



IHO Manual on Hydrography (IHO M-13)

Introduction

It is a great pleasure for the IHO to announce that the first edition of the IHO Manual on Hydrography (**IHO Pub M-13**) has now been completed.

The IHO Manual on Hydrography general objective is to provide knowledge on the concepts involved in hydrography as well as guidance to plan and execute hydrographic surveys. The Manual is considered to be a professional guide for hydrographic surveyors and a tool for teachers and students involved in hydrographic courses or programs.

The content of the Manual is divided into seven chapters:

- **Chapter 1** refers to the principles of hydrographic surveying, including its specifications;
- **Chapter 2** refers to positioning;
- **Chapter 3** refers to depth determination, including both the principles and techniques used;
- **Chapter 4** provides information on sea floor classification and object detection;
- **Chapter 5** refers in particular to water levels and flow;
- **Chapter 6** is devoted to topographic surveying applied to hydrography;
- **Chapter 7** provides, in a structured way, complete details on hydrographic practice;

The Manual has an important role to play in Capacity Building and therefore its translation into French and Spanish is under consideration.

The Manual can be downloaded as individual chapters from the IHO web site <http://www.iho.shom.fr/> > Publications > Catalogue > **M-13**. Although principally an electronic publication it is intended to print sufficient copies to distribute to each IHO Member State, Cat A/B training school and principal author.

The History

During the development of the IHO Strategic Plan and Work Programme in 1998, consideration was given to the merits of publishing an IHO Manual on Hydrography. Until then, it seems that the IHO has never taken the initiative to develop an IHO Manual on Hydrography. This may be due to the fact that IHO Member States have always published national manuals in the past. Moreover, in an era of declining budgets, it has become very difficult or even impossible for Hydrographic Services to update or rewrite these Manuals.

Hugo Gorziglia, Captain, IHB Director and Chairman of the MoHWG



During the 2nd Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference, 2000, the IHO adopted a Strategic Plan and Work Programme. The programme included the preparation of an IHO Manual on Hydrography, pulling together the resources previously dedicated to developing national manuals. Recognizing the scope of this task, the Manual on Hydrography Working Group (MoHWG) was established under the chairmanship of Captain Hugo Gorziglia from Chile.

The first meeting of the WG was held at the IHB in June 2001, where the content of the Manual proposed by the Chairman was reviewed and agreed. Also, responsibilities were assigned and “team leaders” were appointed to oversee the production of each chapter.

The second and last meeting of the WG took place at the IHB in March 2004. During three days the WG reviewed in depth all six chapters and concluded on minor amendments to be done. Also, the WG agreed the way forward with regard to Chapter 7, “Hydrographic Practice”, a chapter that, being dependent on the earlier chapters, could not be completed in advance. Whilst it was agreed that the contributions to the Manual were of a very high standard, it was felt that a native English speaker should review the final text before being released. It was considered that if this were not done then the Manual would lose credibility as an authoritative text.

The IHO is extremely grateful to the hard work put in by the members of the Working Group and in particular the principal authors who have devoted so much time to writing the Manual. Also the IHO is grateful to The United Kingdom for the loan of Lieutenant Commander David Wyatt for 1 month to edit the assembled Chapters, which were posted in the IHO web page in May, 2005.

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