

**24rd MEETING OF THE NORTH INDIAN OCEAN HYDROGRAPHIC
COMMISSION (NIOHC 24)
Bangkok, Thailand, 11-13 February 2025**

NATIONAL REPORT FROM SULTANATE OF OMAN TO THE NIOHC 24

Reference: IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended

Executive summary

1. Hydrographic Office / Service:
 - a) Name of the institution: Oman National Hydrographic Office.
 - b) Description: The Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) has taken on the responsibility of providing hydrographic services in all sectors nationally and internationally through Oman National Hydrographic Office (ONHO), which is responsible for giving consultancy and advice in hydrography and any other related subjects to all RNO branches. It is also the source for all plans, policies and other matters concerning hydrographic affairs. ONHO plans, directs and assures the work of the RNO Survey Vessels. Also, the main tasks and duties of this office remain consistent, primarily focusing on ensuring the safety of navigation in all Omani waters. This is achieved by the production and maintenance of navigational charts at different scales, assisting in the delimitation of Omani maritime boundaries, including the continental shelf extension project, providing advice on all matters related to Maritime Safety Information, and maintaining the National Hydrographic Archive, which includes copies of data from all surveys conducted in the Sultanate of Oman.
 - c) Submitted by: Head of ONHO Captain/ Ahmed Ali Al Badi
(ahmed.a.albadi@mod.gov.om ,onho@mod.gov.om)
2. Surveys:
 - a) Coverage of new surveys: All hydrographic surveys are tasked to RNO Survey Vessels and the Hydrographic Unit (HU) through Hydrographic Instructions (HIs) as scheduled by the ONHO. Hydrographic surveys are continually being carried out along the coast of the Sultanate of Oman to support national interests and enhance the safety of navigation of all mariners. Priorities are determined based on requirements from RNO, ONHO and other concerned ministries. Once fully appraised, the surveys are received and indexed by the Oman National Hydrographic Archive. In addition to RNO surveys, a number of commercial surveys have recently been conducted.
 - b) New technologies and/or equipment: The RNO Survey Vessels and three Hydrographic Survey Launches (HSLs) are equipped and fitted with MBES systems and other sophisticated surveying systems and software in order to undertake hydrographic surveys to the IHO standards and specifications.
 - c) New ships: Nil.

- d) Problems encountered: Nile.
3. New charts & updates:
- a) ENC: ONHO has published 34 ENC cells.
 - b) ENC Distribution method: Through IC-ENC.
 - c) RNCs: ONHO is not yet producing these charts, but assessing the feasibility and methodology of producing these charts, or equivalents, in the future.
 - d) INT charts: The Omani INT charts scheme covering both areas I and J has been revised to align with national needs, coastal development, and other requirements.
 - e) National paper charts: Oman continues to produce National paper charts, according to requirements, in various scales; hence charts are continuously maintained. ONHO has published 36 paper chart.
4. New publications & updates:
- a) New Publications: ONHO has published the annual Oman Maritime Book (ONP 01) in December for 2025. This publication provides valuable information to the mariner such as Tide Tables, List of Radio Signals, List of Lights and National List of Wrecks.
 - b) Means of delivery: Paper and digital.
5. Maritime Safety Information (MSI)
- a) ONHO is responsible for all navigational warnings in the Sea of Oman and Arabian Sea. This responsibility includes drafting and broadcasting of navigational warnings and MSI services as needed through Muscat Radio, although this is currently not operational. Oman is operating one NAVTEX station located at Al Amirat, which is also not operational). ONHO operates in close cooperation with all concerned authorities and parties, including NAVAREA IX Coordinator (Pakistan), to facilitate the promulgation of all navigational warnings through Safety Net. The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology (MTCIT) is responsible for the NAVTEX station, and any updates to the situation will be reported to the NAVAREA IX Coordinator.
 - b) ONHO issues the monthly Oman Notice to Mariners to provide timely marine safety information for mariners and all other users of Omani navigational charts and publications from a wide variety of sources.
 - c) The MTCIT is the authority for GMDSS in Oman. The Telecommunications Regulations Authority (TRA) is responsible to the MTCIT for all radio and satellite communication aspects of GMDSS. The Royal Air Force of Oman operates the national Rescue Coordination Center (RCC), which is responsible for coordinating Search and Rescue (SAR) operations in the Sultanate of Oman.
 - d) The MTCIT is making substantial progress towards the installation of two new NAVTEX stations to ensure comprehensive coverage of Oman's (EEZ). The project is currently in the final stages of negotiation with technical consultants, and an agreement is set to be signed with a specialized company to operate these stations on behalf of MTCIT.
 - e) Problems encountered: Oman NAVTEX station is still not **operational**.

6. C-55: surveying in Omani water are shown below, where the survey coverage is in percentages as following:

Depth	A (adequately surveyed)	B (requires re-survey)	C (not systematically surveyed)
< 200m	46%	10%	44%
> 200m	68%	7%	25%

7. Capacity Building Offer of and/or demand for Capacity Building

a) To maintain the required level of efficiency and effectiveness at all times for all personnel (officers and technicians) continuous professional development is considered essential. This is achieved through ongoing education and learning, which is consistently fulfilled through both in-house and overseas training. Recent capability building has been undertaken:

- a. 4 officers and 6 technicians attended S-100 implementation workshop delivered by UKHO in February 2024.
- b. 2 officers and 2 technicians conducted ‘On Job Training’ at UKHO in May 2024.
- c. 2 officers and 4 technicians attended the IC-ENC S 57 TO S 101 conversion workshop in May 2024.
- d. 3 officers attended to SCUFN35 in June 2024.
- e. 2 officers undertaking CAT-B course in hydrography September 2024 – March 2025, Skilltrade, Netherlands.
- f. 1 officer expected to complete Master degree in APPLIED MARINE SCIENCE in September 2025, UK.
- g. 1 officers expected to complete CAT-B course in cartography in Dec 2024, UK.
- h. ONHO will host S-101 convention workshop in cooperation with IC-ENC from April 28th - May 1st 2025.

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

c) Description of requests to be considered by the IHO/CBSC.

8. Oceanographic activities

- a) General: Different sectors and organizations are responsible for most oceanographic activities in Oman. Most of that oceanographic data is archived within ONHO.
- b) Tide gauge network: Oman monitors tides around the Omani coast through a number of permanent stations fitted with fully automated precise sensors with satellite connectivity. A number of standard, secondary and minor tide stations complete the network.

9. Other activities

- a. Oman is the member of ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission (RSAHC) and is an associate member of NIOHC.
- b. ONHO has participated in some IHO-WGs, such as WENDWG, SCUFN37 and MSDIWG. Also, participated in IC-ENC Staring Committee 2024.
- c. Oman animated as ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission S-100 coordinator.
- d. ONHO formed a team to study the transition to S-100. The team is studying and analysing of the potential impacts of the implementation of the new service on ONHO structure and workflow and working on a production plan to ensure the start of releasing the S-100 products by January 2026.
- e. In relation to disaster prevention, environmental protection, astronomical observation, etc. there are different organizations observing, monitoring and dealing with these subjects such as Civil Aviation Authority, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, Arabian Maritime & Navigation Aids Services AMNAS, Environment Authority, etc. ONHO continues to have close liaison with these organizations, especially in related fields and common interest/areas.

10. Conclusions

- a) Oman National Hydrographic Office (ONHO) acknowledges the global significance of hydrography and collaborates with both national and international organizations to deliver hydrographic services and essential information. This aims to ensure the safety of mariners and users for a safer navigation in Omani waters. Furthermore, it contributes through RNO and other concerned sectors, in raising awareness about safety in maritime affairs and related areas. This includes, but is not limited to, activities such as anti-piracy operations, search and rescue (SAR) efforts, disaster prevention in the marine domain, and protecting the marine environment.
- b) ONHO, through the National Hydrographic Requirements Committee, is revising the strategic plan of both hydrographic surveying and the production of nautical publications to fulfil the National requirement for better hydrographic services in Omani waters and, despite some small problems/issues encountered, the ONHO has had another successful year. It will continue to make best efforts to continue development and embrace new technologies and trends in all sectors in order to deliver better hydrographic services to all sectors/users.

Input to the IHO Publication P-5 (*Yearbook*)
https://iho.int/uploads/user/pubs/periodical/P5YEARBOOK_ANNUAIRE.pdf

Country: **Oman**

Organization: **Oman National Hydrographic Office**

(Please provide the information in English)

Contact information/ Informations de contact / Información de contacto	
-National Hydrographer or equivalent -Directeur du service hydrographique ou équivalent -Directordel Servicio Hidrográfico o equivalente	Post: Director Name: Captain/ Ahmed Al Badi Postal address: Tel: +968 24322170 Fax: +968 24326709 E-mail: onho@mod.gov.om
-Head of the Hydrographic Office (if different from the person indicated above) -Directeur du Service Hydrographique (sidifférent de la personneindiquée ci-dessus) -Director del Servicio Hidrográfico (sidiferente de la persona indicadaanteriormente)	
-Other point(s) of contact -Autre(s) point(s) de contact -Otrospunto(s) de contacto	Assistant Director Hydrography, Cdr Richard BIRD Tel: +968 24322174 Fax: +968 24326709 E-mail: navy-hq-hydro@lsoman.org
-Web site -site web -sitio web	
Country information / Informations sur le pays/ Información sobre el país	
-Declared National Tonnage -Tonnage national déclaré -Tonelaje Nacional Declarado	Tonnage: 97109.43 tons Date: 12/2022
-National day -Fête nationale -Fiesta nacional	18 November
-Date of establishment and Relevant National Legislation -Date de mise en place et législation nationale pertinente -Fecha de constitución y legislaciónnacionalpertinente	Ministerial Decree No. 200/92 (issued by the Minister of Communications) in April 1995. The Under Secretary for Ports and Maritime Affairs (Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology) retains overall responsibility for safety of navigation, aids to navigation, the issue of individual Notices to Mariners, ports and harbours, and ships' registration

-Date first joined IHO -Date d'adhésion à l'OHI -Fecha de adhesión a la OHI	15/10/1992
-Date ratification Convention -Date de ratification de la Convention -Fecha de ratificación de la Convención	31/07/1987
-Remarks on membership -Remarques sur l'adhésion -Comentarios sobre la adhesión	
Agency information/ Information sur l'agence/ Información sobre la agencia	
-Top level parent organisation -Organismemère -Organización asociada de nivel superior	Royal Navy of Oman
-Principal functions of the organisation or the department -Attribution principales de l'organisme ou du département -Principales funciones de la Organización o departamento	Hydrographic surveys are undertaken in Sultanate of Oman waters for the production of nautical charts and publications, including Notices to Mariners (issued monthly). This involves the maintenance of the National Hydrographic Archive and of tidal, geodetic and oceanographic databases. Additionally, advice on hydrographic matters is provided to all other Government departments, including maritime boundaries, specifications and quality control of commercial surveys.
-Annual operating budget -Budget annuel -presupuesto anual	
-Total number of staff employed -Effectifstotaux -Número total de personal empleado	
-Number of INT charts published -Nombres de cartes INT publiées -Número de cartas INT publicadas	25
-Total number of paper charts published-Nombre total de cartes papier publiées-Número total de cartas de papel publicadas	36
-Number of ENC cells published -Nombres de cellules ENC publiées	34

-Número de células ENC publicadas				
-Number of Other charts -Nombred'Autrescartes -Número de Otras cartas				
-Type of publications produced -Type d'ouvrages produits -Tipo de publicacionesproducidas	Oman Maritime Book (2024) This is an annual publication.			
-Detail of surveyingvessels/ 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
	RNOV AL MAKHIRAH	Equipped with multibeam system EM 710s		
	RNOV AL RAHMANIAH	Equipped with multibeam system EM 3000 with hull mounted side scan Sonar		
-Other information of interest -Autresinformationsutiles -Otrainformación de interés	Capable of conducting full bathymetric survey from 1500 meters to shore line using multibeam systems. Deep water/offshore surveys undertaken jointly with other nations.			

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

Country: **Oman**

(Please provide the information in English)

C-55 Summary for:				Comments on Charts:
Country:	Oman			
Country Iso Code:	OM			
Country SubCode:				
INT Region:	I & J			
Country/Depend:				
Last updated:	01 May 2024			
Provided by:	ONHO			
Chart coverage	Passage (%)	Coastal (%)	Port (%)	Comments on Surveys:
INT	35	60	100	
RNC				
ENC	50	40	100	
Status of Paper Charts				
Paper charts with depths in meters (%)				
Paper charts referenced to a satellite datum (%)				
Status of surveys	Adequate (%)	Resurvey (%)	No survey (%)	
0-200m	46	10	44	
> 200m	68	7	25	

MSI	Y/N	Comments on MSI:
Local warning	N	
Coastal warning	Partial	Through Muscat Radio for area as far as Ra's Al Hadd.
Nav warning	Y	Through NAVAREA IX Coordinator.
Port warning	Partial	All main ports.
GMDSS	Y/N	Comments on GMDSS:
Master Plan	Y	
Area A1	Y	
Area A2	Y	
Area A3	Y	
NAVTEX	Y	
SafetyNet	Y	