



# **National Report - Jamaica**

**17<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE MESO-AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN  
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

**BELEM, BRAZIL  
DECEMBER 14 – 17, 2016**

**MESO-AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SEA**  
**HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

**17<sup>th</sup> Meeting – December 14-17, 2016**

**Belem, Brazil**

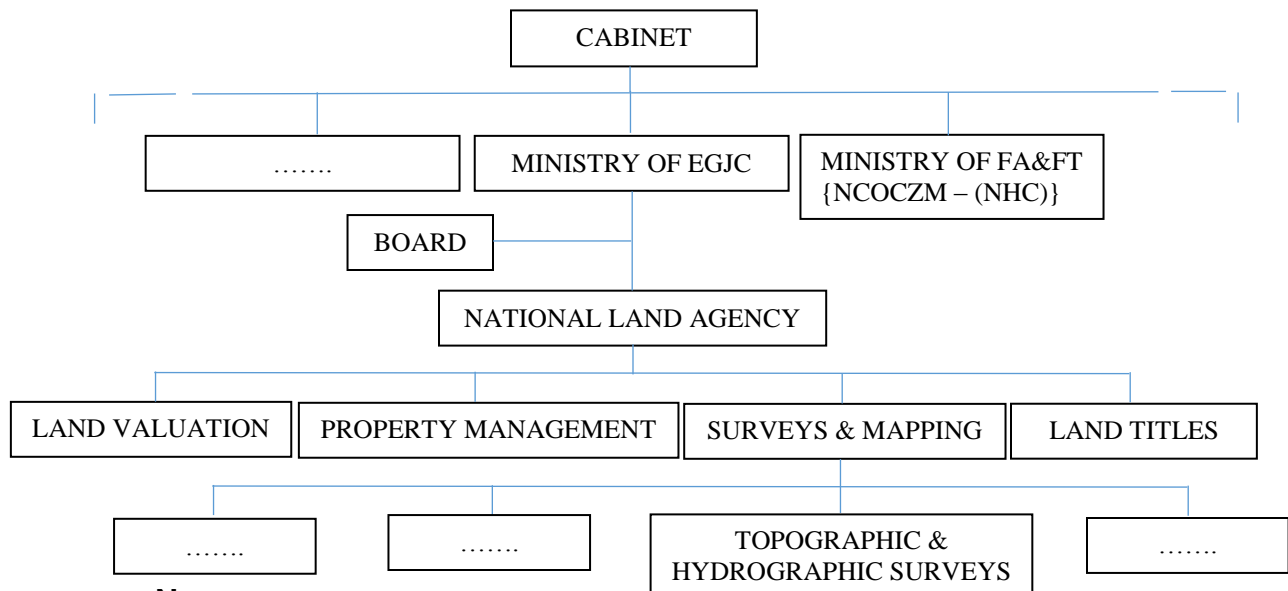
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**1. HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE:**

- **Reorganization**

**Hydrographic Office** – The Hydrographic Office for Jamaica is the National Land Agency of Jamaica. This is an Executive Agency, which since March of this year falls under the new Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (EGJC). The reporting arrangement and organizational structure is indicated in the chart below:



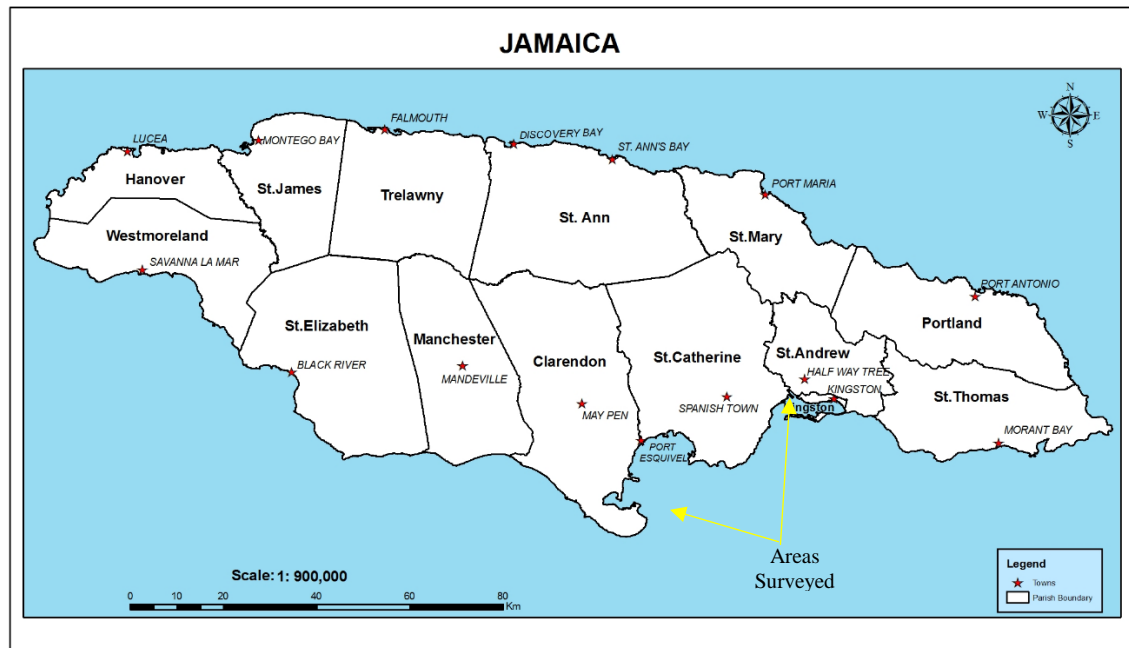
**National Hydrographic Committee (NHC)** – Established in 2006 as a committee of the National Council on Ocean and Coastal Zone Management (NCOZM), a Cabinet advisory council in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (FA&FT).

**IHO** – Jamaica is a Member State of the IHO and the MACHC

## 2. SURVEYS:

- **Coverage of new surveys.**

Since our last report to the MACHC, no major hydrographic surveys have been conducted. However, routine investigative surveys have been carried out in Kingston Harbour and the Portland Bight/Port Esquivel access channel on the south coast of Jamaica (see locations on the map below).



- **New technologies and/or equipment**

No new hydrography related technology or equipment has been acquired by the NLA since the last National Report to the MACHC.

- **New ships**

Currently Jamaica has no vessels dedicated to carrying out hydrographic survey work. Surveys are carried out using hired vessels of opportunity.

### 3. CHARTS AND PUBLICATIONS:

#### a. Charts

Charts for Jamaica are produced by the UKHO, under cooperative arrangement. The Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ) and the NLA provide data for new charts/chart updating and other hydrographic products as it becomes available. ENC's and RNC's for Jamaica are produced by the UKHO in accordance with IHO transfer standards for digital hydrographic data

US charting agencies also produce a number of charts for general use in Jamaica's maritime space.

#### b. Publications

- New publications  
No update on new publications is available at this time.
- Updated publications  
Information for updating of hydrographic publications is routinely dispatched to the UKHO.

### 4. MSI

- In June, 2013 the National Hydrographic Committee (NHC) revisited the issue of MSI reporting procedures based on reports to the MACHC that there was a lack of reports from Jamaica and other regional countries to the NGA. The revised MSI reporting procedures and guidelines implemented by the National Hydrographic Committee (NHC) in 2013 continues to operate effectively.

The Jamaica Defense Force Coast Guard (JDFCG) is the focal point for the broadcast of short term Safety Messages on the internationally assigned marine radio frequencies and for all e-mail alerts to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) for NAVAREA IV.

The Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ) has responsibility for disseminating long term messages to the print media, the charting agency, shipping agencies and to the JDFCG for transmission to the NGA.

The Maritime Authority of Jamaica (MAJ) monitors and coordinates MSI activities. Both the MAJ and the NLA are copied on all messages promulgated to facilitate reporting requirements. In this regard, the NLA is aware that a number of MSI alerts and an equivalent number of cancellation were notices promulgated to the NAVAREA IV in 2016.

- **New infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan.**  
No update is available at this time

## 5. CAPACITY BUILDING

- **Offer of and/or demand for Capacity Building**

The hydrographic office continues to experience some degree of difficulty in programming hydrographic survey activities due to the lack of a dedicated survey vessel and would welcome any offer of support/assistance in this regard.

- **Training received, needed, offered**

Jamaica continues to seek opportunities for training in Basic Hydrography and Marine Cartography in order to develop our capacity to meet our national and international charting obligations. With the exception of our participation in the FOCAHIMECA project referred below, no new hydrographic training was received.

- **Status of national, bilateral, multilateral or regional development projects with hydrographic component. (In progress, planned, under evaluation or study)**

Jamaica has been participating in technical introductory workshops for the project “Strengthening of Hydrographic Capacities in MesoAmerica and the Caribbean (FOCAHIMECA)”. In this regard, personnel from the National Land Agency attended workshops in Campeche, Mexico in April 2016 and in Vera Cruz, Mexico, in July, and October, 2016, while a representative from the Maritime Authority of Jamaica attended a MSI Workshop in Vera Cruz, Mexico in November, 2016. We hope that the exposure from these workshops will assist us in improving the organization, composition and function of our hydrographic office.

## 6. C-55 LATEST UPDATE

- There has been no change to the status of Jamaica’s hydrographic coverage and the C-55 database reflects the current status (see **ANNEX A**).

## 7. OCEANOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES

- No update on oceanographic activity is available at this time.

## **8. Other**

### **Two things that keep us awake at night**

The Hydrographic Office does not have the benefit of a dedicated hydrographic survey vessel, which would improve efficiencies, facilitate a more prioritized programme of hydrographic survey activities and more effectively utilize its small team of trained hydrographic personnel.

Resource constraints continue to limit our progress towards building the capacity of the hydrographic office and upgrading the quality of the hydrographic data available for two of our ecologically and economically important offshore fishing banks – the Morant and Pedro Banks, which are in need of systematic surveys to modern standards.

## **9. CONCLUSIONS**

Jamaica's hydrographic office, the NLA, continues to grapple with the issue of resource constraint, while making every effort to satisfy our mandate for the collection of hydrographic data to facilitate safety of navigation in Jamaica's maritime space. Thankfully, we continue to benefit from capacity building support in hydrography, through the generosity of IHO Member States, the MACHC and our bi-lateral partners.

# ANNEX A

## C-55\_2016 JAMAICA

<b>Field to display:</b> 31 (change this field only)				<b>Comments on Charts:</b>
Country: Jamaica				Much of the paper chart coverage was converted to WGS84 datum in 2004.
Region: B				
Last updated: 16/05/2007				
Provided by:				
<b>Charts</b>	<b>Passage</b>	<b>Coastal</b>	<b>Port</b>	
INT	100	100	100	
RNC	100	100	100	
ENC	100	100	100	
Paper metric	0			<b>Comments on Surveys:</b>
Paper satellite	0			
<b>Surveys</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Resurvey</b>	<b>No survey</b>	Top priority is modern survey with sidescan sonar of the shoals on the S coast and the banks to eastwards.
0-200m	40	60	0	
> 200m	15	0	85	

<b>MSI</b>	<b>Y/N</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
Local warning		
Coastal warning		
Nav warning		
Port warning		
<b>GMDSS</b>	<b>Y/N</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
Master Plan	YES	
Area A1	YES	
Area A2	N/A	MF transmissions are ineffective in the Caribbean due to climatic conditions and A2 coverage therefore cannot be achieved.
Area A3	NO	
NAVTEX	NO	
SafetyNet	NO	