



SULTANATE OF OMAN

NATIONAL REPORT

10th Meeting

ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(RSAHC)

Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

26-28 November 2024

Executive summary

1. Hydrographic Office / Service:

a) Name of the institution: Oman National Hydrographic Office

Description: The Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) has taken 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. The primary responsibilities of this office remain unchanged, focusing on ensuring the safety of navigation within all Omani waters. This is achieved through the production and maintenance of navigational charts at various scales, support in the delimitation of Omani maritime boundaries, including the continental shelf extension project. In addition to giving advice on all matters related to Maritime Safety Information, and maintaining the National Hydrographic Archive which includes copies of data from all surveys carried out in the Sultanate of Oman.

b) Submitted by: Head of ONHO Cdr/ Ahmed Ali Al Badi (ahmed.a.albadi@mod.gov.om), onho@mod.gov.om

2. Surveys:

a). Coverage of new surveys: The Hydrographic surveys in the Sultanate of Oman are primarily conducted by RNO Survey Vessels and the Hydrographic Unit (HU), following directives outlined in Hydrographic Instructions (HIs) as scheduled by the Oman National Hydrographic Office (ONHO). These surveys are essential for advancing national interests and enhancing navigational safety for mariners along Oman's coast. The prioritization of these surveys is determined by the requirements of the RNO, ONHO, and other relevant ministries. Upon completion, the surveys are appraised and archived by the Oman National Hydrographic Archive. In addition to the RNO-led initiatives, several commercial surveys have been undertaken recently.

b). New technologies and/or equipment: The RNO Survey Vessels and three Hydrographic Survey Launches (HSLs) are operational with Multibeam Echo Sounder (MBES) systems and other advanced surveying technologies and software. These enhancements enable the conduct of hydrographic surveys in accordance with the standards and specifications set by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)

c) New ships: Nil.

d) Problems encountered: RNO is currently limited to one survey vessel, the other being in maintenance.

3. New charts & updates:

e) ENC: Up to November 2024, ONHO has published 33 ENC cells. Another 4 cells will be ready for publication by the end of 2024.

a) ENC Distribution method: Through IC-ENC.

- b) RNCs: ONHO is not yet producing any of these charts, but ONHO is studying all aspect related to RNCs as new product including checking the feasibility and methodology of producing these charts, or equivalents, in the future.
 - c) INT charts: The Omani INT charts scheme which covers both areas I and J has been revised, according to national needs, coastal development, and other requirements. Accordingly, ONHO intend to update the Omani INT Charts in area I & J.
 - d) National paper charts: Oman continues to produce National paper charts, according to national requirements, in different scales; hence charts are continuously maintained. Since the last RSAHC meeting (2022), ONHO published 3 new charts, and published 6 updated new editions charts.
4. New publications & updates:
- a) New Publications: ONHO plans to publish the annual Oman Maritime Book (ONP 01) in December for 2025. This book 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) Existing infrastructure for MSI dissemination: ONHO is responsible for all navigational warnings in the Sea of Oman and Arabian Sea, this includes the drafting and broadcasting of navigational warnings and MSI services as needed through Muscat Radio, although this is currently not operational. Oman is has one NAVTEX station located at Al Amirat (not operational) and ONHO operates in close cooperation with all concerned authorities/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 publication from a wide variety of sources. This information is compiled from a diverse range of sources to ensure comprehensive coverage and accuracy.
 - c) The (MTCIT) serves as the authority for the (GMDSS) in Oman. The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) operates under the MTCIT and is responsible for all radio and satellite communication aspects of GMDSS. The national Rescue Coordination Center (RCC), operated by the Royal Air Force of Oman, is tasked with coordinating Search and Rescue (SAR) operations within 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) Challenges encountered: Oman NAVTEX station is still not operational.

6. C-55: The aim of IHO publication C-55 is to present a clear picture of the survey coverage, the following table outline the survey coverage in Omani water , where the survey coverage is in percentages as following:

Depth	A	B	C
< 200m	46%	10%	44%
> 200m	68%	7%	25%

A = percentage which is adequately surveyed.

B = percentage which requires re-survey at larger scale or to modern standards.

C = percentage which has never been systematically surveyed.

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 to be a must. Education and learning is a constant requirement and is achieved by both in-house and overseas training, the recent capability building has been undertaken:

- a. 1 officer awarded CAT-B course in cartography in May 2023, UK.
- b. 1 officer expected to complete CAT-B course in cartography in Dec 2024, UK.
- c. 2 officers undertaking CAT-B course in hydrography September 2024 – March 2025, Skilltrade, Netherlands.
- d. 1 officer expected to complete Master degree in APPLIED MARINE SCIENCE in September 2025, UK.
- e. 2 officers completed CAT-A course in hydrography in October 2022, UK.
- f. 4 officers and 6 technicians attended S-100 implementation workshop delivered by UKHO in February 2024.
- g. 2 officers attended to IRCC-15 in June 2023.
- h. 3 officers attended to SCUFN35 in June 2024.
- i. 2 officers and 2 technicians conducted ‘on job training’ at UKHO in May 2024.
- j. 5 officers attended the IC-ENC technical conferences (VTC) in 2023.
- k. 2 officers and 4 technicians attended the IC-ENC S 57 TO S 101 conversion workshop in May 2024.
- l. 1 officer awarded postgraduate certificate in ocean mapping which is funded by Nippon foundation and equivalent to CAT-A in Hydrography from USA in August 2024.

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. ONHO has participated in some IHO-WGs, such as WENDWG, SCUFN37 and MSDIWG. Also, participated in IC-ENC SC24 and IC-ENC Staring Committee 2024.

b. Oman is the member of ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission (RSAHC) and is an associate member of NIOHC.

c. 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. ONHO recognizes the importance of hydrography worldwide and works in cooperation with other national and international organizations to provide hydrographic services and other relevant/vital information to support mariners/users for a safer navigation in Omani waters. In addition, it contributes through RNO and other concerned sectors to increase safety awareness in marine affairs and other related fields i.e. including, but not limited to, anti-piracy operations, SAR, preventing marine disasters 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 - DirectordelServicioHidrográfico o equivalente	Post: Director/ Head Name: Cdr.Ahmed Ali Al Badi Postal address: Royal Navy of Oman Muaskar Al-Murtafah,P.O Box 723 P.C 111 Muscat, Oman Tel: +968 24322170 Fax: +968 24326709 Email: 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 ServicioHidrográfico (sidiferente de la persona indicadaanteriormente)	Post: Director/ Head Name: Cdr.Ahmed Ali Al Badi Postal address: Tel: +968 99889934 Fax: +968 24326709 Email: ahmed.a.albadi@mod.gov.om
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-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: 60407 tons Date: 11/2024
-National day -Fête nationale -Fiesta nacional	18 November
-Date of establishment and Relevant National Legislation -Date de mise en place et législation nationale pertinente	Ministerial Decree No. 488/92 (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

-Fecha de constitución y legislación nacional pertinente	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 -Organisme mère -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 undertaken in Sultanate waters; production of nautical charts and publications, including Notices to Mariners (issued monthly); maintenance of the National Hydrographic Archive and of tidal, geodetic and oceanographic databases; and advice on hydrographic matters to all other Government departments, including maritime boundaries, and specifications and quality control of commercial surveys.
-Annual operating budget -Budget annuel -presupuesto anual	
-Total number of staff employed -Effectif totaux -Número total de personal empleado	
-Number of INT charts published -Nombres de cartes INT publiées -Número de cartas INT publicadas	5, out of an eventual series of 9
-Total number of paper charts published -Nombre total de cartes papier publiées -Número	34

total de cartas de papelpublicadas				
-Number of ENC cellspublished -Nombres de cellules ENC publiées -Número de células ENC publicadas	33			
-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 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
	RNOV AL MAKHIRAH	Equipped with multibeam system EM 712		
	RNOV AL RAHMANIAH	Equipped with multibeam system EM 2040D		
-Other information of interest -Autresinformationsutiles -Otrainformación de interés	Capable of conducting full bathymetric survey from 1500 meter 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:	21 August 2022			
Provided by:	ONHO			
Chart coverage	Passage (%)	Coastal (%)	Port (%)	Comments on Surveys:
INT	35	45	80	
RNC				
ENC	28	40	78	
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	