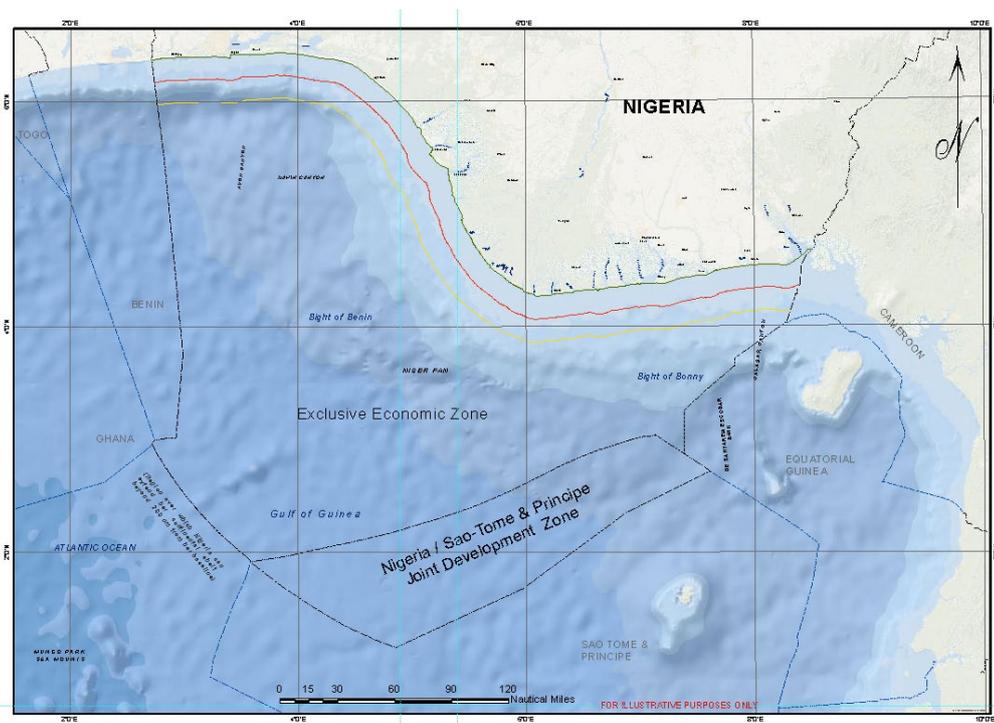




**NIGERIA NATIONAL REPORT
TO THE 15TH MEETING OF THE EASTERN ATLANTIC HYDROGRAPHIC
COMMISSION**



**LAGOS, NIGERIA
17-19 OCTOBER 2018**

INTRODUCTION

1. Nigeria has continued to strive to fulfil its mandate under the various international conventions acceded to by Nigeria as pertaining to hydrography, nautical charting and safety of Navigation. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Nigerian Navy hydrographic Office (NNHO), which is the focal agency for hydrographic survey services in Nigeria, cooperates closely with other National agencies with related hydrographic survey responsibilities such as the Nigerian Maritime Administrator and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA) and the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA). The NNHO also collaborates with other hydrographic offices such as the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) and the Service Hydrographique et Océanographique de la Marine (SHOM) in actualising her objective of keeping Nigeria's maritime space safe for sea farers.

2. During the period under review, Nigeria made appreciable efforts in improving her hydrographic surveying capacity and capability. This report shall give a highlight of Nigeria's hydrographic survey activities.

SURVEYS

3. In the last 2 year, Nigeria has carried out several surveys in support of safety of navigation. The NPA in conjunction with its joint venture partners, the Lagos Channel Management and Bonny Channel Company have continued the periodic survey and maintenance dredging of the Lagos and Bonny channels. Four hydrographic surveys are carried out yearly in both channels to monitor the depth of the channels. In addition, pre-dredge hydrographic surveys of the Calabar and Escravos channels were carried out early this year in preparation for the dredging of the channels. The dredging of the Escravos Channel is already ongoing. Similarly, NIWA carried out the survey of some inland navigational routes. Some of these include River Niger, Amadi, Elechi and Omu creeks as well as some parts of the Lagos Lagoon. In the same vain, the NNHO carried out various surveys in the Badagry Creek from Tincan Island to Navy Town in support of the NN operational activities. The survey of the remaining parts of Badagry creek from Navy Town to Badagry Town is ongoing at the moment.



Figure 1. Dredging and wreck removal in Lagos Channel.

NEW CHART UPDATE

4. Nigeria in collaboration with the UKHO Successfully updated BA 3298, the Bonny River Ford Point to Port Harcourt. The new edition, reflecting the current depths and improvements within the Port Harcourt / Bonny Pilotage District channels was re-issued with effect from 7th of June 2018. Similarly, the update of Lagos Chart and scheming of Tincan Island to Ijebu (BA 2815) is currently ongoing and is expected to be launched in October 2018.

MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION

4. After several efforts at establishing a Maritime Safety Information (MSI) facility in Nigeria, a functional MSI centre have been established in the NNHO office in Lagos. This is a bold step towards the achievement of the Phase 1 of the IHO Capacity Building Initiative. The new MSI portal supersedes the earlier attempt at establishing a portal at the NIMASA. As the National Coordinator for MSI, the NNHO MSI portal provides 24-hour service in navigational warning and metrological information to mariners in cooperation with the NAVAREA II Coordinator, SHOM. Hitherto, the NAVAREA II coordinator relied heavily on third parties for navigational warnings with the attendant difficulty in verifying their authenticity.

5. Currently, the Nigerian MSI portal does not broadcast its warning due to the absence of a functioning NAVTEX station or SafetyNet facility; however, arrangements are in place to allow for the broadcast of its coastal warnings through SHOM. Also, all bulletins of coastal warning are available on its website www.nnho.org.ng. The MSI portal provides an immediate advantage to international shipping by allowing for real integration of the country to the World Wide Navigational Warning Service.

PUBLICATIONS

6. Annually, the NNHO publishes tidal prediction table for major ports and river entrances in Nigeria. During the last 2 years some of the tidal constituents were recalculated using more recent tidal observations.

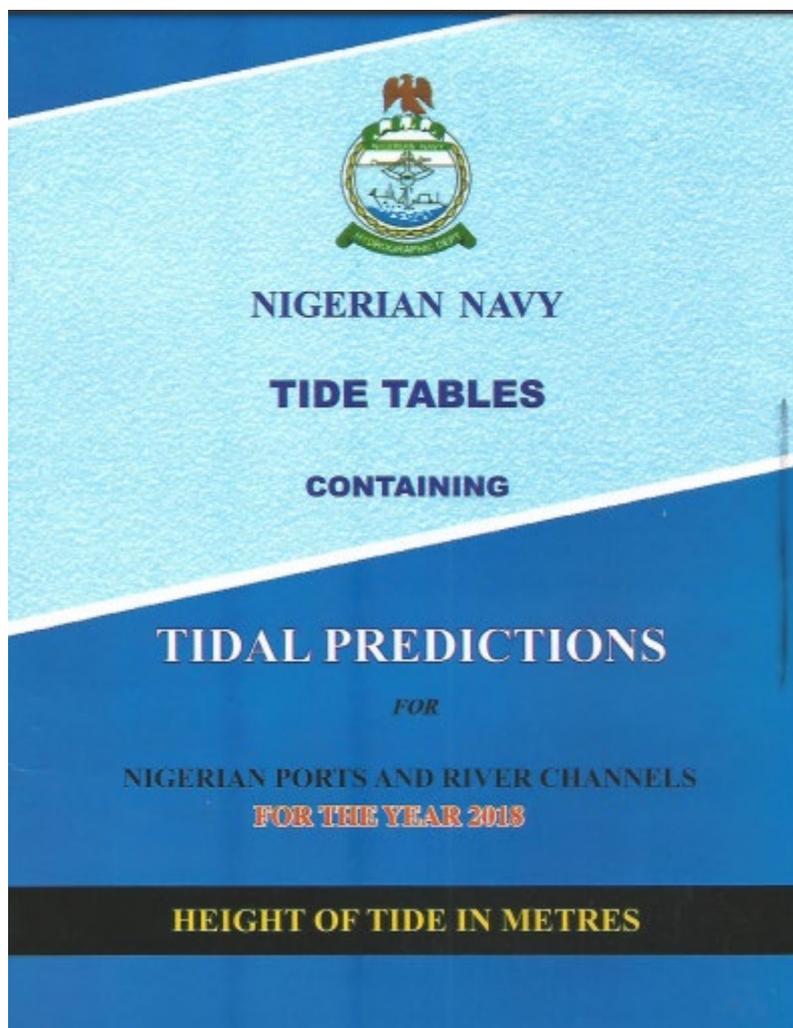


Figure 2. NNHO Tide Table.

7. While still nursing the ambition of producing its own charts in the future, the Nigeria, produces training charts for the maritime training institutions in

Nigeria. These charts contain all the elements of an actual chart and were developed for the training and workup of seafarers, Navy personnel in navigational duties. In the last 2 years, the training charts of parts of the Nigeria coastal waters have been produced. It is envisaged that the experience and knowledge in this process would be leveraged upon when the office is ready to produce actual navigational charts.

CAPACITY BUILDING

8. **Training.** Nigerian Government has continued to train personnel from relevant agencies locally and in foreign institutions in related field. The Nigerian Navy Hydrographic School, Port Harcourt that is currently undergoing the IHO accreditation process for the IHO Basic Hydrographic Course has commenced the officers' Basic Hydrographic Course. The school also offers the Survey Recorder II and III courses for ratings. Other training achievements during the period under review include:

- a. An officer of the NNHO has recently completed the Marine Cartography and Data Assessment Training Course 2018 at the UKHO Taunton United Kingdom.
- b. An Navy officer is currently attending the Cat 'B' Nautical Cartography course at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Agency, Silver spring USA.
- c. Two Navy officers have completed the Officers' Long Course Hydrography in India.
- d. The UKHO conducted a Five-day Basic Skills Course in Marine Safety Information (MSI), and Hydrographic Data Information (HDI) for Harbour Masters, Pilots and Hydrographers at NPA.

In spite of the progress made in hydrography and cartography training, Nigeria still lacks sufficient number of nautical cartographers and oceanographers. Accordingly, we are open to any training opportunity in these areas. Other areas of professional deficiency are in database management and Geographic Information Science (GIS).

9. **Acquisition of Survey Vessel.** The NN is in the process of acquiring a 60-metre long all-aluminium vessel from the French shipyard Ocea. The OSV 190 class survey vessel is expected to be delivered in late 2019 or early 2020. The arrival of the new vessel would help to enhance the survey capability of Nigeria and ensure that Nigeria maritime space can be surveyed to modern standards.



Figure 1. OSV 190 Class Survey Vessel.

Similarly, the NNHO recently took delivery of 2 EPENAL E-27 patrol boats specially modified for use as a survey vessel. These boats are deployed primarily for the survey of inland waters where Nigeria has a network of over 3000 rivers and creeks to survey.



Figure 2. Specially modified EPENAL E-27 Patrol Boat

10. **Accreditation of IHO Category ‘B’ Course at The Nigerian Navy Hydrographic School.** The NNHO in September 2012 forwarded a proposal to Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission for IHO assistance in the upgrade and possible accreditation of the Basic Hydrographic Course (BHC) offered at the NNHS. To this end, a team from the IHO Capacity Building Working Group visited the Nigerian Navy Hydrographic School, Port Harcourt from 8-10 march 2018 for an on-the-ground assessment of the school. Currently, efforts are on top gear to meet all the requirements and observations enumerated by the committee in order to ensure the success of the application. It is pertinent to note that the accreditation of the BHC at the NNHS presents a unique opportunity, as it would provides a cheaper, qualitative and easily accessible training for hydrographic surveyors in Nigeria and the West African Sub Region.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

11. In an effort to fulfil its mandate of providing hydrographic survey services to mariners within the Nigerian maritime environment, the NNHO cooperates with other hydrographic offices and some international organisations. Some of these organisations are the SHOM and UKHO. The cooperation with SHOM and UKHO provided the professional support for daily operation of the MSI portal at the NNHO. The NAVAREA II coordinator provide training as well as technical support that saw to the actualisation of the project. Similarly, the NNHO and NPA cooperates with the UKHO for the production of charts covering Nigeria’s waters.

The UKHO also publishes notices to mariners for the update of these charts with data provided by the NNHO.

PARTICIPATION IN IHO WORKING GROUPS

12. Nigeria takes part in several IHO committees and working groups. Some of these include:

- a. Crowd Source Bathymetry Working Group.
- b. Hydrographic Services and Standard Committee.
- c. Capacity Building Sub-committee.

The NNHO also contributes to the GEBCO Cookbook publication.

STATUS OF HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYING AND NAUTICAL CHARTING

13. **Hydrographic Surveying.** The hydrographic surveying coverage where:

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.

| | A | B | C |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Dephts < 200 m | 25 | 65 | 10 |
| Dephts > 200 m | 10 | 10 | 80 |

14. **Nautical Charting.** Status of nautical charting within the limits of the EEZ

A = percentage covered by INT series, or a paper chart series meeting the Standards in S-4.

B = percentage covered by Raster Navigational Charts (RNCs) meeting the standards in S-61.

C = percentage covered by ENCs meeting the standards in S-57.

| PURPOSE/SCALE | A | B | C |
|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|
|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| Offshore Passages/ Small | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Landfall and Coastal Passages/ Medium | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Approaches and Ports/Large | 100 | 100 | 60 |

15. **Maritime Safety Information.**

Navigational Information (S-53)

| Service | Yes | No | Partial | Notes |
|---------------------|-----|----|---------|-------------------------------|
| Local Warning | X | | | Via NPA |
| Coastal Warning | X | | | Via NAVAREA II Coordinator |
| NAVAREA II Warnings | X | | | Via NAVAREA II Coordinator |
| Port Information | X | | | Via NPA |

GMDSS IMPLEMENTATION (IMO Publication 970-GMDSS Manual)

| Service | Yes | No | Partial | Notes |
|-------------|-----|----|---------|-------|
| Master Plan | X | | | |
| Area A1 | | X | | |
| Area A2 | | X | | |
| Area A3 | | X | | |
| NAVTEX | | X | | |
| SafetyNet | | X | | |

CONCLUSION

15. Nigeria has made appreciable improvement in her survey capability and capacity during the period under review. Maintenance surveys have been carried out regularly in the Lagos and Bonny Channels. Also various survey equipment and software have been acquired. Furthermore, a number of officers are currently undergoing various CB programmes in hydrography. Despite the progress made so far, Nigeria still lacks nautical cartographers, oceanographers and database managers.