



The need for Hydrographic Services

IHO Publication M-2



INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION

THE NEED FOR NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES



IHO Publication M-2

formerly: M-2 - National Maritime Policies and Hydrographic Services

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Total Levels referred to Datum of Soundings

Published by the International Hydrographic Organization, MONACO



- Benefits
- Obligations



Hydrography supports :

- Safety of navigation
- Protection of marine environment
- National infrastructure development
- Coastal zone management
- Marine exploration
- Resource exploitation – minerals, fishing
- Maritime boundary delimitation (UNCLOS, others)
- Maritime defence and security
- Disaster management
- The blue economy

• Investment vs Benefit >1:10 !



Hydrography: International Obligations



Mariners' Obligations

Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Chapter V

SOLAS VI/19 – Carriage requirements for Navigation equipment

- shall carry nautical charts and publications ...
- issued officially by or on the authority of a Government, authorized Hydrographic Office or other relevant government institution
- [adhering to] IHO specifications and guidelines

SOLAS VI/27 – Nautical charts and nautical publications

- ...adequate and up to date



Governmental Obligations

SOLAS VI/9 – *provision of hydrographic services*

Contracting governments undertake to :

- arrange to collect and compile hydrographic data, and to publish, disseminate and update all nautical information necessary for safe navigation;
- Obtain uniformity in charts and nautical publications and to take into account whenever possible the relevant international resolutions and recommendations, adopted by the IHO; and
- Co-ordinate activities and ensure global availability of hydrographic and nautical information



Governmental Obligations

SOLAS V/4 – *navigational warnings*

Contracting governments undertake to :

- ...take all steps necessary to ensure that, when intelligence of any dangers is received from whatever reliable source, it shall be promptly brought to the knowledge of those concerned and communicated to other interested Governments



This means each State must ensure that :

- hydrographic surveys are carried out
- appropriate nautical charts and other nautical publications are available and up to date
- Maritime Safety Information (MSI) is promulgated



UNCLOS 1982

Charts are also required to support:

- Establishing baselines, Delimiting Sea Areas :
 - Territorial Sea, EEZ ,Continental Shelf , ...
- Identifying traffic separation schemes
- Identifying sea lanes transit and innocent passage routes
- Deploying submarine cables and pipelines
- Conducting drilling on the seafloor
- Conduct of Marine Scientific Research



SOLAS V/9, SOLAS V/4

(provision of hydrographic services and navigational warnings)

... are International Obligations under Treaty Law

... oblige ALL SOLAS Contracting Governments



How to meet the Governmental Hydrographic Obligations

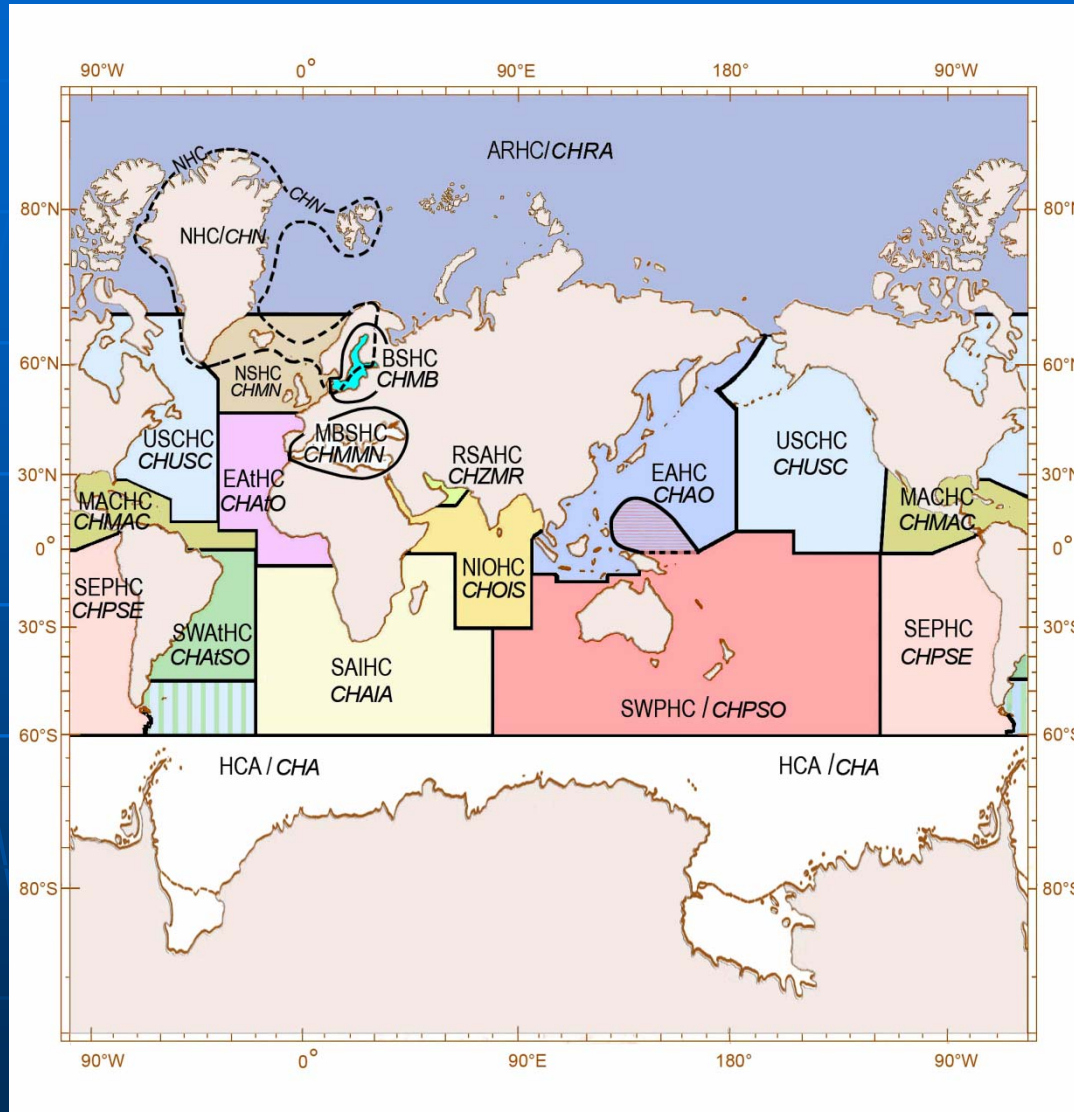
SOLAS V/9 and V/4 can be satisfied:

- directly via government
- through bi-lateral or multi-lateral cooperation with other States
- using commercial support providers
 - in whole or in part

Overall responsibility and obligation to ensure national hydrographic service is always Government responsibility under SOLAS



Regional Hydrographic Commissions



IHO – International Hydrographic Organization

- International standards
- Capacity building
- Global coordination



Summary and Conclusion

- all Coastal States must take responsibility for hydrography and charting
 - Use different models - according to circumstances
- Your first reference: IHO M-2



