

**10<sup>th</sup> EAtHC- CHAtO MEETING  
Lomé, Togo, 3-5 December 2008**

**NATIONAL REPORT TO THE EASTERN ATLANTIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION EAtHC BY NIGERIA**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The Nigerian Navy Hydrographic Department is the coordinating centre of all Hydrographic Survey in Nigeria. It is headed by the Hydrographer of the Navy. He exercises professional control of the Hydrographic school and Hydrographic Survey ship. For the efficient running of the Department, the Hydrographic department is divided into 3 sections namely: Chart Production, Surveying and Administration. The Hydrographer is assisted by 3 Deputy Directors, each in charge of the sections. The office also liaises with international organizations, government departments and relevant private organizations on behalf of Nigeria on hydrography related matters. The IHO year book update is as follows:

(a) Principal function. Some of the functions of the department include: Hydrographic Surveys, Tides and Tidal Stream observations, Production of Tide Tables for Nigerian Ports and coordination of Maritime activities.

(b) Personnel: Currently the department is manned by the following Personnel:

- (i) Hydrographer of the Navy .....Cdre AG Inusa
- (ii) Director of Survey Ops.....Capt AA Mustapha
- (iii) Director of Admin..... Capt AZ Muazu
- (iv) Deputy Director Charts..... Capt MOA Odebode
- (v) Staff Officer Publication.....Cdr MM Chukwu
- (vi) Staff Officer Instrument.....Cdr EI Ogalla
- (vii) Staff Officer II Survey..... LtCdr NI Omatiga
- (viii) Staff Officer Oceanography..... Lt AB Mahmud
- (ix) Staff Officer III Admin.....Lt MD Fefa
- (x) Officer-in-Charge Hydro School... Capt B Deinne

All other information in the IHO year book remain the same.

**SURVEYS**

2. Nigerian Navy Hydrographic Office since inception has been unable to carry out major surveys, hence the inability to produce the much needed charts and publications for Nigerian Ports and coastal waters. However, recently the department in conjunction with Lagos Channel Management Company produced a fair sheet of Apapa Harbour Entrance and Approaches. Also, the department has acquired

new survey equipment, these include Sokkia DGPS, Total Station, Plotters, Digitising tables, Desktop computers and survey software's among others.

3. The major cause of the seeming neglect of NN hydrographic roles is the huge costs involved in the acquisition of hydrographic vessels, equipment, operations and training. This has been the bane of hydrography in Nigeria and most developing countries.

### **CHARTS AND UPDATES**

4. Over the years Nigeria Hydrographic Department has been unable to produce charts therefore, had to depend on Admiralty Charts and publications based on data of over 100 years old. As a way of moving Hydrography forward the Nigerian Navy has started the process of establishing the National Hydrographic Committee.

### **DISSEMINATION OF MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION**

5. In line with the recommendations of the West African Action Team that visited Nigeria from 25-28 October 2005, the Department in collaboration with other stakeholders set up a Technical Working Group for Hydrography in Nigeria. The work of the group resulted in the establishment of a Maritime Safety Information (MSI) cell at the NN Hydrographic Office with members drawn from the various stakeholders. Through the effort of the organization, a portal has been established in the NNHO Website available at [www.nnho.org](http://www.nnho.org). The web portal is used for collection and dissemination of MSI to NAVAREA II Coordinator in Brest, France. The MSI provides an immediate advantage to international shipping and allows for real integration of the country into the World Wide Navigational Warning Service.

### **CAPACITY BUILDING**

6. Another problem affecting the development of hydrography in Nigeria is manpower development and sustenance. The only Hydrographic School offers Survey Recorder Class III and II Courses. Both Basic and Long Hydro Courses for officers and Survey Recorder Class 1 Course are not available in Nigeria. As a result of limited number of billets for foreign courses and huge cost implications, there is a growing backlog of personnel waiting to be trained in hydrography and other sub-specializations like cartography, geoinformatics, oceanography, tidal prediction and analysis.

### **OCEANOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES**

7. The Hydrographic Department recently took possession of some oceanographic equipment donated by Chinese Government.

These include: CTD Rossette, ADCP, Laboratory Salinometer, Wave Buoy, Barometers, Wind Speed meter, Meteorological observation equipment and Tidal Prediction software. The personnel of the

Department have been trained in the use of these equipment and there are plans to deploy them for oceanographic data gathering. However, the department is constraint by lack of a dedicated Oceanographic survey vessel for the effective use of this equipment.

#### **OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT**

8. The Department is currently involved in the following activities:

a. Maritime Boundary Delimitation. The Hydrographic Department is providing expert advice to the National Boundary Commission (NBC) in the delimitation of the maritime boundaries between Nigeria and her immediate neighbours. The Hydrographer is the Chairman of the Technical Sub-committee on Maritime Boundary Delimitation.

b. Nigeria's Extended Continental Shelf Determination.  
Nigeria has been recognized as one of the countries that could claim an Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) up to a maximum of 350nm in certain areas. Personnel of the Department took part in the Desk Top Studies for the project and recently participated actively in the collection of hydrographic data required for the determination of the ECS. The data is currently being processed and it is hoped that the final report would be used in substantiating Nigeria's claims for ECS at the United Nations.

c. Survey Monitoring. One of the statutory functions of the Hydrographic Department is the monitoring of all surveys in Nigerian waters in line with UNCLOS III of 1982. To this effect, NN Hydrographic Department personnel are usually embarked on both foreign and local survey vessels during surveys in Nigeria to ensure compliance with survey regulations. These companies are required to send to the Department within 90 days of completion, a copy of the data collected during the survey.

d. Production of Tide Tables of Nigerian Waters. The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) used to predict and analyze tides for Nigerian waters at high cost in foreign currency. However, since 1999 the Hydrographic Department in collaboration with local experts took over the prediction and analyses for the production of the tide tables. The NN plans to purchase

digital tide gauges, which will improve the quality of the tidal constituents necessary for accurate prediction of tidal levels. There are also plans to launch some tide gauges and a wave buoy recently donated to the NN by the Chinese Government.

e. Participation in IHO Working Groups.

The Nigerian Navy Hydrographic Office has 2 officers currently participating in 2 IHO Working groups namely: Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG) and Hydrography and Cartography of Inland Waters Working Group (HCIWWG).

## CONCLUSION

9. In the preceding paragraphs efforts have been made to enumerate various steps taken at improving hydrography in Nigeria. The various challenges were also vividly brought to fore. It is however hoped that the commission and possibly the IHO would find a way to complement the country's efforts at delivering the necessary hydrographic services to the maritime world.

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AG INUSA  
Commodore  
The Hydrographer of Nigeria