

DENMARK

The Kingdom of Denmark

Denmark is located in Northern Europe between the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. The area of mainland Denmark is approximately 43,000 km². Jutland is a peninsular of continental Europe, sharing a 68 km long border with Germany. The rest of mainland Denmark consists of 409 named islands giving a total coastline of 7,300 km, or one sixth of the Earth's circumference. The population numbers 5.2 million.

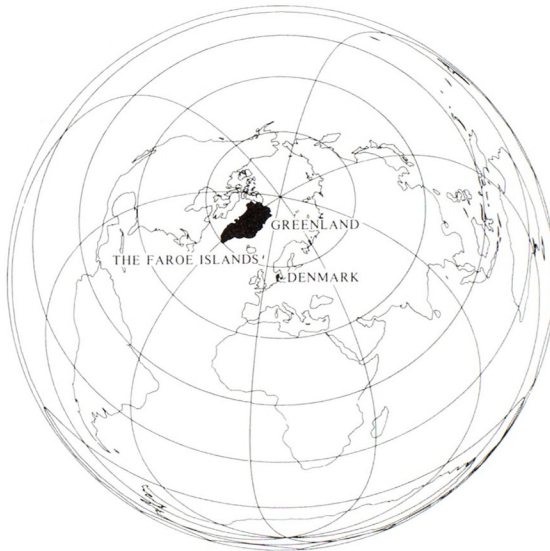


FIG. 1.- Denmark.

In addition to mainland Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands, both governed by a home rule system and having their own flag, also form part of the Kingdom. Greenland in the North Atlantic is the largest island in the world. The total area is about 2,175,600 km² of which the ice free parts cover some 350,000 km². The coastline of Greenland is some 40,000 km. Compared to this, the population is small, barely exceeding 53,000.

The Faroe Islands, a small archipelago in the North Atlantic, cover about 1,399 km² with a coastline of 1,117 km and a population of 46,000.

The Danish Exclusive Economic Zone covers 106,000 km² around mainland Denmark, 275,000 km² around the Faroe Islands and 2,000,000 km² around Greenland -in total 2,381,000 km².

The Kingdom of Denmark has been a hereditary monarchy since 930 AD. The present monarch is Queen Margrethe II. She and her husband, Prince Henrik of Denmark, have two sons.

In the past, Denmark was the home of the Vikings. They travelled widely, came as far south as Byzantium, and conquered England and part of Brittany. They were also the first navigators to cross the North Atlantic.

Since World War II, Denmark has developed from a traditional agricultural country to a modern industrial country. Denmark has been a member of the European Union (EU) since 1972. Danish bacon is known worldwide, and Danish industry is among other things well known for the fashionable design of furniture.

The petroleum industry flourishes in Denmark, and oil and gas are produced in the Danish part of the North Sea. Elsewhere, exploration for the hydrocarbons is carried out in the seas off Greenland.

Hydrographic Office

The Hydrographic Office in Denmark was established in 1784 and hence is among the oldest of its kind in the world. The Hydrographic Office has always been located in Copenhagen. In 1973, the Office was merged into the Royal Danish Administration of Navigation and Hydrography. In 1988, the Danish government decided to create a new institution named Kort & Matrikelstyrelsen (the National Survey and Cadastre - Denmark). On this occasion, part of the original Hydrographic Office was transferred to this new institution also called the Hydrographic Office.

The Office is responsible for the production and publication of nautical charts and nautical publications e.g. chart corrections and sailing directions covering the Danish, Faroese and Greenlandic waters. The Hydrographic Office is responsible for the request of the hydrographic surveys necessary for the chart production, and the Director General of National Survey and Cadastre is the National hydrographer, Charting.

The Hydrographic Office is composed of a Hydrographic Department, a Hydrographic consultant and sections for production of charts and publications. The Hydrographic consultant is responsible for the systematic collection of hydrographic information to be used in the production of nautical charts and publications and accepts the incoming information. The Chart Sections are responsible for the compilation, production, updating and printing of the official charts and nautical publications. The total chart folio comprises about 200 charts, at scales from about 1:7,500 to 1:2.5M, and related nautical publications. The conversion of analogous charts and harbour plans to digital form is carried out and the production includes

electronic navigational chart data (ENC) for ECDIS and similar electronic navigation systems. In addition to the production of the official charts, the Office produces and prints pleasure craft charts, a booklet called "Waypoints in Danish Waters" and special charts ordered by the Danish Navy, Danish Government and other official authorities or private companies. The Office is in possession of a collection of historical charts. The archive is open to the public upon request.

Royal Danish Administration of Navigation and Hydrography

The Director general of the Royal Danish Administration of Navigation and Hydrography is the Hydrographer of Denmark, Surveying. The Royal Danish Administration of Navigation and Hydrography is divided into a number of departments, all dealing with safety of navigation.

The "Inspectorate" publishes Notices to Mariners, collects information for Nautical Publications and evaluates matters relating to works on the sea territory. It is also in charge of nautical consulting towards the customer of the organization.

The Department of "Aids to Navigation" is responsible for all floating aids and land based lighthouses and marks. The department also runs electronic aids to navigation and major navigation systems.

The "Pilotage and Coastal Rescue" controls and supervises the Danish pilot stations and is responsible for insuring rules for the piloting service. It is also responsible for the personnel and equipment of the coastal rescue service, which again is a part of the Danish Search and Rescue Organization.

The Department of Oceanography performs hydrographic and oceanographic surveys requested mainly by the Hydrographic Office of the National Survey and Cadastre - Denmark.

A section within the Department carries out quality control and validation of all data collected during the surveys. The Department also runs a coordinated database containing data collected inside the organization as well as other maritime sources of information.