

Editorial

This edition comprises three Articles and two Notes.

The first Article discusses the need for continued survey and charting in key oceanic areas. Despite all the modern technology available, mishaps at sea continue to occur. As ships become larger in size and venture further away from regularly surveyed routes, there is a constant need for hydrographic agencies to provide hydrographic services, capability and up-to-date, comprehensive nautical products. The paper identifies a number of key issues regarding navigation safety and the associated risks. The author also provides examples of technologies to help fill data gaps and describes some risk assessment initiatives being undertaken to prioritise activities.

The second Article is penned by myself. The Australian Hydrographic Office (AHO) is currently updating its information management and production systems. Having recently achieved full ENC coverage of its waters, the AHO is stepping out and actively encouraging nautical chart users to adopt ENCs for navigation. The AHO will cease production of its Raster Navigation Chart (RNC) in July 2014 bringing to a close an interim electronic charting solution introduced in the early 2000's. As the uptake of ENCs continues, together with the challenge of supporting paper nautical chart and ENC production and distribution, I have raised the question regarding multiple data portrayals for charting products and the possibility to create a new paper chart product that is derived from the ENC data with a predominant S-52 (ECDIS) portrayal as well as possible plotting options – HO and user.

Our third Article outlines a method to improve the precision and efficiency of marine magnetic surveys. Using detailed simulations, the authors identify evaluation methods using magnetic anomaly maps the interpolation precision between survey lines to assist in determining optimal survey line configuration.

The first of the two Notes provides the rationale for the Chilean Navy to purchase a new scientific research vessel. The Note provides a brief history of the marine research programme and a description of the vessel along with examples of survey and oceanographic expeditions to test the vessel's capability.

The second Note reviews the latest ENC validation training course established by IC-ENC and provides real-world examples of issues with ENC encoding inconsistencies. The paper describes the role IC-ENC and the close relationship with HOs to rectify the issues. Australia has a local IC-ENC presence and I support this training initiative. This is a valuable resource that IC-ENC provide in improving ENC data quality and identifying issues with adjoining ENCs produced by other Nations. This course would be very useful for HO ENC production staff to undertake.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I hope that this edition is of interest to you. Thank you to the authors for your contributions and to my colleagues who provided peer reviews for the articles in this edition.

Ian W. Halls
Editor

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