

Editorial



This issue touches on a broad range of hydrographic interests but all of the topics covered are important to the development of the profession. Approaches to tidal modelling using GPS comes to us from a commercial source. In this the particular difficulties of obtaining tidal heights in the offshore are discussed. Reference to GPS brings with it the matter of choice of vertical datums. Also concerned with the problem of obtaining precise depth measurement is a paper discussing the prediction of sandwave dynamics in the shallow North Sea off the Netherlands. To all those countries with a mobile sedimentary seafloor a knowledge of how the sea floor topography is actually changing is critical. Particularly where shipping is passing through areas with very marginal underkeel clearance. The Netherlands has been most active in developing models that will assist in the prediction of these changes and this paper discusses different approaches that are being taken to improve the predictions.

A particularly relevant report on the status of claims to extending the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles has been prepared by a Canadian specialist. As the time limit for filing claims with the Continental Shelf Commission approaches, the Commission is being pressed into greater activity to review and comment upon the claims. A particular problem is that some claims require agreement between the claims of neighbouring states and the time taken for that procedure may overwhelm the time allowed for filing the claims. Claims around the Antarctic cause particular difficulties due to the uncertain question of sovereignty of the land itself. In the Arctic large claims, based on the claim that large undersea features are part of national natural prolongation threaten to make all Ambassador Pardo's fears that there will be little left for a "common heritage" come true.

In various ways ENCs and ECDIS are the subject of a paper and several notes. Encoding AIS (Automatic Information System) messages is discussed as this information is increasingly used as part of a total navigation system. Then there is the ongoing examination of just how information other than basic chart information can be added to the total digital information provided. Finally an important note is provided on the WEND Concept. This idea for providing ENCs on a global basis has long been pursued by the IHO. A much slower than expected development of ENCs by national hydrographic offices has been a subject of considerable criticism. Today there are strongly opposing views on how things stand at the matter but the WEND is felt to be the framework within which this network of official data should be provided.

Adam J. Kerr, Editor

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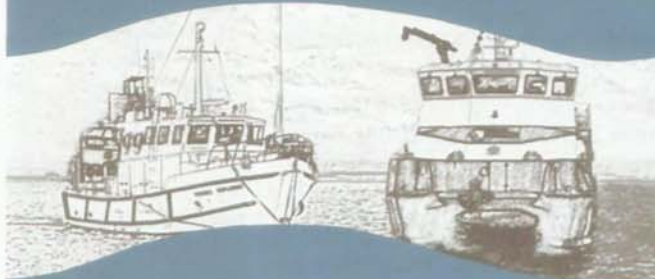
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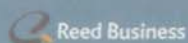
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