



**Fiji**

**National Report for the  
9<sup>th</sup> South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission Meeting  
Port Moresby, 9 - 11 March 2009**

## **FIJI HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES**

The role of the Fiji Hydrographic Service is to provide up to date Hydrographic information to meet the needs of the government departments, mercantile marine and all other public and commercial interests with the main focus on safe navigation and safety of life at sea. The objectives focus on the waters encompassed by EEZ (1,134,700sq km at sea) and includes the territorial seas and inland waters.

### **NAUTICAL CHARTS**

#### **New Charts**

##### **a). Fiji & UK Joint Production**

A new joint metric chart compilation of Navula Passage to Yasawa Islands on scale 1:150,000 was completed in September 2006. It is the first chart being jointly produced by the Fiji and UK Hydrographic Office. This chart has been undergoing inspection at Taunton and because of delays with the processing of new multibeam data at Fiji's end, and the desire to include this data on the new chart there has been delays in the publication of this chart and it is now expected to be published later this year when the data from Fiji is ready.

##### **b). Other Charting Activities**

Fiji maintains a folio of the following National series which complement the BA chart series. Hand updates to chart stock are done in-house from notices to mariners. Reproduction materials on negative film bases are used for re-printing. Charts are retailed from Fiji HO and principal chart agents locally and overseas.

- F5 Lautoka to Yasawa Islands
- F9 Kadavu - Western Portion
- F10 Kadavu - Northern Portion
- F11 Plans in Kadavu
- F50 Natewa Bay - Southern Portion
- F51 Somosomo Strait to Rabi Channel
- F52 Natewa Bay to Nanuku Passage
- F53 Nanuku Passage to Lakeba Passage
- F54 Lakeba Passage to Kabara
- F100 Plans in the Koro Sea
- F105 Plans in Yasawa Islands (7 sheets)

##### **c). International Charts**

Fiji HO continues to be one of the printer nations of the following three small- scale International charts (1: 3,500,000) listed below.

- INT 602 Tasman and Coral Sea – Australia to Northern NZ and Fiji
- INT 604 Coral and Solomon Seas and Adjacent Seas Islands
- INT 605 New Zealand to Fiji and Samoa Islands

## **DIGITAL CHARTING**

The Fiji Hydrographic Office has been using conventional method for the production of Fiji National Charts since 1986 and now is faced with the problem of supply of reproduction materials. There are no other organisations locally, that can provide the necessary reprographic supplies and services, and as such Fiji has been looking at either outsourcing this work offshore or converting from the present manual system to a digital production system.

The analogue method is already a thing of the past for many hydrographic offices due to the introduction of new technology. The non availability locally of IT resources which includes necessary equipments, software and training of staff in order to produce New Charts, New Editions, Updating and Maintenance of existing paper charts has caused interruptions within FHS, in the production of new charts within and new editions of the existing paper charts.

The introduction of a suitable digital system for producing nautical charts in Fiji is urgently required by FHS. A request was made to the IHO Capacity Building Committee for their urgent assistance in this matter at the 8<sup>th</sup> SWPHC meeting. Fiji has since contacted CARIS, ESRI and Jepperson Marine and awaiting proposals.

## **HYDROGRAPHIC PUBLICATIONS**

FHS continues to publish a local Fiji Nautical Almanac which provides necessary local information to mariners. The information includes tidal predictions, sunrise/set & moonrise/set times, maritime safety and meteorological information for mariners to supplement charts whilst navigating in Fiji waters.

## **FIJI NOTICES TO MARINERS**

The Fiji Hydrographic Office collated and distributed Notices to Mariners to various maritime industry and chart retailers for updating National and International Charts. Notices are compiled from hydrographic notes and foreign notices to mariners.

## **FIJI COASTAL NAVIGATIONAL WARNINGS**

FHS took over the promulgation of Fiji Coastal Navigational Warnings from the Government Shipping Services from early 2008 and has continued to provide the service as part of maritime safety services.

A close link is maintained with the NAVAREA XIV Warnings coordinator for south-west pacific region, Land Information New Zealand Hydrographic Services in Wellington, NZ.

## PERSONNEL

FHS has a staff of fourteen, this includes four personnel in the cartographic and ten in the surveying section.

FHS presently requires training for two cartographers and two hydrographers at category B levels. The Hydrographic category B training offered by India is being pursued together with cartographic training sponsored by Nippon Foundation of Japan at the UK Hydrographic Office.

## HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYING

Concentration of field surveying has been in areas with the potential for tourism activities and at present this is in the Yasawa Islands, off the western coast of Viti Levu Island. The work is done with the help of a chartered launch and equipment that is loaned from the South Pacific Geoscience Commission (SOPAC). This method of taking equipment on loan is not always suitable as FHS is dependent on the availability of SOPAC's equipment which is dictated by SOPAC's work programme.

### Surveys undertaken 2007/2008

H221	Suva Harbour Kings Wharf North Kings wharf Post dredge – January 2007	1:1000
H222	Baseline survey – Fiji Islands - Southern Portion Ceva I Ra Island – July to August 2007	1:10000
H223	Suva Harbour Kings Wharf October to November 2007	1:1000
H224	Suva Harbour – Narain Jetty October to November 2007	1:1000
H225	Lautoka Harbour Fish Port January 2008	1:1000
H226	Suva Harbour – Government Wharf	
H227	Suva Harbour Kings Wharf Depth confirmation September to November 2008	1:1000
H228	Yasawa Island – Naviti to Tavewa September to November 2008	1:25000
H229	Suva Harbour – Narain Jetty 19, 20 November 2008	1:1000

NA EEZ Baseline survey – Fiji Islands – Northern portion  
5<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> July 2008  
Rotuma Islands – 27<sup>th</sup> July – 15<sup>th</sup> August 2008

## **EQUIPMENT**

FHS is in possession of the following survey equipment:

- a. Sercel NDS200/NDS102 HF DGPS
- b. Aquarius 5001 DGPS
- c. Aquarius 5002 DGPS
- d. Echotrac DF3200 x 3
- e. EG&G model 272T Sidescan sonar
- f. Coastal Oceanographic HYPACK Max (Survey & Office)
- g. Coastal Oceanographic Hysweep
- h. Lieca TCR802ultra total station
- i. Yeokal tide gauges
- j. 7metre Survey launch

The difficulty in obtaining spares for the Echotrac depth sounders, Yeokal tide gauges and EG&G Sidescan sonar has rendered them unserviceable. This 18 year old 7 metre survey launch is battered and is at the end of its life, and together with the engines needs urgent replacement. A vessel capable of carrying the SOPAC's Reson Seabat, with protection from the elements is being sought as a replacement.

## **IMMEDIATE PLANS**

In order to be able to continue carrying out its responsibilities FHS will continue to seek SOPAC's assistance in the use of their Reson Seabat multibeam systems and support staff. FHS will continue to look for funds to replace depth sounders, the Sidescan sonar, Yeokal tide gauges and the 7 metre survey launch.

FHS will continue trying to secure courses for personnel, as this is critical for succession of personnel.