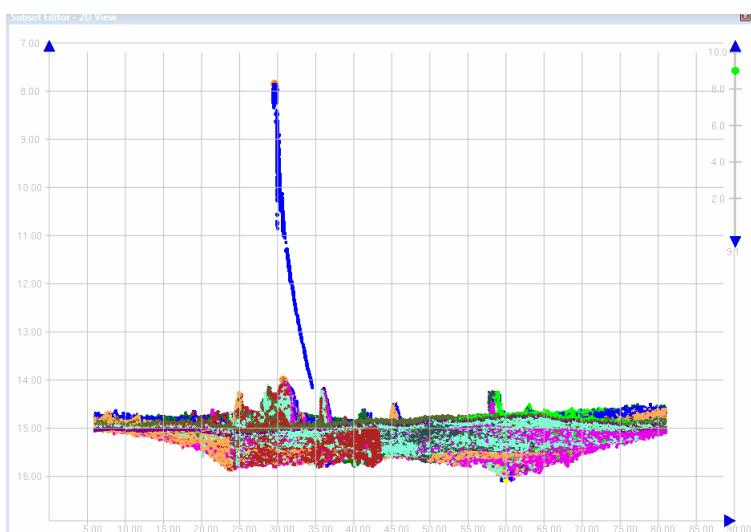


Paper for Consideration by NCWG
Fishing Nets attached to Wrecks

Submitted by:	UK Hydrographic Office
Executive Summary:	Multibeam surveys are now able to identify fishing nets attached to wrecks which can potentially give shoaler depths. Discuss experiences and policies.
Related Documents:	-
Related Projects:	-

Introduction / Background

The UK has recently received several multi-beam surveys that showed a much shoaler depth over some charted wrecks. The multi-beam images appeared to show possible fishing nets or submerged buoys that had become attached to the wreck, reducing the charted depth from 14m to 7.8m in one instance. The screenshot below shows an example of the multi-beam image of the wreck with a rope and buoy clearly attached to it. The problem for the survey processor or cartographer is that it may not be possible to identify where the fishing net starts and the wreck ends. In some instances a wire sweep of the wreck may be necessary to confirm the least depth of the wreck.



The UK reported this new reduced depth to its maritime authority to make them aware and to seek guidance on whether they wanted the shoaler depth to be shown on the chart. It was decided that the actual depth of the wreck rather than the net should be shown for the following reasons:

1. Snagged fishing gear over wrecks is a fairly common occurrence.
2. The prudent mariner will tend to avoid passing directly over a wreck because of the uncertainty.
3. The net in question may no longer be present or it may have changed position in the water column
4. Any tow would simply break the net.

Analysis / Discussion

What are the experiences of other nations and what is their policy regarding this.

Conclusions

As the quality of multi-beam surveys continues to improve the cartographer needs to be aware of potential shoaler depths being found over wrecks that are caused by fishing nets and ropes.

Recommendations

Justification and Impacts

Common understanding of this issue will help to ensure charting consistency.

Action required of NCWG

NCWG is invited to discuss and share experiences regarding this matter.