

25th MEETING OF THE MESO AMERICAN – CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (MACHC25)
hosted by Panama
02 December - 06 December 2024

NATIONAL REPORTS FROM JAMAICA TO THE MACHC25

References:

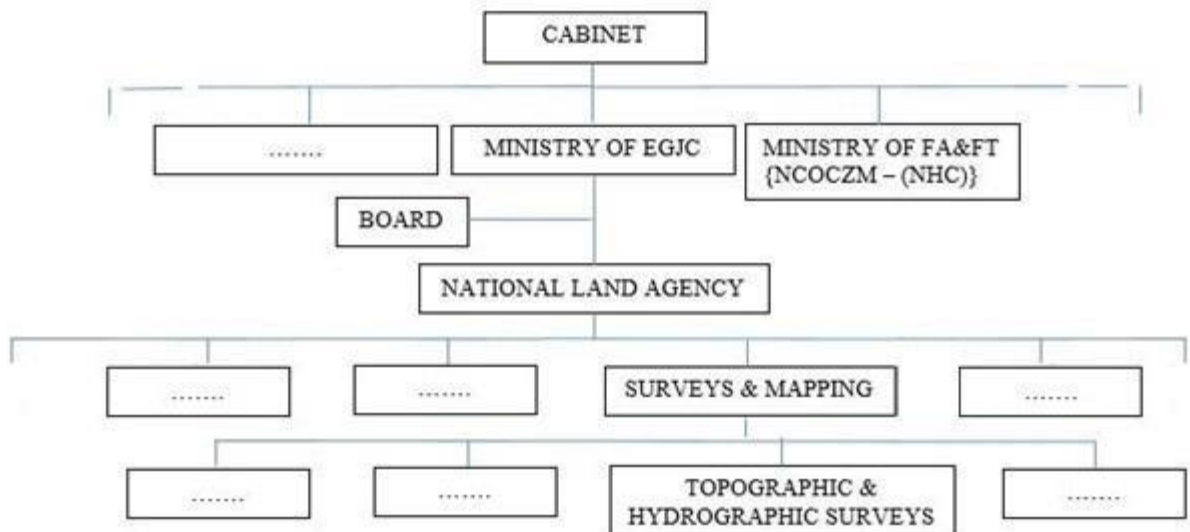
1. IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended.
2. IHO ACL 27/2020 dated 25 June 2020 – approval of the second tranche of proposals originally for consideration by the 2nd session of the assembly.
3. Decision No.9 of A-2, 2020.

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:

Kingston Harbour East Channel in the Parish of Kingston

Port Royal Harbour in the Parish of Kingston

Discovery Bay, in the Parish of St. Ann

Ocho Rios Bay, in the Parish of St. Ann

West Harbour, Port Antonio in the Parish of Portland

East Harbour, Port Antonio in the Parish of Portland

Cemex, Jamaica Gypsum Pier, in the Parish of Kingston

Kingston Harbour to locate sunken vessel in the Parish of Kingston

b) New technologies and /or equipment

The survey data acquisition utility, Norbit DCT (Data Collection Tool) has been adopted to simplify our bathymetry survey operations. The acquisition and processing of multibeam data is now facilitated with use of POSPac and Caris HIPS and SIPS. EIVA software will be going through trial process for one year.

To process SDB data the T-Carta's Trident Tools is used which is a geoprocessing extension in the Esri's ArcPro toolbox.

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 T-Carta as it relates to satellite-derived bathymetry. A capacity building workshop was completed in February 2024.

e) Challenges and achievements

The NHC must 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.

The entire coastal area of Jamaica, including the environmentally and economically important Pedro Cays was mapped using satellite-derived bathymetry (SDB). The data was extracted using TCarta's Trident Geoprocessing Toolbox and the data shared with The Nippon Foundation-GEBCO Seabed 2030 project.

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 8 messages that were sent to the National coordinator.

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

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 aims to build its capacity and contribute to solving regional and global navigational challenges. Nautical Cartographers require a necessary competence, skill and knowledge which must be consistently upgraded to maintain the national navigational database used to produce nautical charts. Jamaica is hereby requesting for one person, access to training in a Category B Cartographer course in 2025.

Jamaica is also requesting for two persons, access to training in a Category A & B Hydrographer course in 2025.

b) Training received, needed, offered

Mr Matthew-Dane Henry (Assistant Hydrographic Surveyor) completed the Category "A" course in Ocean Mapping at the University of New Hampshire in August 2024.

Mr Devroy Gayle (Assistant Hydrographic Surveyor) completed the Category "B" Hydrographic Survey Programme at the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency (KHOA) in Busan, Republic of Korea in November 2024.

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 several 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 various workshops and trainings such as Tides workshop, ENC Validations, S-100 Workshop, MSDI and Database Management, so as to continue building a mature hydrographic infrastructure which provides quality service which contributes to the safety and security of navigation, preservation of the environment and fulfil our duties as part of the IHO community, keeping in mind the objectives and directions of the Organization.

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

Using satellite-derived bathymetry (SDB) the entire coastal area of Jamaica, including the environmentally and economically important Pedro Cays was mapped. Jamaica continues to benefit from various partnerships and capacity building opportunities building on its capabilities to contribute to over arching needs of the hydrographic community.

Over the period eight (8) Hydrographic Surveys were completed:

1. Kingston Harbour East Channel in the Parish of Kingston
2. Port Royal Harbour in the Parish of Kingston
3. Discovery Bay, in the Parish of St. Ann
4. Ocho Rios Bay, in the Parish of St. Ann
5. West Harbour, Port Antonio in the Parish of Portland
6. East Harbour, Port Antonio in the Parish of Portland
7. Cemex, Jamaica Gypsum Pier, in the Parish of Kingston
8. Kingston Harbour to locate sunken vessel in the Parish of Kingston

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 Cheriese Walcott Postal address: 8 Ardenne Road, Kingston 10, Jamaica W.I. Tel: 1(876)750-5263 Fax: Email: Cheriese.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 cidessus) -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: Acting Manager Topographic and Hydrographic Branch 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: Acting Chief Hydrographer Name: Mr. Matthew-Dane Henry Postal address: 23 ½ Charles Street, Kingston, Jamaica W.I. Tel: 1(876)750-5263 Fax: Email: Matthewdane.Henry@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

<p>-Principal functions of the organisation or the department -Attribution principales de l'organisme ou du département -Principales funciones de la Organización o departamento</p>	
<p>-Annual operating budget -Budget annuel -presupuesto anual</p>	
<p>-Total number of staff employed -Effectifs totaux -Número total de personal empleado</p>	<p>The National Land Agency has 815 established posts, 166 of which are in the Surveys and Mapping Division.</p>
<p>-Number of INT charts published -Nombres de cartes INT publiées -Número de cartas INT publicadas</p>	
<p>-Total number of paper charts published-Nombre total de cartes papier publiées- Número total de cartas de papel publicadas</p>	
<p>-Number of ENC cells published -Nombres de cellules ENC publiées -Número de células ENC publicadas</p>	
<p>-Number of Other charts -Nombre d'Autres cartes -Número de Otras cartas</p>	
<p>-Type of publications produced -Type d'ouvrages produits - Tipo de publicaciones producidas</p>	

-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				