

ALBANIAN HIDROGRAPHIC SERVICE



24th Meeting of Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC)

NATIONAL REPORT OF ALBANIA

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HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICE

Mission:

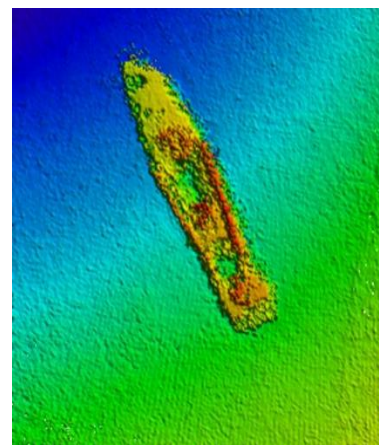
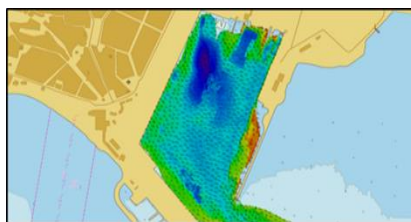
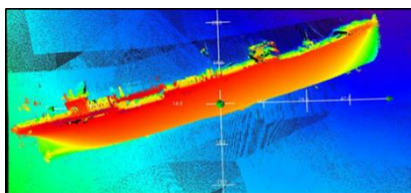
The Albanian Hydrographic Service (AHS) is a governmental body responsible for conducting hydrographic and hydrological surveys to ensure safe navigation and protect the marine environment in the Republic of Albania. The AHS operates under the Hydrographic Service Command, which includes the Hydrographic Sector, Navigational Safety Sector, and Logistic Support Sector, and utilizes hydrographic boats for its operations.

1. Main Tasks:

- Repair and maintain all navigational equipment along the coast and lakes of Albania.
- Plan and conduct hydrographic surveys.
- Perform studies on the optimal positioning of navigational lights, beacons, buoys, and signaling equipment.
- Collect bathymetric data to define sea bottom topography and produce nautical charts and documents.
- Evaluate and compile results from hydrographic surveys and other data sources.
- Produce nautical documentation for coastal areas.

2. Surveys

The AHS has conducted several hydrographic surveys within Albania's territorial waters. These surveys are crucial for updating nautical charts and enhancing navigational safety. Detailed bottom topography information has been obtained for prioritized areas, and digital terrain models have been produced from the surveyed regions.



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a) Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs)

The AHS is working on the production of Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) and has engaged in bilateral cooperation with the Italian Hydrographic Institute (IIM) for on-the-job training in ENC and paper navigation chart production.

b) Transition to S-100

The AHS is in the process of transitioning to the S-100 standard, which involves creating a digital system to control the entire hydrographic service and auditing all Aids to Navigation (AtoN) in Albanian waters. This transition includes developing a national AtoN Register and categorizing AtoNs based on navigational significance.

c) New Publications and Updates

The AHS plans to release new nautical publications and updates to existing documents based on the latest hydrographic survey data. These publications will adhere to international standards and aim to support safe navigation.

d) Foreign Training

The Albanian Hydrographic Service (AHS) has significantly increased his capabilities in the development of its personnel. To date, six AHS personnel have been trained in Category A and B hydrographic courses. Specifically, two personnel have completed Category B courses in the Netherlands, and four personnel have been trained in Italy, with two completing Category A courses and two completing Category B courses. Additionally, on-the-job training has been conducted at the Italian Hydrographic Institute (IIM), further enhancing the skills and expertise of the AHS team.

e) Bilateral and Multilateral Projects

The AHS actively engages in bilateral and multilateral projects to enhance its hydrographic capabilities through international cooperation. Currently, discussions are underway regarding a potential bilateral project with Denmark. This project aims to leverage Denmark's expertise in hydrographic surveying and technology to support the AHS's efforts in modernizing its hydrographic services and improving maritime safety in Albanian waters.

3. Challenges and Requirements

a) To improve the effectiveness of its services, the AHS requires:

- Technical assistance.
- High-tech hydrographic equipment.
- Multi-functional ships.
- Training and education for personnel.
- Financial assistance.
- Information exchange for diverse hydrographic cooperation.

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b) Key Achievements

- Development of a national AtoN Register.
- Conducting risk assessments to justify VTS implementation and validate AtoN deployment plans.

c) Lessons Learned

The AHS emphasizes the importance of technical assistance, advanced equipment, and international cooperation in enhancing hydrographic services. Continuous learning and adaptation to new technologies are critical for improving navigational safety and environmental protection.

Conclusion

The AHS is committed to improving its hydrographic services through modern technology, training, and international cooperation. By addressing current challenges and leveraging opportunities for development, the AHS aims to ensure safe navigation and the protection of Albania's marine environment.