

25th Meso American & Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission Meeting
02nd – 06th December 2024
Panama
Co-operative Republic of Guyana National Report

1. Hydrographic Office/ Service:

The Maritime Administration Department defined as MARAD was established as a legal entity on July 01, 1999 to administer the Guyana Shipping Act of 1998. This Act also was amended to include various International Maritime Convention such as SOLAS, COLREGS; MARPOL etc; so that the administration of such Acts now falls under the ambit of the Maritime Administration Department of which the Hydrographic Office is a part of.

Key functions of the Hydrographic Office are;

- *Hydrographic Surveying*
- *Aids to Navigation Establishment and services*
- *Nautical Publications such as Notice to Mariners, Maritime Safety Information, Annual Tide Tables and List of Lights*
- *Coastal Zone Management*
- *Tidal observations and analysis*
- *Dredging*

MARAD seeks to ensure that quality standards are applied for the effective management and safe and secure operations of ships and ports within the industry. The administration also endorses the ongoing enhancement of the Port Security, Maritime Safety and the development of a safety culture within the Maritime industry.

The primary objectives of the MARAD are the safety, security of vessels and the protection of the marine environment.

2. Surveys:

Coverage of New Surveys

- *Surveys carried out for the past year were done mainly for the monitoring of dredging activities within the harbours and navigation channels , ferry routes, surveys alongside wharf facilities and oil installations*

New Technologies and/Equipment

- *One (1) Norbit Inshi Multibeam system*
- *One (1) Trimble GNSS Unit*
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New Ships

- *1 New Hydrographic Survey Vessel suitable for coastal surveys was procured, expected delivery 2025*

Problems encountered

- *Limited amount of professionally trained and qualified staff in Hydrography, oceanography etc.*
- *Sling mud/ murky waters is challenging for the multi-beam sonar technology.*

3. New Charts & Updates:

ENCs

- *NA*

ENC Distribution Method

- *NA*

RNCs

- *NA*

INT Charts

- *NA*

National Paper Charts

- *GY03 chart showing the Harbours of Georgetown (portion of BA 519) and GY02 showing ferry crossing in the Essequibo River (portion of BA 2783)*

Other Charts, e.g. for pleasure craft

- *NA*

Problems encountered

While the office is currently developing in the capacity to conduct surveys to the UKHO Charting Standards; we are also trying to develop the capacity to produce charts to in the international standards

4. New Publications & Updates: **New Publications**

- *Notice to Mariners are prepared for all activity that made be hazardous to shipping or other users of Guyana Waters. A total of 151 Notice to Mariners have been disseminated for the year 2024 so far with all Notice to Mariners been available in the printed media and on MARAD's website. Additionally all Notice to Mariners disseminated is sent to our primary charting authority and our Nav Area IV coordinator.*

Updated Publications

- *Tide Tables and List of Lights are updated annually*

Means of Delivery, e.g. paper, digital

- *Paper booklet and digital format sent to UKHO periodically; All Notice to Mariners/ Maritime Safety Information are sent to the UKHO and NGA*

also published in the local printed media and available on MARAD Website.

Problems encountered

- *Lack of training in Tidal Analysis so as to interpret the tidal data that was recorded by the hydrographic office*
- *Continuous training in Hydrographic Data Acquisition and Marine Cartography*

5. Maritime Safety Information dissemination

- Existing Infrastructure for MSI

-VHF coverage is available in the vicinity of major Port of entry as well as upstream Navigable Rivers; but since all MSI's are prepared for offshore operations we heavily rely on the Nav Area IV coordinator to disseminate MSI's also all MSI's are available on MARAD's Website

-Statics on work of the National Coordinator

A total of 250 MSI's were disseminated for Guyana for 2024 thus far.

-New Infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan

- MARAD is currently finalizing plan on building offices to be fully function with all equipment mentioned in the GMDSS Master Plan to extend the Coverage of the VHF/MF to all inland waters as well as our EEZ. This process should commence soon.

Problems encountered

- Limited infrastructure to disseminate local warnings to vessel directly.

6. C-55

7. Capacity Building Building

Offer of and/or demand for Capacity

- *MOU signed with the UKHO and MARAD for assistance in the field of hydrography and marine cartography training*

Training received, needed, offered

- *Cat A in Hydrography (Needed)*
- *Cat B in Hydrography(Needed)*
- *Marine Cartography(one staff trained by UKHO, needed)*
- *Maritime Safety Information (Needed annually)*
- *Tidal Analysis(Needed)*

Status of National, Bilateral, Multilateral or Regional development projects with hydrographic component. (In progress, planned, under evaluation or Study)

- *MOU was between signed with the UKHO and Guyana for assistance in the field of hydrography and marine cartography training*

Definition of Bids to IHOCBC

- *NA*

8. Oceanographic Activities

General

GEBCO/IBC's Activities

Tide Gauge Network

- *One tide gauge is installed at the mouth of one (1) of Guyana Main River(Demerara)*

New Equipment

Met Ocean Buoy deployed currently being used as GNSS buoy but arrangements are being made to have same permanently deployed as a Met Ocean Unit.

Problems Encountered

Need for a national consensus on the importance of Hydrography as it relates to the economic development of Guyana

9. Spatial data infrastructure

Status of MSDI

- *Currently they are discussions with all stakeholder agencies, as it relates to the legal framework and data each agency may have stored.*

Relationship with the NSDI

- *Discussion are still undergoing for the establishment of a NSDI in Guyana*

Involvement in regional or global MSDI efforts

-the Hydrographic Office is always open to share data and contribute to regional/ global MSDIs.

National implementation of the Shared Data Principles.

- Presently, formal request is made for sharing of data they required for projects of national interest or national development.

10. Innovation

Use of New Technologies

Guyana is now in the developmental stage to establish the infrastructure to use the available new technology.

11. Other Activities

Participation in IHO Working Groups

Meteorological Data Collection

- *This is a function of the Hydromet Office, Ministry of Agriculture but the Hydrographic Office offers assistance in tidal data collection*

Geospatial Studies

- *This a function of the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission, Ministry of Agriculture, but is spearheaded by the Mining Monitoring Agency(has the finances)*

Disaster Prevention

- *This is a function of the Guyana Civil Defense Commission(hydrographic office is represented in workshops)*

Environmental Protection

- *This a function of the Environmental Protection Agency*

Astronomical Observations

- *NA*

Magnetic/Gravity Surveys

- NA

MSDI Progress

Some work has commence as it relates to historical data but expert advice and training is needed in this regard

Conclusions:

While the some staff of the Hydrographic Office in Guyana has experience in hydrographic surveying, more should be done in terms of training that is urgently needed in the field of Hydrography, Marine Cartography, Tidal Analysis, Maritime Safety Information, etc, this is to provide accurate and up to date hydrographic data that meets the international standard (SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 9). The following are some of the present needs of the Hydrographic Office;

- *Survey Equipment/ Vessel*
- *Hydrographic Training*
- *Cartographic Training*
- *Maritime Safety Information Training (MSI)*
- *Maritime Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI)*
- *Hydrographic / Cartographic Database Management*
- *Technical Assistance*
- *Information Sharing Network*
- *Hydrographic Data Processing*