

REPORT ON THE CONDUCT OF THE 2022 WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY CELEBRATION IN NIGERIA

INTRODUCTION

1. In line with the IHO CL 01/2022 dated 5 January 2022, Nigeria celebrated the 2022 World Hydrographic Day (WHD), themed “**Hydrography: Contributing to the UN Ocean Decade,**” with series of events from 14 to 21 June 2022. These events were divided into 3 phases, viz, press conference, sensitisation lectures delivered at 6 secondary schools across Nigeria, and a hybrid plenary session, involving opening ceremony, a hydrographic exhibition, lectures and interactive session. These events were coordinated by the Nigerian Navy Hydrographic Office (NNHO), in conjunction with Nigerian Hydrographic Society (NHS). The purpose of this report, therefore, is to briefly highlight the conduct of the 2022 WHD in Nigeria.

CONDUCT OF THE 2022 WHD CELEBRATION

2. The 2022 WHD Celebration in Nigeria was held from 14 to 21 June 2022 in 3 phases. These phases were press conference, career sensitisation lectures and plenary session. These phases are briefly highlighted in subsequent paragraphs.

3. **Press Conference.** The 2022 WHD Press Conference was held on 14 June 2022 in Lagos, with over 20 print and electronic media houses in Nigeria in attendance. During the press briefing, which was aimed at creating public awareness on the activities lined up for the 2022 WHD celebration, the Hydrographer of the Nigerian Navy (NN) fielded questions from the press, where he highlighted the theme of the Day. He also used the event to explain the relevant contributions of hydrography to the UN Ocean Decade, describing it as a tool that provides policy makers with adequate knowledge of the ocean to enable them elicit appropriate governance measures for the conservation of biodiversity, through sustainable use of the ocean. Generally, the press conference was largely successful as several electronic and print

media houses aired and published the event respectively to Nigerians throughout the week 14-21 June 2022. Excerpts/pictures from the media briefing are at Enclosure 1.

4. **Career Sensitisation lecture.** The knowledge of hydrography in Nigeria, particularly among youths of secondary school age, is generally low. This informed the inclusion of career sensitisation lectures in selected secondary schools across Nigeria in order to arouse the interest of young minds towards picking up career in Hydrography, which would ultimately facilitate adequate hydrographic manpower in Nigeria. To this end, 6 Teams of seasoned Hydrographers from NNHO and NHS conducted hydrographic career sensitization lectures to 6 secondary schools in Kano, Lagos and Port - Harcourt from 16 – 20 June 2022. As a goodwill of the Hydrographer, framed charts were presented to the Administrators of each participating school as souvenirs, while 2 paper charts published by the NNHO were given to the schools to retain as mementos. Pictures showing some aspects of the sensitization lectures are at Enclosures 2.

5. **Plenary Session.** The Phase 3 of the 2022 WHD celebration in Nigeria is the plenary session, which was held on 21 June 22 at Victoria Island, Lagos. It was the first hybrid version of WHD in Nigeria. The introduction of the VTC mode was to enable maximum participation from personnel and members of the NHS domiciled outside Lagos, which could not be physically present at the venue. This led to a very high level of participation, with over 1300 participants; comprising 300 in-person and over 1,000 virtual participants. It also attracted the presence of Nigerian Government officials, with the Minister of State for Transportation, as the Special Guest of Honour (SGoH), accompanied by the NN Chief of the Naval Staff and 6 members of Nigeria's National Assembly, declaring the event open. Also present at the event were senior military officers, representatives of the heads of Nigeria's ministries, departments and agencies, as well as those from the organised private sector. The presence of these

personalities at the event provided the opportunity for robust engagements and networking, which surely created the needed awareness on the contributions of Hydrography to safety of navigation and UN Ocean Decade. A number of events were undertaken during the one-day Plenary Session. These are highlighted subsequently.

a. **Unveiling of 2 Nautical Publications and Magazine.** As part of the opening ceremony, 2 nautical publications and a maiden hydrographic Magazine published by NNHO and NNS LANA respectively were unveiled. The 2 nautical publications are entitled “NP02 – Symbols and Abbreviations Used on Nigerian Paper Charts’ and ‘NP03 – Rules of the Road’, while the maiden hydrographic magazine is entitled ‘The Gondola.’ The pictures showing the publications are at Enclosures 3 to 5.

b. **Hydrographic Exhibition.** The Plenary Session also witnessed hydrographic exhibition, with over 20 hydrographic companies and equipment vendors participating. The SGoH and other dignitaries that grazed the event were delighted to see various hydrographic products and equipment. The exhibition further helped to foster engagements with policy makers, with a strong believe that issues bothering on the development of National Hydrography in Nigeria would receive the desired Government attention in future. Some pictures taken at the exhibition stands are at Enclosure 6.

c. **Paper Presentations.** Three papers were presented during the plenary session by 3 Guest Speakers. The 3 papers were entitled “Rare Earth Elements and Ocean Health: An Assessment of Lagos Lagoon,” “Technology to Map the Nigerian Exclusive Economic Zone of the Gulf of Guinea in Support of the UN Ocean Decade” and “Hydrography and UN Ocean Decade for Sustainable Development: Options for the NN.” The first paper, which was presented by subject matter expert from the National Institute for Oceanographic and Marine

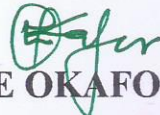
Research (NIOMR) Lagos, drew the attention of the Legislators, Government officials, Policy Makers and other stakeholders to the presence near earth elements in Nigerian waters. It, therefore, charged them to initiate legislative action plan to reduce the effects of these elements on marine biodiversity in order to improve the health of Nigeria's waters for sustainable development. The second paper was delivered by an expatriate from Shell Nigeria. His paper highlighted the vast nature of Nigeria's offshore waters and noted that a systematic program is required to consolidate existing data and fill in the missing gaps anchored by the Charting Authority to a common IHO standard under a marine geospatial platform. He, therefore, recommended the use of Satellite Derived Bathymetry (Optical and LIDAR), as well as emerging technology and collaboration among stakeholders to complement the conventional use of surface vessels for data acquisition. This, he said, would facilitate faster coverage of Nigeria's vast maritime area that ranges from riverine, nearshore to deep water, in support of UN decade of Ocean Sciences. Paper 3, delivered by expert from NNHO, emphasized the need for collaboration between hydrographic stakeholders and the need for training in order to boost hydrographic capability in Nigeria as well as develop and harness ocean potentials. Full details of these papers and other activities during the 2022 WHD are in NNHO website, www.nnho.ng

6. **Panel Discussion/Interactive Session.** The 3 papers were discussed by a panel of 6 professionals drawn from the NNHO, Shell, NIOMR and private practitioner. The interactive session that followed with the audience was robust and interesting. While rapping up the interactive session, the NN Chief of the Naval Staff informed Nigeria's Hydrographic community that the Nigerian Government has established a National Hydrographic Agency, which will commence full operation, as soon as budgetary allocations for its take-off are received. This is another giant leap towards the

development of Hydrography in Nigeria, in line with international best practice. Some selected pictures showing the 2022 WHD events are at Enclosure 7.

CONCLUSION

7. The 2022 WHD celebration comprised several activities including a press briefing, career day sensitisation lectures in selected secondary schools in Kano, Lagos, Port Harcourt as well as plenary session. The hybrid plenary session was held at Victoria Island, Lagos Nigeria on 21 Jun 22 with about 1,300 participants across the Nigerian Navy and other maritime stakeholders. The activities during the plenary session were an Opening Ceremony, a hydrographic exhibition as well as presentation of papers and panel discussion/interactive session. Pertinently, 2 nautical publications and The Gondola Magazine published by NNHO and NNS LANA respectively were unveiled by the SGoH during the plenary. The audience were informed at the end of the one day plenary session that Nigeria now has a national body, known as the National Hydrographic Agency, to further drive national hydrographic development from where the NN stopped. This Agency will commence operation soon.


CE OKAFOR
Rear Admiral
Hydrographer of the Navy

Lagos-Nigeria
22 July 2022

Enclosures:

1. Excerpts from the World Hydrography Day Press Briefing on 14 June 2022.
2. Pictures Showing Some Aspects of the World Hydrography Day Career Sensitisation Lecture at Selected Secondary Schools.
3. Picture Showing the Nigerian Nautical Publication 2.
4. Picture Showing the Nigerian Nautical Publication 3.
5. Picture Showing the Gondola Magazine.
6. Pictures Showing Some Aspects of the World Hydrography Day Exhibition.
7. Pictures Showing Some Aspects of the 2022 World Hydrography Day Event.

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE 1

**EXCERPTS FROM THE WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY PRESS
BRIEFING ON 14 JUNE 2022**



UNCLASSIFIED

**PICTURES SHOWING SOME ASPECTS OF THE WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY
CAREER SENSITISATION LECTURE AT SELECTED SECONDARY SCHOOLS**



The Coordinator, Cdr AM Idu presenting a souvenir to the Director of Rumfa College, Mr Safiyanu Na'Abba



Lt Cdr Al Abdulsalam delivering a Lecture at Rumfa College Kano



Group Photograph of Facilitators, Director of Rumfa College Kano as well as Staff and Students of Rumfa, Governor's and Girls College Kano.

UNCLASSIFIED



Comdt, Lt Cdr M Shehu, instructors and Students of NNSS Ojo



Lt Cdr UK Erege with Students of Kings College Lagos Paying Keen Attention during the Lecture

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED



Group Photograph of Lt Cdr NM Gummi with Students of Excelsior Islamic School Satellite Town, Lagos



A Student of NNSS Borokiri Making a Point during the Interactive Session

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

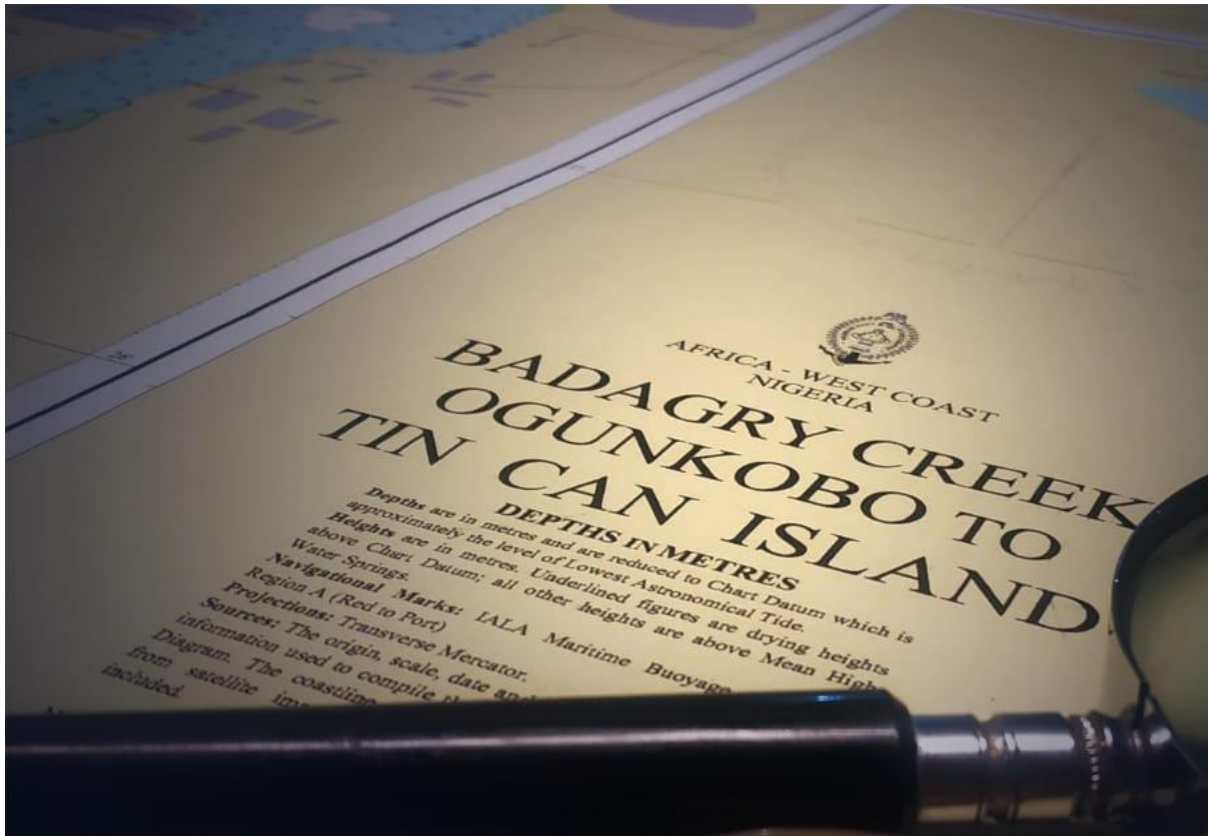


Lt Cdr AY Mohammed Making a Point during a Lecture at FGC Rumuokoro, Rivers State



Lt Cdr II Adamu, Staff and Students of AFCSS Pose for a Group Photograph.

UNCLASSIFIED



NIGERIAN CHARTS AND PUBLICATIONS

SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED ON PAPER CHARTS



Nigeria
Nautical
Publication

NNP 2
1st Edition 2021

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE 4



NIGERIAN CHARTS AND PUBLICATIONS

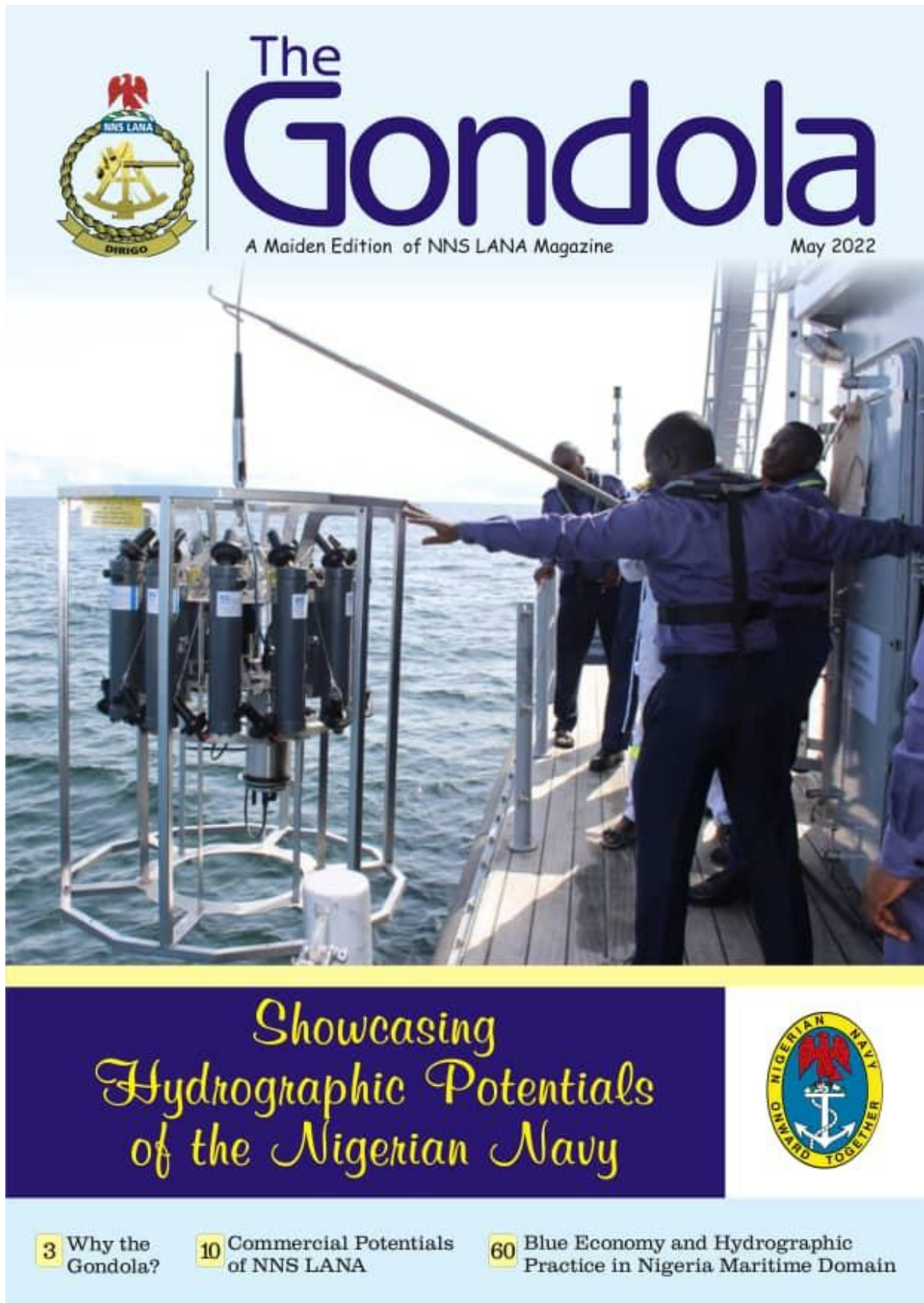
INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF COLLISION AT SEA 1972



Nigeria
Nautical
Publication

NNP 3
1st Edition 2022

UNCLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE 6

PICTURES SHOWING SOME ASPECTS OF THE WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY EXHIBITION



UNCLASSIFIED

**PICTURES SHOWING SOME ASPECTS OF THE 2022 WORLD
HYDROGRAPHY DAY EVENT**



RESTRICTED



RESTRICTED



RESTRICTED



RESTRICTED

