

Editorial



When I joined the Australian Hydrographic Service as a trainee nautical cartographer in 1979, it didn't take long to find the collection of International Hydrographic Review (IHR) journals in the office library. Over many years, the editions of the IHR have been a major source of knowledge about the international hydrographic community. It is my hope as the new Editor, along with the assistance of the Editorial Board, that the IHR maintains its high standard in providing timely and relevant material to our industry.

This is my first edition as the new Editor and it is appropriate to thank Adam Kerr for his contribution as the previous Editor. I first met Adam in 1990 at an IHO working group meeting in Sydney and I was very fortunate to have worked with Adam on several IHO meetings that he led. His contribution to hydrography and his leadership and mentorship during this period cannot be underestimated. It has been a privilege to know Adam and I am grateful for his friendship over many years.

This Edition comprises six articles covering a wide range of topics. The first article delves into the use of wavelet analysis and artificial neural networks to recover a vessel's 3D position when data gaps from GPS/INS exist. The second paper investigates the characteristics of sea water in tropical regions to determine the requirement for sound velocity measurements for equipment calibration. The continued critical need to ensure hydrographic surveyor training meets industry expectations is covered in our third paper which describes the IHO Cat. A training course in France.

Closer to my home, the fourth paper discusses the complex tidal interactions through Torres Strait. This narrow stretch of water is a critical waterway for shipping transiting through the northern waters of Australia. The organisation structure of hydrographic offices is a continual challenge as HO's face the challenges of tighter budgets, often conflicting priorities between Defence and civil responsibilities and new responsibilities and expectations from a growing public awareness of global issues. Our fifth paper describes the transformation of the French organisation SHOM into a new entity to address these responsibilities and the author looks back on the last 3 years to describe outcomes of the transformation. Our final paper presents quantitative methods and statistical measurements to analyse and evaluate multibeam performance and behaviour to improve data quality and detect artefacts.

This edition includes Notes relating to the launch of the new survey vessel for the Faculty of Maritime Studies, King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia; an advertisement for the upcoming HYDRO2011 being held in Fremantle, Australia in November 2011; and a copy of the opening address given by the Indian Chief of Navy at the recent Hydrographic Symposium held in India.

One publication has been reviewed and deals with Electronic Charting technology for safe navigation and planning. The book provides a thorough discussion on all aspects of the technology and reinforces the need for comprehensive training in order to maximise the use of the technology.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I hope that this edition provides information of interest to you. If you have any comments, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you to all of the authors for your contributions. Your ongoing support of the IHR is much appreciated. Finally, I would like to express thanks to my colleagues who provided peer reviews for the Articles in this edition. Your feedback and encouragement to the authors is much appreciated.

Ian W. Halls
Editor