunion

14 – 17 September 2009

This report supplements the UK Generic National Report 2009, posted on the UKHO website (www.ukho.gov.uk), and describes UK's activities of direct relevance to the SAIHC region.

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NOTE: This report supplements the UK Generic National Report 2009, posted on the UKHO website (www.UKHO.gov.uk), and concentrates on UK's activities of direct relevance to the SAIHC region. Further details of UKHO's role and other activities may be found on the UKHO website.

1. UNITED KINGDOM HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE (UKHO)

AVCS Launch

1.1 Since the last meeting of SAIHC, UKHO has been working on the introduction of the Admiralty Vector Chart Service (AVCS) with the aim of providing the Mariner with the ENC coverage needed ahead of ECDIS mandation. This has involved close cooperation with other Hydrographic Offices around the world to provide greater access to ENCs and enhanced coverage where ENCs have not previously been available.

Changes in UKHO Organization

1.2 UKHO's organization continues to evolve with changes in both organization and personnel. Within the Operations Directorate, the Chart Branch functions have been aligned with new production processes. The contact for discussion of charting matters for the SAIHC region is Mr Graham Denslow.

UKHO's bilateral arrangements within the SAIHC region are developed and looked after by Dr Paul Canham.

UK's hydrographic representation in international fora is coordinated by Dr Rob Hensley and Mr Nigel Sutton.

Contact details are provided at the end of this report.

Changes to Production Systems

1.3 UKHO continues to work towards a fully digital production flowline to replace the existing analogue and digital system. Known as the Production Systems Delivery Programme (PSDP), the Programme is designed to deliver the new infrastructure and processes required by the UKHO. To date, the UKHO's working archive has been catalogued and documents captured in digital format, and geo-referenced. Receipt and distribution of source data documents in digital format has been implemented, managed by workflow software. Trials of the the Hydrographic Database have been completed and the large and complex task of data population has also been tested and is now underway in conjunction with the roll-out of the system. The requirements for the replacement of other legacy systems has also been reviewed and will be the subject of the Programme activity over the next few years.

2. SURVEYS

2.1 Details of the management of civil hydrographic surveys in UK Home Waters are provided in the UK Generic National Report and on the UKHO website. UK's National Hydrographic Committee has met on an annual basis for many years and provides the necessary breadth of interests to ensure that all requirements are taken into account when prioritizing UK's civil hydrographic survey programme.

2.2 Any requests for survey assistance from nations within this RHC region will be assessed within the MOD, with advice from UKHO. UKHO can also contribute to project management of hydrographic surveys.

3. CHARTS AND PUBLICATIONS

3.a. CHARTS

3.a.1 Information on UK's chart portfolio is provided on the UKHO website. The following paragraphs provide information specifically relevant to the SAIHC region.

3.a.2 The following charts have been published since the last SAIHC meeting:

GB Chart Number	INT Chart Number	Title	Published
306		Pointe Tchitembo to Cabeça da Cobra	09/10/2008
309	2570	Angola - Lobito to Ponta Grossa	28/05/2009
310	2580	Africa - South West Coast - Liberia to Namibia - Ponta Grossa to Kuene River	25/06/2009
643	7562	Durban Harbour	01/11/2007
658		Entrance to River Congo	22/05/2008
713	7738	Port Louis and Grande Riviere Noire Bay	14/08/2008
722	7742	Port Victoria and Approaches	15/01/2009
724		Anchorage in the Seychelles Group and Outlying Islands	31/07/2008
4074	74	Cape Darnley to Tasmania	22/11/2007
4145	2671	Approaches to Saldanha Bay	18/10/2007
4174	7571	Richards Bay Harbour	24/07/2008

3.a.3 Charts scheduled for publication in the next six months include: NC 307 (INT 2550), NE 3432, NE 595 (2087), NE 3113.

Charts scheduled beyond that include: NE 3286, NE 3287, NE 3288.

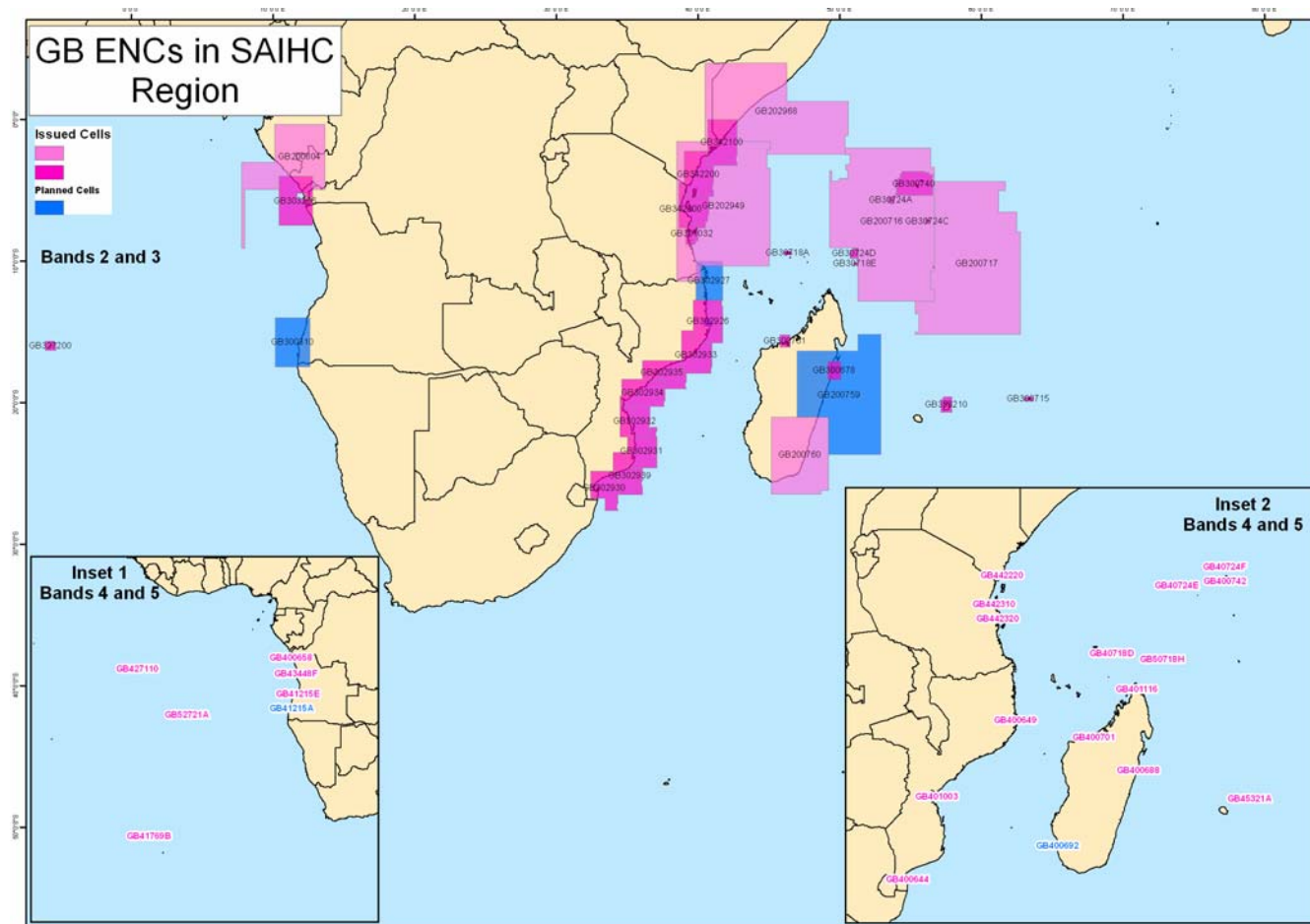
3.a.4 There is a gap in the 1:300,000/350,000 cover of West Africa primarily off the Angolan coast. UKHO (following discussion with Portugal, the primary charting authority), will produce this series of 6 charts @ 1:350000 (also 2 @ 1:M) between Gamba (Gabon) and Kunene (Angola/Namibia border) – currently NC306 (published without an INT number), 309 & 310 have been published, 307 will follow in Dec 2009.

ENCs

3.a.5 UKHO, having completed ENC production for UK home waters, is now engaged in the production of ENCs for other areas where it is Primary Charting authority. Full details of UK's ENC coverage are provided on UKHO website where there is both an online catalogue and a more functional downloadable digital catalogue (see below).

3.a.6 UKHO, along with other European hydrographic offices was a founder member of the International Centre for ENCs (IC-ENC) RENC which is the route to market for UK ENCs. IC-ENC concentrates its efforts on the validation and consistency of ENC data and leaves the marketing of ENCs to the shipping industry to its value added resellers. Details can be found on the IC-ENC website (ic-enc.org).

3.a.7 Within the SAIHC Region, UK has so far published 78 ENC cells, 63 of which have been released through IC-ENC. 14 cells are in progress.



3.b. PUBLICATIONS

General

3.b.1 Information on UK's publication portfolio is provided on UKHO website. The following paragraphs provide information specifically relevant to the SAIHC region.

Paper publications

3.b.2 The status of Admiralty Sailing Directions in the SAIHC region is as follows:

New Editions Published since last SAIHC meeting:

NP 01	Africa Pilot Vol I	February 2009
NP 02	Africa Pilot Vol II	October 2007
NP 39	South Indian Ocean Pilot	January 2008

New Editions to be Published

NP 02	Africa Pilot Vol II	early 2011
NP 03	Africa Pilot Vol III	April 2010
NP 39	South Indian Ocean Pilot	mid 2011

These publications are all maintained on a continuous revision cycle with new editions approximately every three years.

Digital Publications

3.b.3 UK continues to develop digital equivalents to its existing paper publications; these have the two advantages to the mariner of providing additional functionality and minimising the task of updating.

3.b.4 The Admiralty digital catalogue (version 1.6 recently released) may be downloaded free from the UKHO website (www.ukho.gov.uk); it includes details of all paper and digital charts and publications, including P and T NMs, and is updated weekly. It is a useful tool to check on the ENC coverage within the region and to show the latest edition dates of both charts and publications.

4. MSI

4.1 The UK's principal responsibility in the SAIHC region is for Ascension, St Helena and the Tristan da Cunha group of Islands. No GMDSS or WWWNS facilities currently exist in any of these territories, a reflection of their remoteness.

4.2 UK maintains close liaison with the co-ordinators for NAVAREA VII (South Africa - which covers most of the SAIHC area) and NAVAREA VIII (India - which covers a small part of the area to the NE and East). Meteorological Information and Navigational Warnings are promulgated on SafetyNET through the AOR(E) and IOR satellites; coastal warnings are broadcast on NAVTEX from stations at Walvis Bay, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Durban, and on SafetyNET for the area around the Kerguelen Islands.

4.3 UK provided one the trainers for the very successful training course for the SAIHC region, held in Mozambique in November 2007 in support of IHO Capacity Building initiatives.

5. CAPACITY BUILDING

Offer of and/or demand for Capacity Building

5.1 UK fully supports the IHO CBC strategy and particularly its emphasis on getting Phase 1 and appropriate Phase 2 capacity in place to enable coastal states to meet their obligations under SOLAS Chapter V Regulations 4 and 9. UK will continue to contribute resources to both CBC initiatives and to bilateral assistance.

Training received, needed, offered

Training provided by UKHO

5.2 The UK Generic National Report, posted on the UKHO website, includes a general description of training provided by UKHO. Further details of the training opportunities offered by UKHO are provided on the UKHO website.

ENC Training and Assistance

5.3 UKHO strongly supports the successful uptake of ECDIS using ENC, and is happy to assist other nations to produce, maintain and distribute ENCs. Details of courses, sponsorship, venues and options for bespoke training provided by UKHO are included in the UK Generic National Report, posted on the UKHO website.

We are being funded by the NIPPON Foundation to deliver the UKHO internationally accredited course (Hydrographic Data Processing , Marine Cartography and specialism ENC) to 6 selected students. The course is being delivered Sept - Dec at the UKHO. A Kenyan candidate has been selected to attend the programme.

Training at Hydrographic and Meteorological Training Group (HMTG)

5.4 Nationally and internationally certified courses delivered by HMTG (formerly known as the RN Hydrographic School) in Plymouth, are described in the UK Generic National Report, posted on the UKHO website.

6. S-55 LATEST UPDATE

6.1 As described in the UK Generic National Report, posted on the UKHO website, UK has established internal procedures to ensure the annual updating of the S-55 entries for UK Home Waters and its Overseas Territories, including, within the SAIHC area, Ascension Island, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha and Gough Island

6.2 UK has also provided assistance to update S-55 entries to countries where UKHO retains the primary charting responsibility, recognizing that local input remains critical to the maintenance of S-55 as an up-to-date and authoritative reference document.

7. OCEANOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES

7.1 UK's oceanographic activities are described in the UK Generic National Report, posted on the UKHO website.

8. CONCLUSION

UKHO continues its commitment to carrying forward hydrographic activities through the work of the IHO's Regional Hydrographic Commissions, and notes that each exhibits its own particular opportunities and challenges.

Taunton, August 2009

UKHO POINTS OF CONTACT

The general UKHO address is:

United Kingdom Hydrographic Office,
Admiralty Way,
TAUNTON
Somerset
TA1 2DN
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)1823 337900

Fax: +44 (0)1823 284077

For further information on this report, UKHO representation in international fora, and UKHO activities in general, please contact:

Dr Robin Hensley,
Head of External Relations,
Telephone: +44 (0)1823 337900
E-mail: rob.hensley@ukho.gov.uk

or

Mr Nigel Sutton,
International Relations Manager
Telephone: +44 (0)1823 337900 ext 4123
E-mail: nigel.sutton@ukho.gov.uk

For bilateral arrangements and other international partnering matters within the SAIHC region, please contact:

Dr Paul Canham,
Head of International Partnering (Europe, Middle
East & Africa)
Telephone: +44 (0)1823 337900 ext 3362
E-mail: Paul.Canham@ukho.gov.uk

Mr Jeff Bryant,
International Capacity Building Manager
Telephone: +44 (0)1823 337900 ext 3821
E-mail: Jeff.Bryant@ukho.gov.uk

For charting matters in the SAIHC region, please contact:

For chart production, data receipt and
assessment:

Mr Graham Denslow,
Head of Regional Team 3B
E-mail: Graham.Denslow@ukho.gov.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)1823 337900 ext 4133

For sailing directions

Coast of Africa
Mr Richard Ley,
E-mail: Richard.Ley@ukho.gov.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)1823 337900 ext 4208

Southern Indian Ocean
Mr Hemant Vora,
E-mail: Hemant.Vora@ukho.gov.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)1823 337900 ext 3271