

**20th MEETING OF THE NORTH INDIAN
OCEAN HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

(NIOHC 20)

Colombo, Sri Lanka

NATIONAL REPORT - MAURITIUS



13-15 July 2021

1. **Executive Summary**

1.1. **Name of the Institution** - Mauritius Hydrographic Service (MHS)

1.2. **Introduction**

Mauritius Hydrographic Service (MHS) is a Government institution operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning and is the nodal agency for hydrographic surveying and nautical charting for the Republic of Mauritius which includes the Islands of Mauritius, Rodrigues, Agalega, Tromelin, Cargados Carajos and the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia and any other island comprised in the State of Mauritius.

1.3. **Hydrographic Services in Mauritius**

Under the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Republic of Mauritius and Republic of India in the field of hydrography, hydrographic infrastructure has been set up in Mauritius. Mauritius Hydrographic Service has been undertaking hydrographic surveys for various local stake holders. Additionally, India has provided assistance for the conduct of deep sea surveys, production of navigational charts and training of staff.

1.4. **Staff of MHS**

MHS is headed by a Commander (Hydrographer) supported by two Petty Officer Survey Records deputed by the Government of India. One Principal Surveyor, one Senior Surveyor and one Surveyor from the Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning also form part of the MHS team. All the surveyors from the Ministry are IHO/FIG CAT "A" qualified and have completed their hydrographic course under various IHO capacity building programmes.

1.5. **Submitted by:**

Cdr Praveen Thomas, Officer in Charge,
Mauritius Hydrographic Service
Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning
Ebene Tower, Level 5 Ebene, Republic of Mauritius
Tel: 002304013802 Fax: 002304681773
Email: oic_hydrounit@govmu.org

2. Surveys

2.1 Coverage of New Surveys. The Mauritius Hydrographic Service (MHS) has been carrying out surveys for numerous stakeholder organisations in connection with projects of national importance. Some of the surveys carried out since the last NIOHC meeting are as follows:-

- (a) **Survey of Fouquets Island to Ile De La Passe (South East of Mauritius).** The aim of the survey was to conduct hydrographic survey in 1000 metres radius of Ile De La Passe and Ile Fouquets to ascertain bathymetry, tidal current and composition of seabed. The Hydrographic survey was planned based on the request received from the Ministry of Tourism which intends to set up mooring zones, speed limit zone, swimming zone, jetty and safe boating activities. The survey was carried out from 18 Mar to 15 Apr 19.

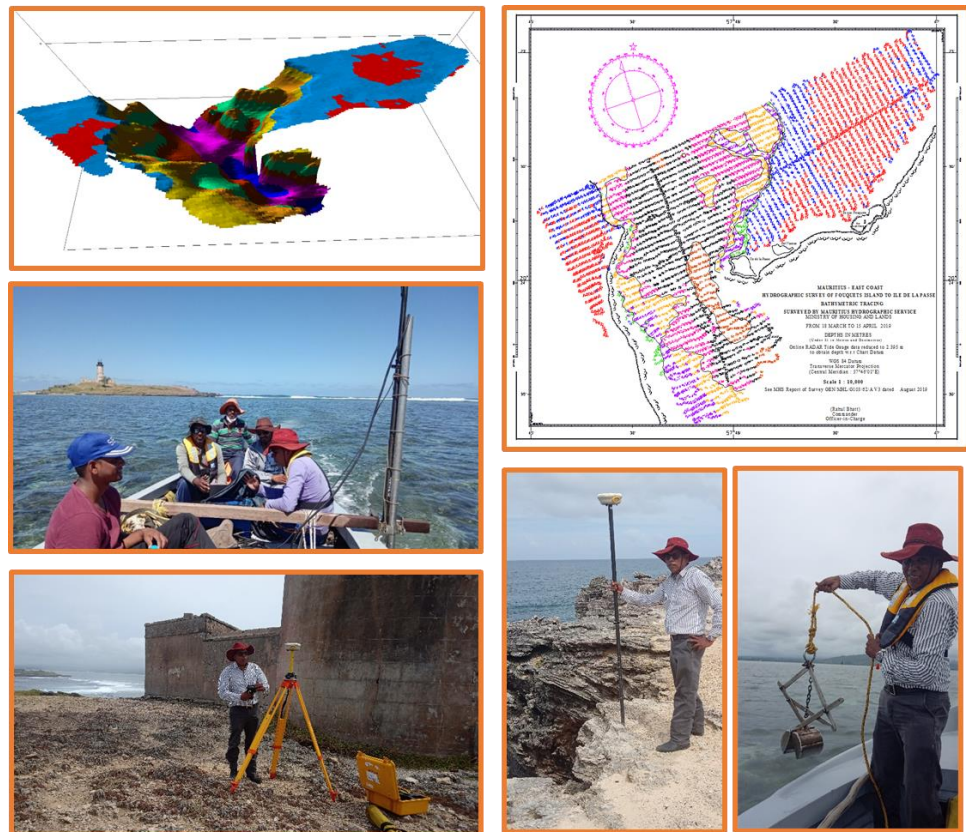


Fig. 1 Hydrographic Survey Fouquets Island to Ile De La Passe

(b) **Survey off Deux Freres (East Coast of Mauritius).** In order to facilitate navigation in the lagoon of Deux Freres for deeper draughts crafts, a hydrographic survey off Deux Freres was undertaken at the request of the National Coast Guard. The survey was completed in July 2019.

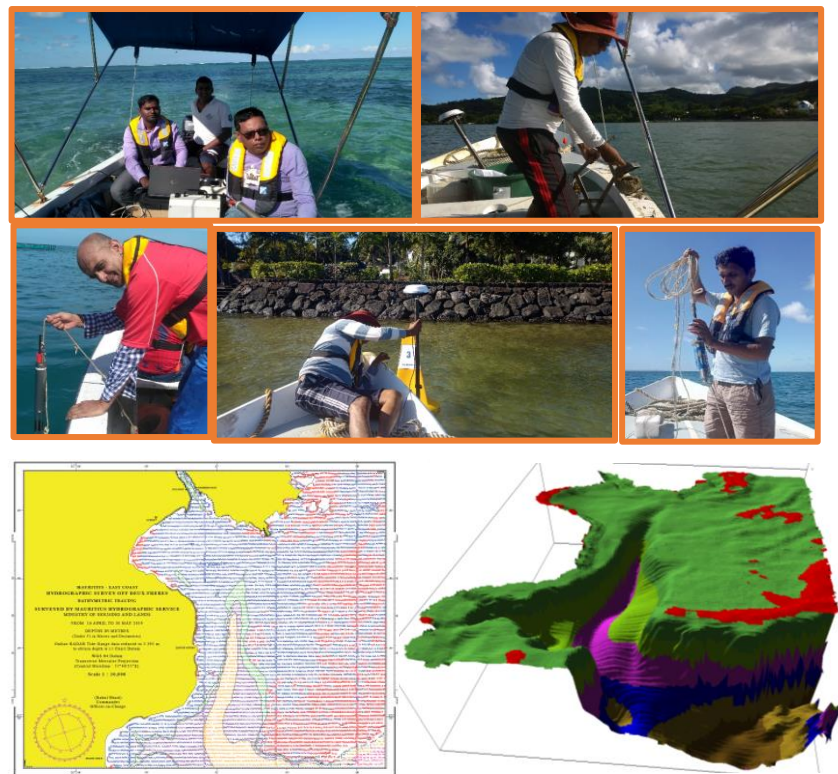


Fig. 2 Hydrographic Survey off Deux Freres

(c) **Hydrographic Survey of Ilot Margenie to Ile Aux Cerfs (East of Mauritius)**

Based on the request from the Ministry of Tourism, the survey was conducted within the lagoons of Ilot Margenie to Ile aux Cerfs to ascertain bathymetry, tidal current and composition of seabed. The data will be used to ensure that tourism related activities are carried out safely and with minimum impact on the environment. The survey started in August and was completed in October 2019.

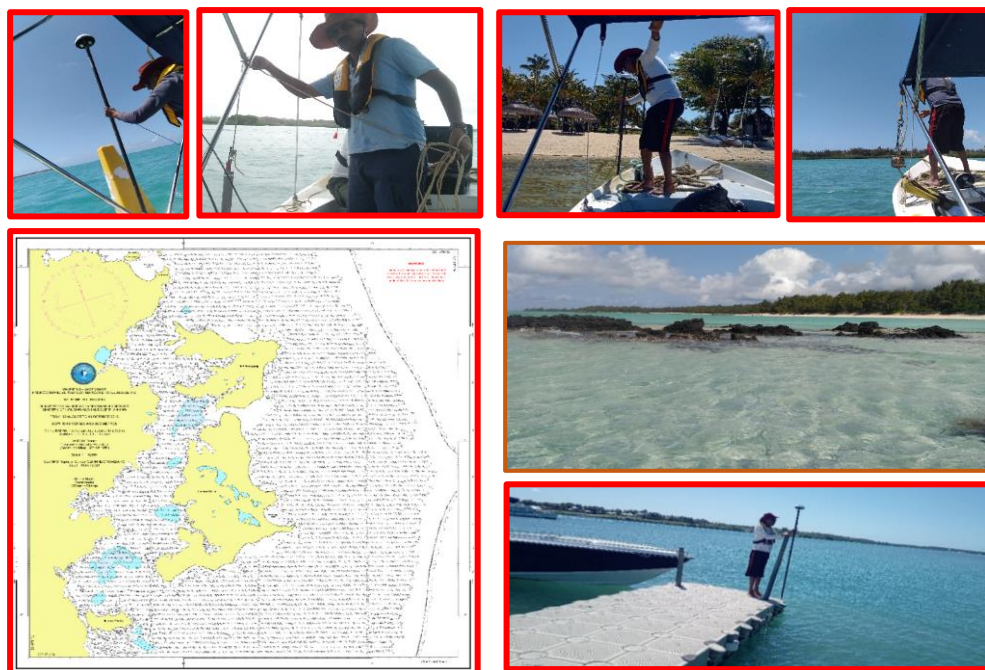


Fig. 3 Hydrographic Survey Ilot Margenie to Ile Aux Cerfs

(d) Survey of Surinam and Pomponette Beach (South Coast of Mauritius)

Following meetings with the Beach Authority concerning drowning cases near Surinam and Pomponette public beaches, the Mauritius Hydrographic Service (MHS) carried out a hydrographic survey in December 2019 for the delineation of safe swimming areas. The hydrographic survey was undertaken in collaboration with personnel from INS Darshak (Indian Naval Survey Vessel).

(e) Survey of Passes Poste de Flacq (East Coast of Mauritius)

The survey of passes is of great importance for tourism, fisheries and activities related to the development of the Blue Economy. These surveys enable demarcation of safe waters for vessels operating in these areas and are also used for update of existing charts.

The mainland of Mauritius has some 42 major passes and some 54 minor passes. These passes are being surveyed in a phased manner. The survey of the pass and lagoon off Poste de Flacq was completed in March 2020. To date, MHS has completed the surveys of 22 passes.



Fig. 4 Survey of pass and lagoon off Poste de Flacq

(f) Survey Around Wreck of MV Wakashio (South East of Mauritius)

Following the grounding of MV Wakashio off Pointe D'Esny along the South East Coast of Mauritius, MHS carried out a multi-beam survey to enable salvage operations.

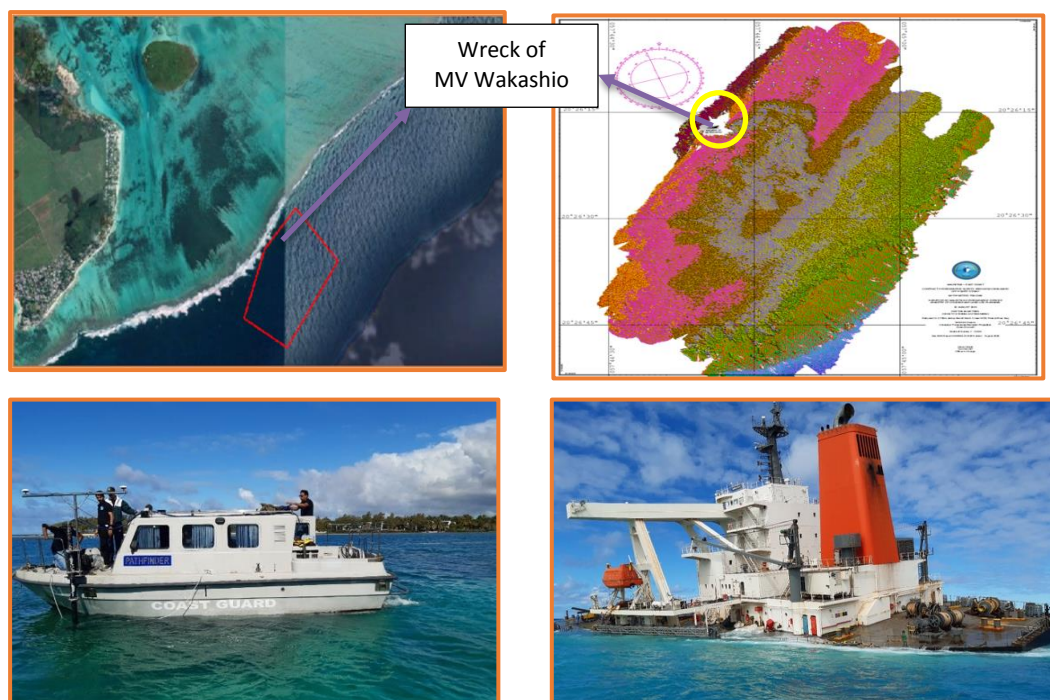


Fig. 5 Hydrographic Survey around MV Wakashio

(g) **Survey off Flic en Flac (West Coast)**

As per the request of the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, a bathymetric survey was undertaken along the coastal stretch of Flic en Flac to study coastal erosion. In addition, bathymetric data was also collected over the two passes falling within the survey area. The survey was undertaken in September 2020.



Fig. 6 Hydrographic Survey off Flic-en-Flac

(h) **Comprehensive Check Survey of Port-Louis Harbour**

Based on the request received from Mauritius Ports Authority (MPA) a Check Survey of Port Louis harbour was undertaken in July 2020. The survey was conducted using Portable Multibeam Echo Sounder mounted on Inshore Survey Vessel Pathfinder with 100% overlap. This was the first comprehensive survey of Port Louis Harbour undertaken by MHS using Multibeam Echo Sounder.

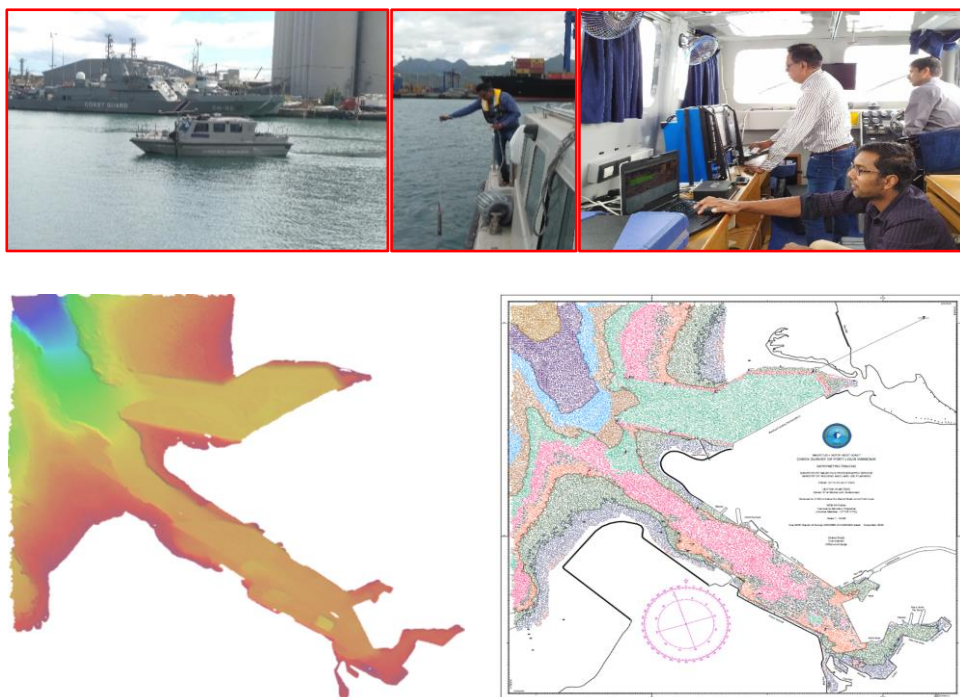


Fig. 7 Check Survey of Port Louis Harbour

(i) **Survey off Souillac (South) and Deep Sea Block South East of Mauritius**

Indian Naval Survey ship 'Darshak' was deployed in our waters from 25 November to 26 December 2019 in order to undertake joint multi-disciplinary surveys in the following areas:-

- (i) Southern (Souillac) part of Mauritius with the aim to publish a new chart and update the relevant Navigational Publications; and
- (ii) South Eastern part of Mauritius based on the request from the Department for Continental Shelf Maritime Zones Administration and Exploration for research purposes.

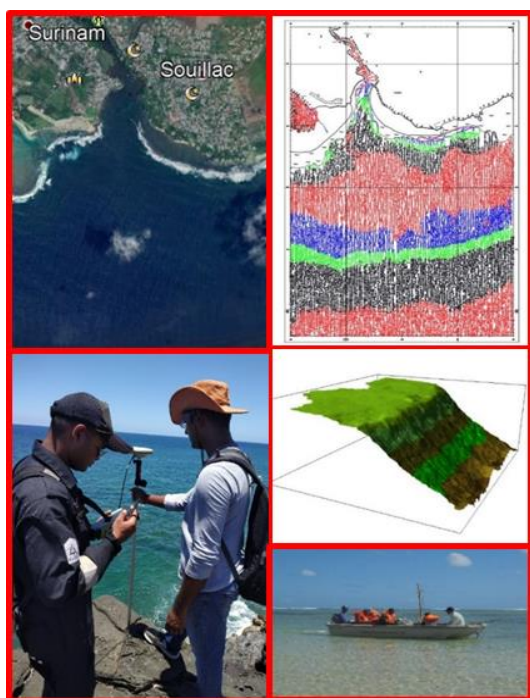


Fig. 8 Hydrographic Survey off Souillac

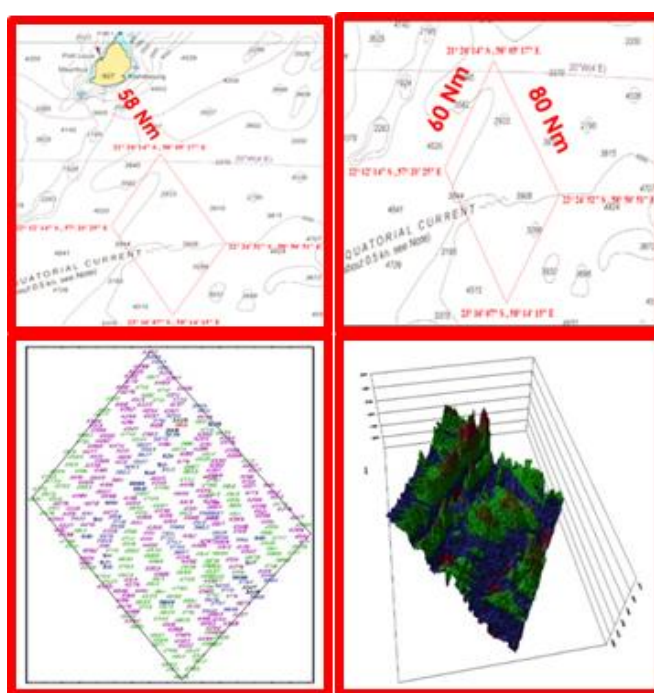


Fig. 9 Hydrographic Survey of Deep Sea Block (SE of Mauritius)

(j) **Deep-Sea Surveys of EEZ North of Mauritius**

Indian Naval Surveying ship 'Sarvekshak' was deployed in the Mauritian waters from 18 March to 14 April 2021. In spite of sanitary restrictions imposed by COVID-19 outbreak in Mauritius during that period, the ship successfully completed the deep-sea surveys of EEZ north of Mauritius as per the request of the Department for Continental Shelf, Maritime Zones Administration and Exploration (CSMZAE) for research purposes and also for updating relevant nautical charts.



Fig. 10 INS Sarvekshak berthed at P.Louis Harbour

(k) **Survey of Pointe aux Cannoniers (North Coast)**

The Hydrographic Survey of Pointe aux Cannoniers was undertaken based on requirements projected by the National Coast Guard (NCG), to facilitate navigation in the lagoon within that area. The survey was completed in November 2020.

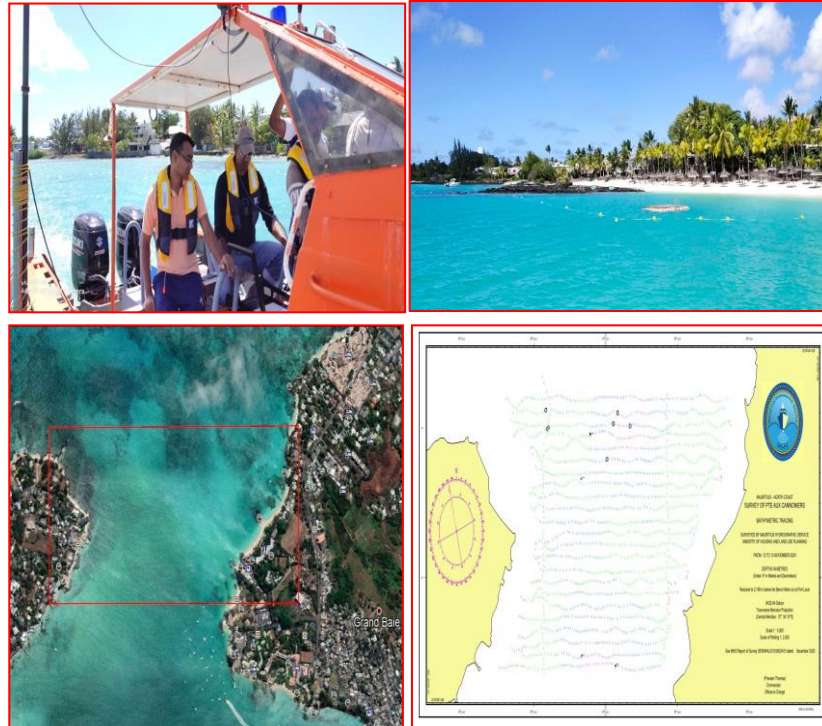


Fig. 11 Hydrographic Survey off Pte aux Cannoniers

(l) **Survey of Embarkation Points**

Based on the request of the Tourism Authority, MHS undertook the survey of two embarkation areas located at Grand Gaube (Northern area of Mauritius) with the aim to upgrade mooring zones and jetties for safe boating. The area was surveyed at 12.5 metres sounding line spacing, covering an area of about 500 metres around the embarkation point. The survey was completed on 19 February 2021.



Fig. 12 Hydrographic Survey off Grand Gaube

2.2 **The basic infrastructure** available for undertaking Hydrographic surveys at Mauritius Hydrographic Service are listed below:-

- (a) Inshore Survey Vessel “Pathfinder”
- (b) Seabat T-20P Multibeam Echosounder System interfaced to SBG Ekinox II Inertial Navigational System
- (c) Atlas Deso-30 Echo sounder with 210 KHz and 33 KHz Transducers
- (d) Precision Depth Recorders – PDR 601
- (e) Teledyne Hydrotrac Portable Single Beam Echo Sounder
- (f) Side Scan Sonar 4200 FS with Discover and Sonar wiz software
- (g) Hemisphere R-131 Satellite DGPS
- (h) TSS Dynamic Motion Sensor 25.
- (i) CTD 48M Sound Velocity Profiler
- (j) Infinity-EM Current Meter
- (k) HYPACK 2019 software
- (l) CARIS Processing Suite for Single and Multi-beam Sounding
- (m) CARIS BDB
- (n) CARIS Paper Chart Composer

2.3 **New Technologies/Equipment**

- (a) MHS has successfully commissioned its first **shallow water Multi Beam System** (SeaBat T-20P) in 2020. A contraption arrangement was made on ISV Pathfinder for deployment of the new MBES system. Additionally, to maximise the use of the equipment from different platforms, arrangements for mounting the MBES have been made on Heavy Duty Boat of National Coast Guard.



Fig. 13 MBES Mounted on HDB & ISV Pathfinder

(b) **CARIS BathyDatabase.** As the amount of Hydrographic data handled by MHS has increased over the years, the need to have a database system in order to manage, store and backup the data more efficiently was felt. In view of the above, CARIS BDB software suite was procured by the Ministry. The installation of the same was undertaken in June 2020. The licence of the entire data suite has been updated for a further period of one year till June 2022.

2.4 **New Ships.** Nil

2.5 **Problems Encountered.**

- (a) Limited Local Representative of OEM for Survey Equipment
- (b) Limited support towards repair of survey vessel, engines, DA and associated accessories.

3. **New Charts & Updates**

3.1 **ENC's and Paper Charts.** A total of 13 Electronic Navigation Charts and 11 Navigational Paper Charts are being produced in collaboration

with National Hydrographic Office, Dehradun, India for Mauritian waters. Since the last NIOHC meeting three new ENC's / Paper Charts have been released. The details of the new ENC's / Paper Charts are enumerated below:-

- (a) ENC Number - IN32527M
 - Chart Number - 2527 (INT 77397)
 - Chart Title - Mauritius
 - Publication Year - 2019
 - Scale - 125 000
- (b) ENC Number - IN52530A
 - Chart Number - 2530
 - Chart Title - Approaches to Grand Port
 - Publication Year - 2020
 - Scale - 30 000
- (c) ENC Number - IN42531R
 - Chart Number - 2531
 - Chart Title - Rodrigues Island
 - Publication Year - 2020
 - Scale - 50 000

Moreover, new editions of two ENC's/ Paper Charts have been released. The details are enumerated below:-

- (a) ENC Number - IN62504H
 - Chart Number - 2504 (INT 77392)
 - Chart Title - Mathurin Harbour (Rodrigues Island)
 - Publication Year - 2020
 - Scale - 12 500
- (b) ENC Number - IN52505T
 - Chart Number - 2505 (INT 77393)
 - Chart Title - Approaches to Mathurin Harbour
 - Publication Year - 2020
 - Scale - 25 000

3.2 ENC Distribution Model. ENC's covering Mauritian waters are distributed worldwide through UKHO, M/s Jeppesen Marine, M/s Primar

Norwegian Hydrographic Service and M/s IIC Technologies Limited.

3.3 **RNC's.** Presently, UKHO is producing some of the RNCs for Mauritian waters.

3.4 **Charts.** As at date, eleven (11) navigational charts covering Mauritian waters are being published and are as follows: -

Sl No.	Chart No.	Name
(a)	2514 (INT 7739)	Port Louis and Approaches to Port Louis.
(b)	2503 (INT 77391)	Approaches to Cargados Carajos Shoals
(c)	2504 (INT 77392)	Mathurin Harbour
(d)	2505 (INT 77393)	Approaches to Mathurin Harbour
(e)	2506 (INT 77394)	Grand Bay and Grand Riviere Noire Bay
(f)	2507 (INT 77395)	Grand Port
(g)	2512 (INT 77396)	Agalega Island
(h)	2529	Northern Islets of Mauritius
(i)	2527 (INT 77397)	Mauritius
(j)	2530	Approaches to Grand Port
(k)	2531	Rodrigues Island

Table 1 List of Navigational Charts

Charts of Mauritian waters are available from the following agencies:-

- (a) Cartographic Section, Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning, Mauritius
- (b) National Hydrographic Office, Dehradun, India
- (c) Naval Chart Depots at Mumbai and Vishakhapatnam, India
- (d) M/s IIC Technologies Limited
- (e) M/s Jeppesen India Private Limited
- (f) M/s Lift o Marine
- (g) M/s C & C Marine Combine
- (h) M/s EW Liner Charts & Publication

3.5 **Other Charts.** The catalogue of charts for Mauritius is being expanded to 14 charts as per the charting scheme finalised in consultation with National Hydrographic Office, India. The new charting scheme would

significantly enhance the navigational safety in Mauritian waters. The details of the additional charts are as follows:-

Sl No.	Proposed Chart	Scale	Remarks
(a)	Point Sud Ouest (Le Morne)	1: 10,000	Surveys undertaken by INS Sarvekshak in December 2018
(b)	Souillac	1: 7,500	In progress
(c)	Saint James Anchorage (Agalega)	1: 5,000	-

Table 2 Proposed Charts

3.6 **Problems Encountered.** Nil

4. **New Publications & Updates**

4.1 **Catalogue.** The catalogue of Paper Charts and Electronic Navigational Charts, Mauritius has been updated as on September 2020. The catalogue is available at <https://housing.govmu.org/Documents/MHS%20311220/COMBINED%20CATALOGUE%202020.pdf>

4.2 **Problems Encountered.** Nil

5. **MSI (Maritime Safety Information)**

5.1 **Existing Infrastructure for Transmission.**

Dissemination of Maritime Safety Information is carried out by the Mauritius Radio Services (MRS), a GMDSS coast station operated by Mauritius Telecom, on behalf of and within an agreement with the Shipping Division of the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping. GMDSS covers sea areas A1, A2 and A3 within our SRR only. Mauritius Radio Services operates 24/7 and is based at Cassis, Port-Louis. Mauritius is located in NAVAREA VIII coordinated by India.

5.2 **MRS disseminates MSI by the following methods:-**

(a) **Navtex**

All MSI are transmitted on the International Navtex by default. The frequency is 518 KHz. There is no National Navtex (490 KHz) service

in Mauritius. The Station Identification of the Navtex in Mauritius is 'C'. Messages are transmitted on a 10-minute slot every 4 hours starting at 0020, 0420, 0820, 1220, 1620 and 2020 hours GMT. The normal range of Navtex broadcast is 400 nautical miles.

(b) **VHF**

Based on the area of concern, some MSI messages are broadcast on VHF Radio Telephony on Channel 24, after an announcement is made on Channel 16. MRS has a VHF network that completely covers the Sea Area A1 of Mauritius. 6 VHF stations are remotely operated around the island from the control centre in Cassis. The maximum range is 30 nautical miles.

(c) **HF**

MSI may also be broadcasted on HF Radio Telephony (8800 khz). This is specifically done if the area of concern is around the Mauritius fishing banks. Fishing vessels operating on Mauritius fishing banks are equipped with HF Radio Telephone equipment for communication with MRS. Weather information are sent daily to these fishing vessels on HF.

(d) **Inmarsat-C**

If the area of concern is relatively far from Mauritius, especially beyond the normal range of Navtex, some MSI may be broadcast on the e-broadcast system. This system is operated by AMSA (Australian Maritime Safety Authority) and MRS have access to this platform through an agreement made by the Shipping Division. It is an online tool through which messages may be broadcast to ships within Mauritius Search and Rescue Region (SRR). The e-broadcast is normally intended for Distress and Urgent situations and therefore not all MSI messages are broadcast on this system.

5.3 Merchant Shipping Notice. Following the MV Wakashio incident, Merchant Shipping Notice 21 of 2020 was issued by the Shipping Division of the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping regarding the establishment of recommended Areas To Be Avoided (ATBAs)

around the Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues by vessels on innocent passage. The areas have been designated to reduce the risks of further marine casualties by increasing the safety of navigation and to protect the marine environment. The limits of the recommended ATBAs will be incorporated in relevant paper charts and ENCs.

5.4 **Problems Encountered.** Nil

6. **C-55**

The updated C-55 table is placed at Annexure to the National Report.

7. **Capacity Building**

7.1 **Training Received, Needed and Offered**

(a) **Training Received**

(i) **Training Onboard INS Darshak.** On-the-job training is regularly provided on-board Indian Navy ships during each survey mission. During the deployment of INS Darshak in November/December 2019, a total of 8 personnel from various Government agencies of Mauritius embarked the ship for joint survey and training during its two survey sorties. Ship's staff imparted on-job training to the officers by providing exposure to the latest hydrographic equipment and practices. In addition, the embarked Officers participated actively in all the survey operations, data collection and data processing.

(ii) **Training on Portable Multi-beam Echo Sounder.** Mauritius received its first portable MBES (SeaBat T 20-P) in September 2019. Extensive training was imparted to the surveyors from the Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning. In addition, officers from the Department for Continental Shelf, Maritime Zones Administration and Exploration (CSMZAE) also participated actively during the commissioning of the equipment and received training.

(iii) **Training on CARIS Bathy Data Base Software Suite.** With the procurement of CARIS BDB, Officers from the Cartography and

Hydrography section of the Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning received training in the software during June 2020. Owing to the travel restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic the entire training was undertaken remotely by the OEM from Netherlands.

(iv) **Training on CARIS HIPS/SIPS Professional.** MHS upgraded its data processing suite to the latest version of CARIS HIPS/SIPS professional version 11. In order to optimise the utilisation of the software a five day training was organised remotely in collaboration with the OEM in July 2020.

(v) **Awareness Training Course in Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI).** The Ministry participated in the virtual MSDI training programme held from 19 to 20 January 2020 with the aim to increase and enhance the understanding of MSDI and its relevance to national, regional and global development success.

(b) **Training Needed.** Additional training requirements are envisaged in following areas: -

- (i) Nautical Cartography (Paper Chart and ENC chart production)
- (ii) 06 weeks Electronic Survey Equipment Orientation Course (ESEOC) for two personnel conducted at National Institute of Hydrography, Goa.
- (iii) CAT 'A' and CAT 'B' courses for one Officer through IHO capacity building programme.
- (iv) Multibeam Data Processing and Bathymetry Database Workshop
- (v) Tides and its Application

8. **Oceanographic Activities**

The Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) advises Government on the formulation and implementation of policies and programs in respect to

oceanography and marine resources. MHS also works in close collaboration with MOI for providing assistance in the collection of certain oceanographic Datasets like Sound Velocity Profiles, ocean Current Parameters, nature of seabed etc. The Mauritius Meteorological Service is responsible for the maintenance of tide gauges and production of tide tables in Mauritius. The following tide stations are in use:

<i>Locations</i>	<i>Digital Tidegauges</i>	<i>Installation</i>	<i>Sensors used to measure sea level</i>	<i>GPS Positions</i>
Port Louis (Trou Fanfaron)	Sutron SatLink Logger	14 March 2008	Encoder, radar, pressure	20 ⁰ 09.434' South, 57 ⁰ 30.256' East
Port Louis (Trou Fanfaron)	Vaisala (MAWS 301)	May 2005	Encoder, radar, pressure	
Blue Bay	Sutron SatLink (XLITE 9210)	29 November 2008	Radar, pressure	20 ⁰ 26.650' South, 57 ⁰ 42.655' East
Rodrigues (Port Mathurin)	Sutron SatLink Logger	8 March 2008	Encoder, radar, pressure	19 ⁰ 40' South, 63 ⁰ 25' East
Agalega (La Fourche)	Sutron SatLink (XLITE 9210)	22 November 2008	Radar only	10.346 ⁰ South, 56.586 East

Table 3 Tide Stations in the Republic of Mauritius

9. Spatial Data Infrastructure

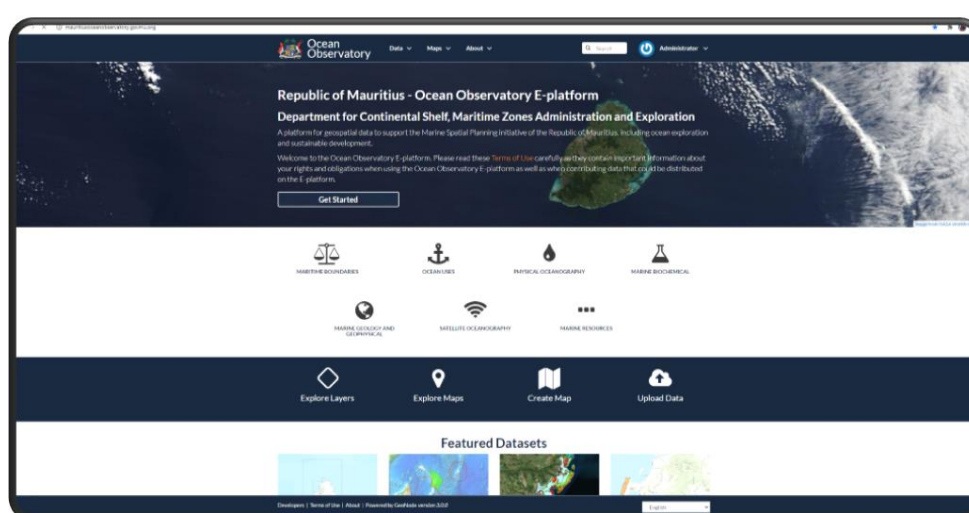


Fig. 14 Mauritius Ocean Observatory E-platform

The Department for Continental Shelf, Maritime Zones Administration and

Exploration (CSMZAE), with the expertise of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Oceans & Atmosphere, Australia, has developed the Mauritius Ocean Observatory E-platform (E-platform) under the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) project “Developing an Enhanced Ocean Observatory in support of Ocean Exploration and Development”. The main objective of the E-platform is to centralise data pertaining to the maritime zones of the Republic of Mauritius in order to facilitate data discovery and data sharing between researchers, partners and users involved in management, policy and planning.

The E-platform is built using GeoNode (<https://geonode.org/>), an open-source Geospatial Content Management System, which allows data to be loaded into a geospatial database alongside connected metadata and document resources.

9.1 National implementation of the Shared Data Principles

The E-platform has the objective of supporting the Marine Spatial Planning initiative of the Republic of Mauritius by providing a platform to collect, store, organize and provide access to spatial-temporal data relevant to ocean exploration and development. By integrating various sources of information and providing access to relevant knowledge, the E-platform will not only serve as a guide to identify gaps in existing information and data but also enhance the sustainable management of the maritime zones of Mauritius through informed decisions.

The E-platform offers access to information under the following category:

- (a) Maritime Boundaries
- (b) Ocean Uses
- (c) Physical Oceanography
- (d) Marine Biochemical
- (e) Marine Geology and Geophysical
- (f) Satellite Oceanography
- (g) Marine Resources

10. **Other Activities**

10.1 **IMSAS Audit**

Mauritius underwent IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) from 10th to 17th February 2020 which was intended to provide audited Member States with a comprehensive and objective assessment of its administration and implementation of IMO instruments. In this context, a team of three (03) Officers from IMO accompanied by Officers from the Shipping Division visited the Mauritius Hydrographic Service on 13 February 2020. During the audit, no issues related to hydrography were highlighted by the audit team.



Fig. 15 Presentation at MHS for IMSAS Audit

10.2 **Participation in IHO meetings**

The Permanent Secretary (Head of Delegation) of the Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning and officers from MHS participated in the 2nd Session of the IHO Assembly which was held as remote event from 16th to 18th November 2020.



Fig. 16 Participation to the 2nd Session of the IHO Assembly

10.3 Participation in SAIHC Meetings

As Member and the Vice Chair of the Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC), Mauritius attended the 17th SAIHC Conference on 03 & 04 February 2021 through Video Conferencing. During the same meeting, it was decided that Mauritius would hold the position of Vice Chair for a further period of one year.



Fig. 17 Participation to SAIHC Meeting

10.4 Participation in National Productivity Quality Convention

Mauritius Hydrographic Service (MHS) participated in the third edition of the National Productivity and Quality Convention (NPQC 2020/2021) held virtually in June 2021. MHS presented its project *“How Mauritius Hydrographic Service (MHS) can Improve Capability to Achieve International Hydrographic Standards”* and was awarded Silver medal in line with the theme *“Pursuing Productivity and Quality Amidst COVID-19”*.

10.5 Celebration of WHD 2021

Considering the physical meeting limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the activities related to the celebration of the World Hydrography Day had to be scaled down. To raise public awareness about the event, an article was published in the local newspaper, Government Information Service and its Facebook page. Additionally, a collage on the evolution of hydrographic services in Mauritius from digital to analogue era prepared by Mauritius Hydrographic Service was published on the IHO website.

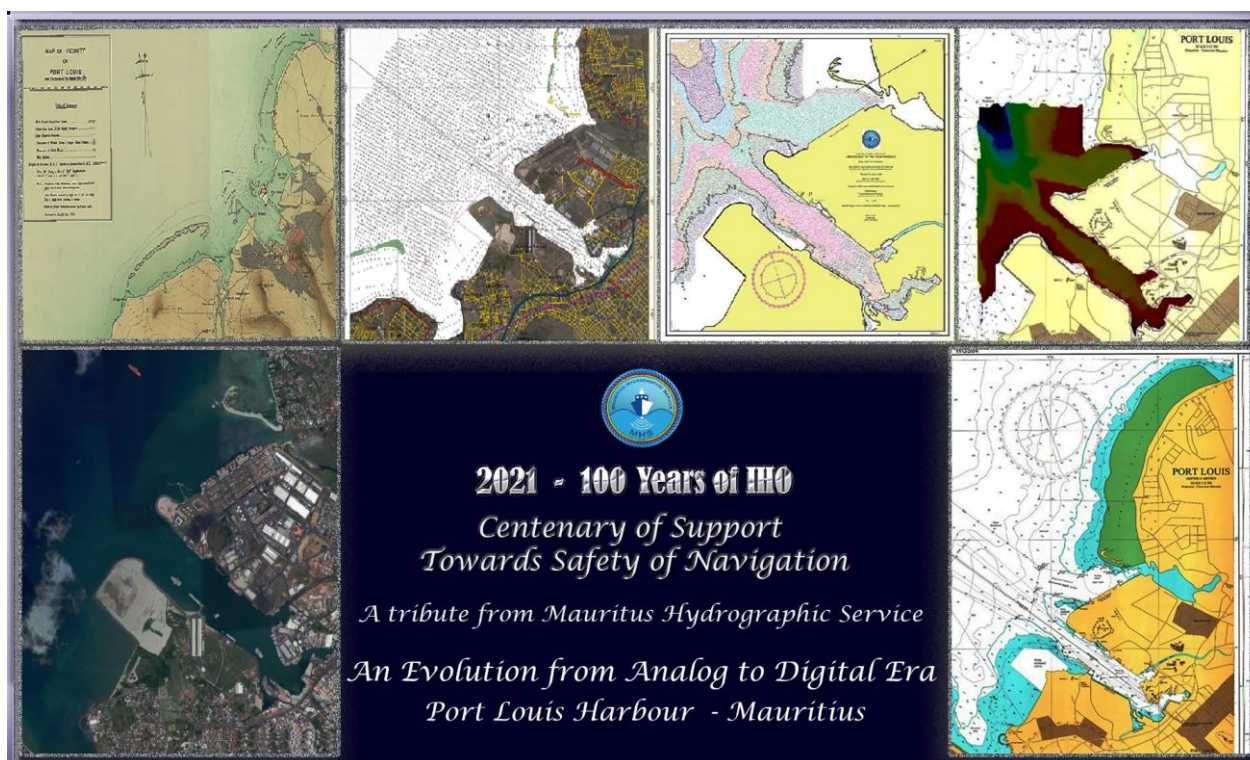


Fig. 18 Collage on World Hydrography Day - IHO

100 Years of International Co-operation in Hydrography

1. On 21 June of every year, the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) celebrates the World Hydrography Day to highlight the role of hydrography in supporting various activities in the maritime domain and its overall contribution to national development. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2021 is **"One hundred years of international cooperation in hydrography"**, to mark the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the creation of the International Hydrographic Bureau (now the Secretariat of the International Hydrographic Organization). This theme showcases ground-breaking work undertaken towards the progress in knowledge and technology of Hydrography over the past 100 Years.
2. To provide a mechanism for consultation between governments on such matters as technical standards, the safety of navigation, and the protection of the marine environment, the International Hydrographic Bureau was established on 21 June 1921. In 1970 the name was changed to the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). The Organization established, with the support of Prince Albert I of Monaco, has since been working towards enhancing hydrographic knowledge by making improvements in the world's nautical charts and associated services.
3. Mauritius is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) promulgated by the United Nations. Hydrography is vital to Mauritius particularly with respect to SDG 14 which encourages all nations to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources. In view of its geo-strategic location in the Indian Ocean and large Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), hydrography offers a wide range of prospective for Mauritius.
4. Hydrographic services in Mauritius has a crucial role in ensuring navigational safety at sea and fulfilling the requirements of national stakeholders by supporting projects related to oceans and the environment. Following a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Mauritius and India to strengthen hydrographic services in Mauritius in 2005, the Mauritius Hydrographic Service (MHS), a Unit under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning was established in 2013.
5. Since then, the Mauritius Hydrographic Service has been incessantly expanding its capabilities through evolution to new technologies. Recently, MHS has acquired a Multibeam Echosounder system that enables the production of more detailed seafloor maps in less survey time meeting the stringent quality standards of the International Hydrographic Organization.
6. The newly acquired Multibeam Echosounder was put to use by MHS during the disastrous MV Wakashio grounding incident. The full-fledged latest hydrographic equipment was a boon during the incident. In the wake of COVID 19, the in-house capability was extensively deployed for disaster relief operations and to provide detailed mapping of the area to expedite the initial salvage operations.
7. The goal of developing hydrographic services in Mauritius has systematically been pursued and is globally recognised. In August 2005, the Republic of Mauritius became a member of the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO). Mauritius also became a member of two regional hydrographic commissions in our region, namely, South African and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC) and North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC) to benefit from the mutual co-operation.
8. The Mauritius Hydrographic Service has been playing a key role in the Government's development vision of the "Ocean Industry" in line with the national and international regulations and commitments. The direct products and indirect deliverables of the unit is a valuable asset towards the achievement of sustainable development goals of Mauritius.

Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning

Date: 21 June 2021

Fig. 19 Press Article on World Hydrography Day

Input to the IHO Publication P-5 (*Yearbook*)

Country : Mauritius
Organization : Mauritius Hydrographic Service

Contact information	
Head of the Hydrographic Office	Post: Officer-in-Charge Name: Cdr Praveen Thomas Postal address: Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning Ebene Tower, Level 5 Republic of Mauritius Tel: 002304013802 Fax: 002304681773 Email: ois_hydrounit@govmu.org
Other point(s) of contact	Mr D. Madhow, Principal Surveyor (230) 401 6808 dmadhow@govmu.org Mr H. Teckmun Senior Surveyor 002304013801 hydrounit@govmu.org
Web site	housing.govmu.org
Country information	
Declared National Tonnage	Tonnage: 164349 T Date: December 2019
-National day -Fête nationale -Fiesta nacional	Independence Day 12 March Republic Day 12 March
Date of establishment and Relevant National Legislation	Hydrographic surveys and nautical charting are under the ambit of Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning. The legislative framework for hydrographic services would be formulated in due course.
Date first joined IHO	August 2005

Date ratification Convention	August 2005
Remarks on membership	Nil
Agency information/ Information sur l'agence/ Información sobre la agencia	
Top level parent organisation	Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning
Principal functions of the organisation or the department	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hydrographic surveys for compiling and updating nautical charts and products. 2. Project surveys in support of development activities, scientific research, coastal zone management, environmental protection, fisheries management and maritime security. 3. Compilation of Navigational warnings for promulgation through NAVAREA coordinator. 4. Procurement & Maintenance of hydrographic, oceanographic and marine cartographic equipment for the department. 5. Interact with International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO), North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC), Southern African & Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC) on matters related to hydrography. 6. Provide training to surveyors, officers from Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning & other stakeholders in the field of hydrography 7. Cooperate with other stakeholders and provide expertise on matters related to maritime domain.
Annual operating budget	Approximately 50,000 USD (excluding salaries)
Total number of staff employed	6
Number of INT charts published	8
Total number of paper charts published	11
Number of ENC cells published	13

Number of Other charts	Nil			
Type of publications produced	Catalogue of Chart			
Detail of surveying vessels/ aircraft	Name	Displacement	Date Launched	-Number of crew
	ISV Pathfinder	6.5 T	2012	05
Other information of interest	Following a memorandum of understanding in the field of Hydrographic Cooperation with India, a full-fledged Hydrographic Unit was established at the Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning in 2013. The unit has been rechristened as Mauritius Hydrographic Service since 2018.			

Input to the IHO Publication C-55 (*Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide*)
Country: Mauritius

C-55 Summary for:				Comments on Charts:
Country:	Mauritius			
Country Iso Code:	MU			
Country SubCode:	-			
INT Region:	H			
Country/Depend:	-			
Last updated:	February 2021			
Provided by:	Mauritius			
Chart coverage	Passage (%)	Coastal (%)	Ports and Approaches (%)	Comments on Surveys:
INT	100	100	75	
RNC	100	100	100	
ENC	100	100	100	
Status of Paper Charts				
Paper charts with depths in meters (%)			100	
Paper charts referenced to a satellite datum (%)			100	
Status of surveys	Adequate (%)	Resurvey (%)	No survey (%)	
0-200m	35	65		
> 200m	08	92		

MSI	Y/N	Comments on MSI:
Local warning	Y	
Coastal warning	Y	
Nav warning	Y	
Port warning	Y	
GMDSS	Y/N	Comments on GMDSS:
Master Plan	Y	
Area A1	Y	
Area A2	Y	
Area A3	Y	
NAVTEX	Y (International Frequency)	
SafetyNet	N	