

## RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The Russian Federation occupies the major part of the Eurasia. It borders on Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Belorussia, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaidjan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, China, North Korea and Japan. The area of Russia is about 17 million km<sup>2</sup>. Population is about 150 million.

Moscow is the capital. The largest ports of Russia are Saint Petersburg, Murmansk, Kaliningrad, Vladivostok, Nakhodka, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, Madagan, Arkangelsk.



FIG. 1.- Russian Federation.

The Russian Federation is a democratic federal state with a republican Government. The President is the Head of State.

The coasts of the Russian Federation are bordered by the Arctic Ocean, Pacific Ocean and waters of thirteen seas. Russia claims a 12 nautical mile territorial sea, 200 nautical mile economic zone and continental shelf.

Russian mariners have been active in coastal charting and descriptions for several centuries. Consequently, records are available in the form of pilots and "sea drawings" dating to the XVth century. The appearance of Russia at sea and on the ocean became possible under the rule of Peter the First in connection with the creation of the Navy and the development of merchant shipping. During his reign, charts of the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea, Chart Atlas of the river Don, charts of the gulf of Finland and the Caspian Sea were compiled and published as research materials. On the initiative of Peter the First the expeditions of Bering, Chirikov and others were organized. Subsequently in the XVIII century and in the beginning of the XIXth century Russian hydrographers and mariners discovered and plotted coasts of Alaska, many islands of the Pacific Ocean, surveyed coasts of the Arctic Ocean, discovered the Antarctic Continent and surveyed the portion of Antarctic islands.

With the expansion of hydrographic surveys, increase of compilation and publication of nautical charts and pilots, as well as increase in the number of lighthouses and other aids to navigation created the necessity for a special administrative body for these types of work.



FIG. 2.- RV SIBIRIAKOV.

### **The Hydrographic Service**

On 13 October 1827 all the hydrographic units within the framework of the Admiralty Department were gathered into an independent establishment named the Hydrographer-General Department which since that time has been in charge of the hydrographic study of the seas, compilation and publication of navigational charts and sailing directions, equipment of sea coasts with lighthouses and beacons, compass adjustment and other works connected with ensuring safety of navigation.

This date is the birthday of the Hydrographic Service of the Navy and of the Head Department of Navigation and Oceanography of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence as the governing body of this Service.

Vice Admiral G.A. SARYCHEV, an outstanding scientist-hydrographer, was appointed the first chief of the Hydrographer-General Department and the Head of the Hydrographic Service of the Russian Navy.

At present the Hydrographic Service is one of the most important national bodies responsible for the safety of navigation. Though organizationally the Hydrographic Service is within the framework of the Navy, it provides for the needs of all the fishing fleet of Russia.

The Russian Hydrographic Service zone of interest is the whole World Ocean. Before 1990, the Hydrographic Service carried out up to 30 cruises of oceanographic vessels a year to different areas of the World Ocean. On average up to 700,000 - 750,000 linear km of surveys were carried out in the oceans and seas, and up to 85,000 - 90,000 linear km of survey in the coastal areas of Russia. Lately due to a difficult financial and economic situation the hydrographic works are being carried out mainly in the coastal waters of Russia.

Special subdivisions - expeditions and parties - were established and oceanographic vessels up to 9,000 tons displacement equipped with modern maritime aids to navigation and oceanography are used to carry out surveys.

Oceanographic survey results are brought to the Scientific Research Centre to form the oceanographic data bank, and to the Charts Division where they are used to compile and correct nautical charts and Sailing Directions.

Nautical charts and Sailing Directions published by the Head Department of Navigation and Oceanography are included in the Catalogue of Charts and Nautical Publications Nos. 7107, 7207, 7307. The Catalogue comprises about 6 000 nautical charts and over 300 Sailing Directions covering the whole World Ocean.

About 10 000 objects of navigational equipment (lighthouses, beacons, buoys, radionavigation systems), by means of which the safety of navigation in the coastal waters of the state is ensured, are under the jurisdiction of the Hydrographic Service of Russia. To maintain aids to navigation and to control their work special lights servicing vessels and launches, equipped with necessary load-lifting devices as well as modern receivers of radionavigation and satellite navigation systems for precise position fixing at sea, are used. The Special Design Bureau carries out the development of projects with various navigational devices. The Head Department of Navigation and Oceanography is responsible for technical aids to navigation and oceanography.

At present Vice Admiral A.A. KOMARITSYN is the Chief of the Head Department of Navigation and Oceanography who in 1994 replaced Vice Admiral J.I. ZHEGLOV at this post.