



Antigua and Barbuda's National Hydrographic Office Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS)

NATIONAL REPORT

Meso-American and Caribbean Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) Meeting 12th to 15th December 2023

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. 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 2024.

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 for the waters of Antigua and 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 publications 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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3. ADOMS issued a Nav area warning for Antigua and Barbuda to our Navarea IV Coordinator for dissemination on 23 July 2023

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 107 – 31st May to 9th June 2023.

2. *Representatives from Antigua and Barbuda will be participating in:*

1. The 24th 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 Facilities 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, the expansion of container operations, and a new breakbulk warehouse. The facilities were 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 underway.

2. A new cruise berth for the Oasis Class Vessels built to the North of the existing Heritage Quay Pier completed in 2022 is now fully operational but limited to the non-Oasis Class cruise ships. 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.



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3. Plans have been approved for the modernization and expansion of the shore-based facilities to facilitate the home porting of cruise ships and a better traveler experience.
4. A small LNG import terminal designed to receive and regasify LNG for use in a 46 MW power plant equipped with dual-fuel Wärtsilä engines has been established by Antigua Power on the Crabbs Peninsula – Parham Harbour in Antigua. The facility consists of four newly acquired LNG storage tanks, each boasting a capacity of about 1,000 cubic meters.

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 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 is a 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. The survey was executed earlier this year, and the data is currently being processed.
2. Antigua and Barbuda, with technical assistance from the UKHO under the CME Programme, completed a draft of the Implementation Plan for Developing Antigua and Barbuda's National Hydrographic Capability. 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.
3. In July 2023 dredging commenced at the Crabbs Marina. Dredging is expected to be undertaken in the Access Channel and Turning Basin, Maiden Island, and Winthorpes Bay, more specifically Shell Beach and Barnacle Point. This initiative is to facilitate the movement of larger cement shipments and LNG ships.



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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.