



Antigua and Barbuda's National Hydrographic Office - ADOMS

NATIONAL REPORT

Meso-American and Caribbean Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) Meeting

28th November to 2nd December 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Hydrographic Office/Service

1. The National Hydrographic Office (NHO) operates under the auspices of the Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS), the Maritime Administration of Antigua and Barbuda.
2. The National Hydrographic Committee is yet to be fully functional, and efforts continue to give it full effect. The fallout from Covid 19 retarded the progress toward meeting this obligation. It is planned that the Committee will be a Sub-Committee of the National Ocean Governance Committee (NOGC) where all the principal stakeholders are already represented, and it is now envisaged that this initiative will be addressed when the NOGC meets in the first quarter of 2023.

2. Surveys:

1. To date the dredging of the main channel and turning basin to accommodate the Oasis Class Cruise Ships continues. There have been extensive delays due to the nature of the bottom of the main channel and the adequacy of the type of dredger that was being used. We are expecting a post-dredge survey of St. John's harbor upon the completion of all the dredging works.
2. Nothing to report regarding **new technologies and/or equipment/ships**.

3. New Charts and Updates:

1. The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) is responsible for the production of, and updates to, the charts about the waters of Antigua & Barbuda and its approaches.
2. Antigua and Barbuda is collaborating with the UKHO for the replacement of all paper charts coverage with an official, endorsed, and compliant digital alternative by the end of 2026.

4. New Publications and Updates:

1. The UKHO is responsible for the publication and updates.

5. MSI – latest updates

1. Maritime Safety Information is generated by the Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping in conjunction with the Antigua & Barbuda Port Authority and the Antigua & Barbuda Defense Force Coast Guard.
2. ADOMS will be taking steps to rejuvenate, review, and revise the procedures and processes to ensure that Antigua and Barbuda is fully meeting its obligations under the SOLAS Convention.



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6. C-55:

1. The UKHO, in collaboration with the National Hydrographic Office, manages a process of collating and verifying the information for the updating of the C-55 database, and directly uploads the data to the IHO website.

7. Capacity Building

1. *Representatives from Antigua and Barbuda participated in:*
 1. IMO MSC 105 – 20th April to 29th April 2022.
2. *Representatives from Antigua and Barbuda will be participating in:*
 1. The 23rd Meso-American & Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission Meeting.
3. *Capacity Building Required:*
 1. Antigua and Barbuda is still in the process of establishing a robust national framework for applicable hydrographic services and would be most grateful for the following training opportunities:
 1. Hydrography Levels 1 and 2
 2. MSI
 3. Aids to Navigation Maintenance
4. *Port Facilitates Development:*
 1. The Antigua Port Authority has completed its project to modernize the commercial port facilities, which includes dredging the main shipping channel, building a new seawall/harbor defense structure, expansion of container operations, and a new breakbulk warehouse. The facilities will be commissioned in December 2022, and the second phase of the development, which includes land reclamation for the construction of a yacht marina and maritime commercial administrative cluster, is now underway.
 2. A new cruise berth for the Oasis Class Vessels built to the North of the existing Heritage Quay Pier is now completed and is expected to be commissioned by the end of 2022. The entire cruise ship berthing facilities at the eastern end of St. John's harbor, are now managed by Global Ports Holding, a UK-based company. As the world's largest cruise port operator, they have secured a 30-year exclusive concession deal with Antigua and Barbuda for cruise port management and retail shopping operations.

8. Oceanographic Activities

1. Tide Stations:

1. The Tide Station on the sister island of Barbuda is generally in working order with some repairs needed to the wind section. Further, there is a need for calibration to ensure the



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accuracy of the data produced. Linked to NOAA, the local Meteorological Office at the V.C. Bird International Airport monitors this station.

2. The Tide Station at Camp Blizzard on the mainland of Antigua is reported as inoperable and non-reparable.
3. There is a need for a reliable network of Tide Stations in Antigua and Barbuda.

9. Other Activities:

1. **The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs - Belize) Lidar survey project for the Caribbean:** This Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) funded coastal bathymetric and topographic data acquisition survey project using an airborne LIDAR system for selected areas of Antigua and other OECS Member States, is still alive. The execution of the surveys had a major setback because the airborne platform provider filed for bankruptcy, which forced 5C to find an alternative. The changes meant that the surveys would have had to be conducted during the 2022 hurricane season. Since the added weather risk had a direct bearing on the budget, the commencement has been deferred, until further notice.
2. Covid 19 had retarded the process planned for actioning the **Implementation Plan for Developing Antigua and Barbuda's National Hydrographic Capability**. Antigua and Barbuda with technical assistance from the UKHO under the CME Programme had completed a draft of the Implementation Plan. The overall aim of this Implementation Plan is to create a cooperative agreement across the Antigua and Barbuda government, facilitating the coordination and sharing of resources, data collection activities, and delivering outputs supporting the Strategic Action Plan of the National Ocean Policy. It further serves to provide the required objective evidence for Hydrographic Services for the imminent IMO mandatory IMSAS Audit.

10. Conclusions:

1. The Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping is committed to establishing a resilient national hydrographic framework to adequately meet Antigua and Barbuda's international obligations concerning Hydrography and Aids to Navigation.
2. The National Hydrographic Office appreciates the tremendous support it continues to receive through the MACHC Capacity Building Program and various bilateral support from its members.