

## METHODS FOR THE CORRECTION OF NAVIGATIONAL DOCUMENTS AND PARTICULARLY SAILING DIRECTIONS

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« The International Hydrographic Review » for May, 1952 (Vol. XXIX, No. 1, page 32), published a very interesting article by M. Kotlaric on a mode of keeping up-to-date the different volumes of « Sailing Directions ». The method recommended makes the method of correcting systematic and is so designed as to facilitate largely the work of the navigator while still allowing the documents to be kept completely up-to-date. This undoubtedly adds to the expenses of the Hydrographic Service, but the great advantage to navigational security amply justifies such an increase.

A review will here be made of the methods of correction at present employed by the following Hydrographic Services which publish navigational documents for the whole world :

Great Britain, 90 volumes (« Sailing Directions », « Lists of Lights and Radio Signals »).

U.S.A., 70 volumes (« Sailing Directions », « Lists of Lights and Radio Signals »).

France, 67 volumes (« Sailing Directions », « Lists of Lights and Radio Signals »).

### 1. — GREAT BRITAIN.

British navigational publications (i.e., « Admiralty Sailing Directions », « Lists of Lights », « Lists of Radio Signals ») amount to about ninety volumes.

The method used for keeping these publications up-to-date and for correcting British Admiralty charts is outlined at the beginning of each volume in the chapter on general information. After its issue, the volume is corrected by means of the current year's « Admiralty Notices to Mariners » and by numbered annual supplements, the last of which sums up all the information contained in the preceding issues.

A new edition of each volume of « Sailing Directions » is published at intervals of approximately from ten to twelve years. The number of the latest « Admiralty Notice to Mariners » used in its compilation is given in the « Advertisement » on page iii of each volume, and the numbers of the Notices affecting it between the dates of going to press and issue to ships and establishments are given in the Notice announcing its publication, to enable the new edition to be corrected before being brought into use.

A supplement to each volume is generally published annually, each succeeding Supplement cancelling the former. When a volume is taken up for revision, however, no further Supplement to that edition is issued, but subsequent « Notices to Mariners » affecting it are summarised each year and issued as a separate publication, until the new edition of the volume is published.

A tabular form for notation of the existence of Supplements and Summaries of Notices is printed on the front fly-leaf of all « Sailing Directions », and these notations are made as necessary in all copies issued by the Hydrographic Supplies Establishment and the Admiralty Chart Dépôts.

Supplements and Summaries of « Admiralty Notices to Mariners » should be retained intact. Whenever reference is made to the « Sailing Directions », the Supplement, and where applicable the Summary, must be consulted. The existence of a Supplement or Summary of « Admiralty Notices to Mariners » is to be entered in the tabular form inside the cover of the « Sailing Directions ». New and amended information appearing in the Supplements for the first time is indicated by square brackets, and deletions from the previous Supplement are indicated by horizontal lines.

« Admiralty Notices to Mariners » affecting « Sailing Directions » are not to be cut up and pasted in, but the book is to be annotated in the margin, or corrected in manuscript, as convenient.

The « Admiralty List of Lights, Fog Signals and Visual Time Signals » for the world is issued in twelve volumes divided geographically as shown on the index chart at the beginning of each volume.

Light-buoys are not included in the list.

The volumes are published annually at the rate of one volume per month commencing with Volume 1 about March and ending with Volume 12 about February. Supplements to these volumes will not be issued.

Amendments. — Important amendments are promulgated in « Admiralty Notices to Mariners ». In Section III of each Weekly Complete Edition of these Notices will be found all additions and alterations made to Lights, Fog Signals and Visual Time Signals by the Notices issued during the week affected; certain other additions and alterations are also included in Section III, which, though not of sufficient importance to necessitate the issue of a « Notice to Mariners », will be found of use to the seaman.

Corrections to the « Light Lists » should be made in pencil, or extracted from Section III and pasted in the appropriate volume.

Note. — Corrections are not made in copies of the « Lists of Lights », &c., stocked by the Hydrographic Supplies Establishment, Admiralty Chart Agents or the Admiralty Chart Dépôts, and copies received from these sources should accordingly be corrected from the weekly editions of the « Notices to Mariners » before being brought into use.

Copies of charts issued by the Hydrographic Supplies Establishment, Admiralty Chart Agents of Admiralty Chart Dépôts are corrected by hand, except from temporary and preliminary « Notices to Mariners », for all navigational information to the date of issue. The year and number of the Notice is entered in the bottom left-hand corner of the chart.

A similar procedure is performed in Ships and corrections for Temporary or Preliminary « Notices to Mariners » should be inserted on the Charts *in pencil* and the year and number of the notice should be shown against them.

Note. — In each British « Notice to Mariners », the chart and the « Sailing Direction » affected by the Notice is specified.

Note. — « Admiralty Notices to Mariners » are put gratis at the disposal of navigators of the Royal Navy and of the Merchant Ships. Their contents should be inscribed by hand on the relevant chart and in the margin of the volumes other than the « Lists of Lights and of Radio Signals ».

The Publication of all Supplements and Summaries of « Notices to Mariners » is announced as soon as issued in « Admiralty Notices to Mariners »; the navigating officer should record their notation in the form provided for this purpose at the first page of each « Sailing Direction ».

The Catalogue of Admiralty Charts and Other Hydrographic Publications is in general issued every two years. Section XIV of the Catalogue relating to « Sailing Directions and Other Navigational Publications » shows for each one of them the date and number of the last edition.

A list of hydrographic publications newly issued, of the new supplements, of books under revision and supplements in course of preparation, is given in the complete edition of « Admiralty Notices to Mariners »; this list is revised and re-published monthly.

## 2. — UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE OF THE NAVY

The U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office maintains at present about sixty volumes of « Sailing Directions » for the whole world, six « Lists of Lights » and four different publications on Radio Signals, making a total of about seventy navigational publications (Pilots, etc.) to be kept up-to-date.

The method to be followed in correcting these publications is indicated at the beginning of each volume of the « Sailing Directions », which are now being published in loose-leaf form, which facilitates the work, as each volume is corrected to the date indicated in the foreword and is subsequently kept up-to-date by the insertion of additional or replacement pages issued at appropriate intervals by the Hydrographic Office in the form of consecutively-numbered « Changes ». In the interim, « Changes » occurring in the area covered by the volume are announced in « Notices to Mariners », which are published each week by the Hydrographic Office. They should be cut up and the individual Notices applying to the volume should be pasted in the margin of the affected pages. The amended or additional pages of each « Change » should be inserted in the volume in accordance with the « List of Effective Pages » supplied with each « Change ». The replacement pages completely supersede the obsolete pages they replace, together, with all pasted « Notices to Mariners » dated prior to the effective date of the « Change ». « Notices to Mariners » dated later than the effective date of the « Change » should be detached from the obsolete pages and repasted to the appropriate replacement pages. « Changes » are not cumulative and should be applied in their numerical sequence. However, the « List of Effective Pages » supplied with each « Change » is cumulative, the latest List superseding any previously issued. The latest « List of Effective Pages » gives information regarding the amount of correction of the publication. To receive these « Changes », it is sufficient for holders of this publication to send the appropriate coupons to the U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office in Washington. The coupons are to be found in the front of each publication; the publication itself, together with the effective date of each « Change », is

announced through « Notices to Mariners ». Every effort should be made to apply the « Changes » and to record the « Notices to Mariners » as soon as they are issued.

At the beginning of each volume, a page is set aside for noting the various « Changes » which have appeared since its publication and for recording the « Notices to Mariners » which were used for correcting the pages. The corrections for the annual « Lists of Lights » are published each week in tabular form in « Notices to Mariners » the corrective item contains complete and corrected information for a given light which is to be pasted over the corresponding item in the volume.

Before their issue from the Hydrographic Office, chart corrections are made by hand in accordance with the « Notices to Mariners » published since their date of printing; a record of the Notices is made in a section of the chart specially reserved for this purpose; purchasers of charts should consult the weekly « Notices to Mariners » for corrections subsequent to the date indicated by the rubber stamp. « Notices to Mariners » published by the Hydrographic Office contain for each group a list of corrected charts. Each Notice specifies the chart and the page of the « Sailing Direction » being corrected. The Notices are printed on one side of the page only to allow for their being cut up.

Correction records should be carefully maintained so that the date to which each publication is corrected will at all times be known.

Depending on the type of binding, the « Sailing Directions » are corrected at intervals of one to two years either by supplements or by change pages, which will be mailed on receipt of the coupon included for that purpose in the front of each volume. The more important corrections for the current year are published in « Notice to Mariners » and should be inserted on the proper page of the volume of « Sailing Directions » affected.

The list of U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office « Sailing Directions » for the whole world is given at the end of each volume; however, neither the year of edition, nor the year of publication are shown; the latter information is given in the quarterly « Notices to Mariners » which reproduce the same list, but with the additional indication of the date of edition and that of the latest Supplement or Change issued.

The Catalogue of Hydrographic Office Publications also gives the list of « Sailing Directions » with year of publication. Supplements and Summaries of Notices correcting each volume are generally issued each year.

### 3. — FRANCE

The « Notices to Mariners » (« Avis aux Navigateurs ») published by the Hydrographic Service of the French Navy are particularly drawn up for correcting navigational publications and for keeping them up-to-date. It should be noticed that for this purpose each French « Notice to Mariners » is drawn up in different parts. The first part relates to the « Lists of Lights » and the volumes of « Sailing Directions » relevant to the books concerned, and sets out as clearly and briefly as possible the information to be imparted. The second part of the Notice, in smaller print, indicates the corrections to be made to the charts concerned and gives for each of them the number order of the correction to be made. Should the Notice relate solely to the correction of a volume or to the correction of a chart, one or other of its two principal parts may be omitted.

Each group of « Notices to Mariners » starts off with a table of the volumes and charts corrected by the group. The tables give, for each volume, the numbers of the Notices (« Lists of Lights » or « Sailing Directions ») relating to the particular group, together with the page of the corrected « Sailing Direction » and the number of the corrected chart.

Groups 10, 20, 30, 40 and 52 or 53 of the Notices of the same year contain a cumulative table of all the Notices that have appeared in the preceding groups, for each one of the volumes of « Sailing Directions ».

In addition, the French Hydrographic Service publishes annually for each volume a pamphlet (« fascicule ») showing the corrections for each page. All new pamphlets replace and cancel the preceding numbers.

Group 14 of each year's « Notices to Mariners » contains the corrected annual list of French navigational publications on issue. This list gives the number and the year of issue of each publication in use at 1st April, together with the date of publication of the documents of corrections (pamphlets or addenda) that should accompany it. It also gives the number and the year of issue of the corresponding publication that is being annulled.

With such data at hand, the navigator has absolutely no physical work to do in writing, cutting out or pasting to keep any given French « Sailing Direction » up-to-date. When he uses any one of the numbered Directions in force — page 81 of Direction No. 421, for example — he must confirm, in the pamphlet of corrections to « Sailing Directions », the details relating to page 81. By referring to the last ten-weekly group received for the current year, and by glancing at the table of corrected volumes for the groups subsequent to this ten-weekly group, he will verify whether or not the page that he is consulting involves a correction.

This verification can be rather laborious for four consecutive documents — Directions, Pamphlets or Addenda, Ten-Weekly Groups and Weekly Groups — but it allows all the information relating to page 81 to be available without any written work having to be undertaken.

The correction of the document at the disposal of the navigator is therefore made directly by the Hydrographic Service as part of its own responsibility and at a relatively low cost, no matter how many publications are affected, the recurrence of the correction documents being thus automatically assured. It should be added that the French Hydrographic Service also publishes each April a Year-Book of chart corrections giving, for each chart, the date of its publication, the date of its latest edition or replacement, and the numbers of the relevant corrections and Notices that have appeared in the course of the year or up to 1st January. This Year-Book is accompanied by a pamphlet on the diagrammatic annexes (blocks) that have appeared during the year.

For fuller details, reference should be made to Work No. 1 published by the French Hydrographic Service entitled : « Information Concerning Nautical and Navigational Documents » (see Chapter on Correction Documents and their Use).

The French Hydrographic Service has, for many years, warned navigators against the habit of cutting up Notices and pasting them in volumes, or of indicating in pencil in the margins of pages the number of the relevant Notice. Experience has shown that, no matter how carefully this is done, this method is open to errors or omissions that can have annoying consequences; in addition, Notices pasted at the side of pages can become accidentally detached and lost.

Except for corrections to Radio signal Lists French « Notices to Mariners » are not designed to be cut up and are therefore printed on both sides of the page. The same applies to the annual pamphlets (fascicules) of corrections to publications.

The Catalogue of French Hydrographic Publications (Catalogue des Cartes, Plans et Ouvrages qui composent l'Hydrographie Française) gives the list of « Sailing Directions » on issue, with the year of publication. The catalogue is published usually every five years but the list of « Sailing Directions », as well as the number of the correction publication (fascicule) for each book, is shown in Group No. 14 of the « Avis aux Navigateurs » for each year. Also new publications issued are periodically announced through « Avis aux Navigateurs ».

### SUMMARY

Keeping up-to-date nautical publications is a very important task because as soon as issued, and even before, Charts « Sailing Directions », etc. are no longer up-to-date and changes to be made are, so to speak, continuous.

Consequently, Hydrographic Departments endeavour to facilitate for the user the keeping up-to-date of the whole collection of their volumes, because generally the user has several books to deal with.

A summary is given below which sets out the different operations to be performed by navigators (particularly in connection with the keeping up-to-date of « Sailing Directions ») and the methods by which these operations are applied at the present time by the Hydrographic Services of Great Britain, the United States of America and France to their collection of works covering the whole world.

(1) To ascertain if the book under consideration is the last one issued for the area covered.

(2) To ascertain if one or several supplements or summaries have been issued for the book.

(3) To know the date of the last supplement issued and if it is recapitulative.

(4) To know the numbers of all « Notices to Mariners » correcting the book since the publication of the supplement.

(5) To know, if possible, the numbers of the pages corrected by means of the « Notices to Mariners ».

(6) To know incidentally if the book will be the subject of revision within a short time.

(7) To know the relevant manner of applying the correction to the pages of the book.

(8) To know the method of recording these corrections in the book.

## GREAT-BRITAIN

- (1) The user shall consult the Catalogue the latter being brought up-to-date by means of « Notices to Mariners » issued.
- (2) The publication of Supplements is announced in « Notices to Mariners ». It shall be written by hand on the fly-leaf of the book to be used.
- (3) See (2).
- (4) In principle, those numbers should have been inscribed on the affected page of the book, as published in the « Notices to Mariners ».
- (5) See (4).
- (6) This revision is announced in « Notices to Mariners ».
- (7) By consulting the Supplement which is arranged in the order of the pages of the book and by writing by hand on the pages of the book the number of the « Notices to Mariners » of the current year which affect that page and to the texts of which reference should be made.
- (8) Only the publication of Supplements is recorded in the front page of the volume.

UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA

- (1), (2) and (3) The user should consult the first group of the « Notices to Mariners » for the actual quarter of the year which provides a list of the Sailing Directions », of their last Supplement and of the date of issue.
- (4) and (5). Supplements or « Changes pages » as well as the numbers of the « Notices to Mariners » relevant to the book should be written by the user, as soon as published, in a special table provided for beginning of the that purpose at the volume.
- (6) Revisions are announced periodically in « Notices to Mariners ».
- (7) By changing modified pages or inserting additional ones and by sticking in the book subsequent Notices for affected pages.
- (8) Are recorded on the front page.

## FRANCE

- (1), (2) and (3). This information is found readily in group No. 14 of *Avis aux Navigateurs* of the current year.
- (4) and (5) The numbers are listed (under the book number) in the last decadal group of « Notices to Mariners » for the current year.
- (6) This is occasionally announced in the *Avis aux Navigateurs* every month, as required, in the form of an alteration to the Catalogue.
- (7) It is not necessary to write corrections in advance in the book, neither to mention them in the margin. It suffices to consult the recapitulative tables of the book, for pages to be used at the very moment of the use of the book. There are found the numbers of all the Notices to be consulted for the desired pages.
- (8) This is not required with the French system.