

**24th MEETING OF THE MESO AMERICAN – CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC
COMMISSION (MACHC24)
hosted by the Suriname
12 December - 15 December 2023**

NATIONAL REPORTS FROM JAMAICA TO THE MACHC24

References:

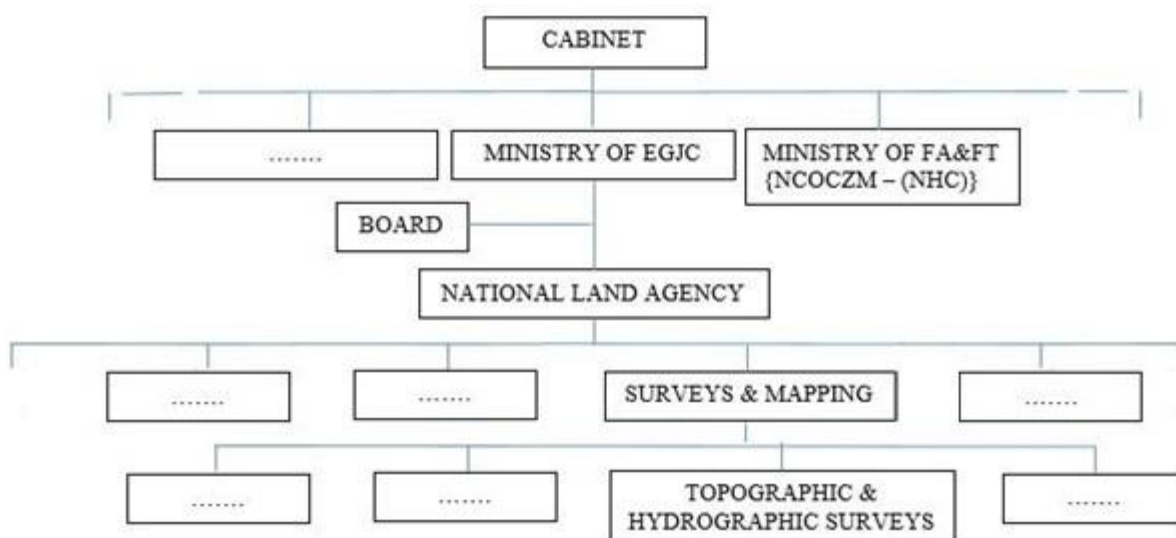
1. IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended.
2. IHO ACL 27/2020 dated 25 June 2020 – approval of the second tranche of proposals originally for consideration by the 2nd session of the assembly.
3. Decision No.9 of A-2, 2020.

Executive summary

1. Hydrographic Office / Service:

a) Name of the institution: National Land Agency

Description: **Hydrographic Office** – The Hydrographic Office for Jamaica is the National Land Agency of Jamaica. This is an Executive Agency, which since March of 2016 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 (NCO CZM), 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

b) -

c) Submitted by: Diego Billings, Diego.Billings@nla.gov.jm

Detailed information to update IHO Publication P-5 (*Yearbook*) is submitted in Annex A (alternatively, use the online system, reference B). Please indicate "no change" in Annex A if this is the case.

2. Surveys:

a) Hydrographic Surveys of:

West Harbour, Port Antonio in the Parish of Portland.

East Harbour, Port Antonio in the Parish of Portland

CMU Dock Area, Kingston Harbour in the Parish of Kingston.

Royal Jamaica Yacht Club, Kingston Harbour in the Parish of Kingston.

Kingston Harbour Channel Turning Basin Area and Channel leading to the East Channel.

Kingston Harbour East Channel (currently being mapped)

b) New technologies and /or equipment

The NLA acquired a series of high specification laptops to assist in acquisition and processing of multibeam data.

c) New ships

The Jamaica Defence Force Coast Guard will be providing the NLA with a new vessel to conduct surveys. This vessel is currently in Jamaica, both parties are waiting for the signing of a MOU.

d) Crowdsourced and satellite-derived bathymetry - national policy –

The NLA will continue working with TCarta as it relates to satellite-derived bathymetry. A capacity building workshop is currently being planned for January 2024.

e) Challenges and achievements

The NHC has to overcome the challenge of low stakeholder involvement, the four stakeholders that have been participating in the meetings and activities are the NLA, the Coast Guard (JDF CG), The Maritime Authority (MAJ) and the Port Authority (PAJ). Wider stakeholder involvement and awareness is necessary for identifying and meeting Jamaica's hydrographic needs.

Jamaica had a high level visit by the IHO which was a success. Jamaica organized a technical visit from the IHO through the NLA and its CEO, Ms. Cherise Walcott. The visit was attended by the Director, Rear Admiral Luigi Sinapi, and the Capacity Building Manager, Ms. Lucy Fieldhouse. The attendees discussed various topics and reached agreements to improve the operations of the NLA.

3. New charts & updates:

The UKHO is the Primary Charting Authority (PCA) for Jamaica and generally gives detailed information on new charts and editions covering Jamaican waters. ENC's will replace paper charts that are normally sent to Jamaica by the UKHO.

4. New publications & updates:

The first high definition ENC (Kingston Harbour) within the Caribbean, which brings both safety and economic benefit to the port.

5. MSI

a) Existing infrastructure for MSI dissemination

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.

b) Statistics on work of the National Coordinator

The NLA has received confirmation of 5 messages that were sent to the National coordinator.

c) New infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan - No new Arrangemnets.

d) Challenges and achievements

There is an agreed procedure for sending messages to the national coordinator, but none exists for the national coordinator to communicate confirmation that the message was received by the NAVAREA IV coordinator and broadcast. In addition, some stakeholders have not complied with the procedure for reporting to the national coordinator by not copying their messages to the other stakeholders.

6. C-55

There has been no change to the status of Jamaica's hydrographic coverage.

7. Capacity Building

a) Offer of and/or demand for Capacity Building

Jamaica through the NLA has received training in Hydrography but there are some steps to process and convert the data for inclusion in a Geodatabase and to generate other products outside of navigation which should be done by a Nautical Cartographer. Jamaica is hereby requesting for one person, access to training in a Category B Cartographer course in 2024.

Jamaica is also requesting for two persons, access to training in a Category A & B Hydrographer course in 2023.

b) Training received, needed, offered

Mr Matthew-Dane Henry (Assistant Hydrographic Surveyor) is currently enrolled in the Category A course in Ocean Mapping at the University of New Hampshire. Date of completion is August, 2024.

Mrs. Shari Bowen-Robinson (Cartographer) is currently completing the IHO-Nippon Foundation GEOMAC (Geospatial Marine Analysis and Cartography) Project (UKHO), Taunton UK. She is expected to return to Jamaica on the 16th of December, 2023.

Mr Diego Billings received training in Marine Spatial Planning and Blue Economic Development for Developing Countries, Fujian Institute of Oceanography, Xaimen City, China.

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

Jamaica continues to benefit from assistance from the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office UKHO, under the CME. The NHC has identified a number of areas for survey in the near future, it is hoped that other areas will be identified as other stakeholders come onboard.

d) Description of proposals and requests to the IHO/CBSC

Jamaica through the NLA hereby expresses interest in accessing a Category B Nautical Cartographer and a Category A Hydrographer training course.

8. Oceanographic activities

The Meteorological Service of Jamaica is currently installing two (2) permanent tide gauges. One in Port Antonio, Portland and the other at Rocky Point, Clarendon. Jamaica plans to install four (4) permanent tide gauges in the NE, NW, SW and SE of the island.

9. Spatial data infrastructures

No developments

10. Innovation

No developments

11. Other activities

No developments.

12. Conclusions

a) Areas of significant achievement

Acquisition of high specification laptops to assist in acquisition and processing of multibeam data.

5 Hydrographic Surveys were completed over the period with a planned survey of East Channel, Kingston Harbour currently being mapped.

1. West Harbour, Port Antonio in the Parish of Portland.
2. East Harbour, Port Antonio in the Parish of Portland
3. CMU Dock Area, Kingston Harbour in the Parish of Kingston.
4. Royal Jamaica Yacht Club, Kingston Harbour in the Parish of Kingston.
5. Kingston Harbour Channel Turning Basin Area and Channel leading to the East Channel.

b) Areas of particular concern

There is a need to map our EEZ but due to the lack of deep-sea equipment we are unable to. Therefore, we cannot submit sufficient data towards the Seabed 2030 initiative. Also, the need for greater stakeholder involvement in this process, efforts to garner support in this regard will be made with a renewed focus on Hydrography as an enabler in the stimulation of our Blue Economy.

c) Any other matters of interest to the MACHC

We look forward to the continued support from and cooperation with our partner IHO Member States, the MACHC and our bi-lateral partners and to forming new partnerships with our Caribbean neighbours.

Input to the IHO Publication P-5 (*Yearbook*)Country: _____ *Jamaica* _____Organization: _____ *National Land Agency* _____

(Please provide the information in English)

Contact information/ Informations de contact / Información de contacto	
-National Hydrographer or equivalent -Directeur du service hydrographique ou équivalent -Director del Servicio Hidrográfico o equivalente	Post: Chief Executive Officer, National Land Agency Name: Ms Cherieese Walcott Postal address: 8 Ardenne Road, Kingston 10, Jamaica W.I. Tel: 1(876)750-5263 Fax: Email: Cherieese.Walcott@nla.gov.jm
-Head of the Hydrographic Office (if different from the person indicated above) -Directeur du Service Hydrographique (si différent de la personne indiquée ci-dessus) -Director del Servicio Hidrográfico (si diferente de la persona indicada anteriormente)	Post: Name: Postal address: Tel: Fax: Email:
-Other point(s) of contact -Autre(s) point(s) de contact -Otros punto(s) de contacto	Post: Senior Hydrographer Name: Mr Diego Billings Postal address: 23 ½ Charles Street, Kingston, Jamaica W.I. Tel: 1(876)750-5263 Fax: Email: Diego.Billings@nla.gov.jm Post: Chief Hydrographer Name: Mr Antonio Williams Postal address: 23 ½ Charles Street, Kingston, Jamaica W.I. Tel: 1(876)750-5263 Fax: Email: Antonio.williams@nla.gov.jm Post: Actioning Senior Director Name: Mr Edward Chambers Postal address: 23 ½ Charles Street, Kingston, Jamaica W.I. Tel: 1(876)750-5263 Fax: Email: Edward.Chambers@nla.gov.jm

-Web site -site web -sitio web	www.nla.gov.jm
Country information / Informations sur le pays/ Información sobre el país	
-Declared National Tonnage -Tonnage national déclaré -Tonelaje Nacional Declarado	Tonnage: Date:
-National day -Fête nationale -Fiesta nacional	Independence Day – August 6
-Date of establishment and Relevant National Legislation -Date de mise en place et législation nationale pertinente -Fecha de constitución y legislación nacional pertinente	August 6, 1962
-Date first joined IHO -Date d'adhésion à l'OHI -Fecha de adhesión a la OHI	1991
-Date ratification Convention -Date de ratification de la Convention -Fecha de ratificación de la Convención	April, 2000
-Remarks on membership -Remarques sur l'adhésion -Comentarios sobre la adhesión	Membership in the IHO and MACHC have been very enlightening and beneficial to Jamaica, especially in the development of hydrographic capacity.
Agency information/ Information sur l'agence/ Información sobre la agencia	
-Top level parent organisation -Organisme mère -Organización asociada de nivel superior	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation
-Principal functions of the organisation or the department -Attribution principales de l'organisme ou du département -Principales funciones de la Organización o departamento	

-Annual operating budget -Budget annuel -presupuesto anual				
-Total number of staff employed -Effectifs totaux -Número total de personal empleado	The National Land Agency has 730 established posts, 150 of which are in the Surveys and Mapping Division.			
-Number of INT charts published -Nombres de cartes INT publiées -Número de cartas INT publicadas				
-Total number of paper charts published -Nombre total de cartes papier publiées -Número total de cartas de papel publicadas				
-Number of ENC cells published -Nombres de cellules ENC publiées -Número de células ENC publicadas				
-Number of Other charts -Nombre d'Autres cartes -Número de Otras cartas				
-Type of publications produced -Type d'ouvrages produits -Tipo de publicaciones producidas				
-Detail of surveying vessels/ aircraft -Détail des bâtiments hydrographiques / aéronefs -Detalle de los buques hidrográficos / aeronaves	-Name -Nom -Nombre	-Displacement -Déplacement -Desplazamiento	-Date Launched -Date de mise en service -Fecha de botado	-Number of crew -Nombre de l'équipage -Tripulación

-Other information of
interest
-Autres informations utiles
-Otra información de interés

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