



National Report - Jamaica

**19th MEETING OF THE MESO-AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

**CARTAGENA, COLUMBIA
NOVEMBER 28-30, 2018**

MESO-AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SEA
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

19th Meeting – November 28-30, 2018

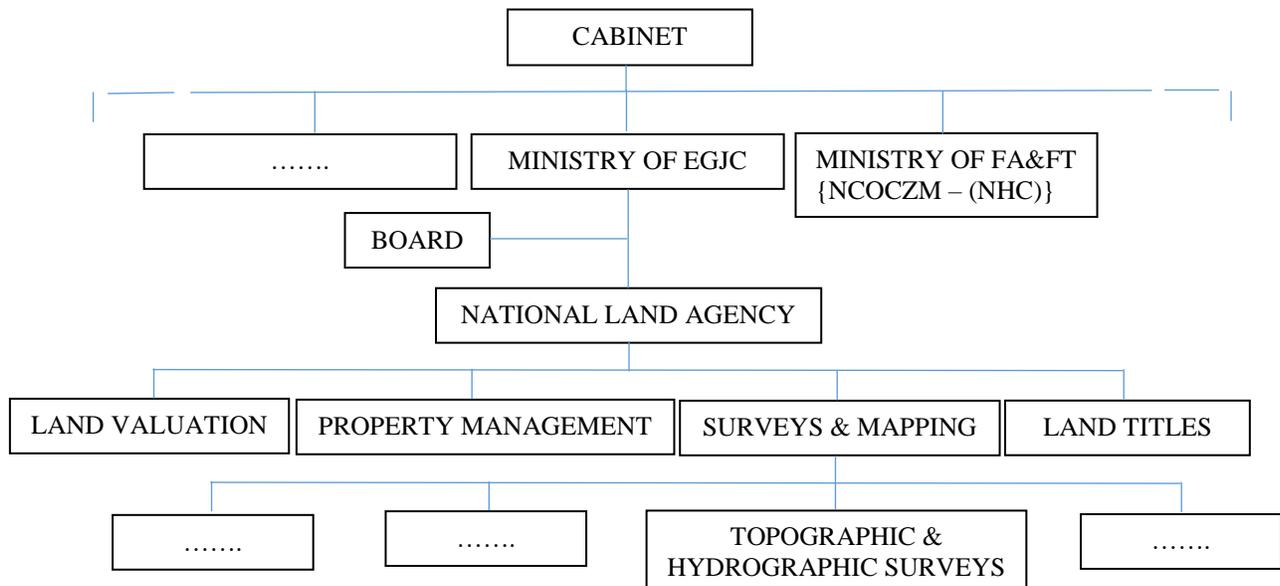
Cartagena, Columbia

National Report 2018 - Jamaica

1. HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE:

- **Reorganization**

Hydrographic Office – The Hydrographic Office for Jamaica is the National Land Agency of Jamaica. This is an Executive Agency, which since March of 2016 falls under the new Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (EGJC). The reporting arrangement and organizational structure is indicated in the chart below:



National Hydrographic Committee (NHC) – Established in 2006 as a committee of the National Council on Ocean and Coastal Zone Management (NCO CZM), a Cabinet advisory council in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (FA&FT).

IHO – Jamaica is a Member State of the IHO and the MACHC

2. SURVEYS:

- **Coverage of new surveys.**
Since the last MACHC meeting, investigative pre-dredge and post-dredge surveys were conducted in conjunction with the Port Authority and a private contractor for Montego Bay Harbour, Ocho Rios Pier, Falmouth Harbour and Port Antonio Pier.
These surveys were done as part of the improvement of the major ports.



- **New technologies and/or equipment**
 - ❖ The NLA has acquired a new MKIII single beam Echosounder, a sound velocity profiler and a dual frequency transducer.
 - ❖ The UKHO under the Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme (CME) in the near future, has committed to providing a

Multibeam Echosounder plus the related devices and software on the acquisition of a survey vessel by the NLA.

- **New Vessel**

Currently, negotiations are underway with the Jamaican Defense Force Coast Guard, to outfit and make available a suitable vessel, dedicated to carrying out hydrographic survey work. Surveys are now being carried out using hired vessels of opportunity.

3. CHARTS AND PUBLICATIONS:

a. Charts

Charts for Jamaica are produced by the UKHO, under cooperative arrangement. The Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ) and the NLA provide data for new charts/chart updating and other hydrographic products as it becomes available. ENCs and RNCs for Jamaica are produced by the UKHO in accordance with IHO transfer standards for digital hydrographic data

US charting agencies also produce a number of charts for general use in Jamaica's maritime space.

b. Publications

- New publications
No update on new publications is available at this time.
- Updated publications
Information for updating of hydrographic publications is routinely dispatched to the UKHO.

4. MSI

- In June, 2013 the National Hydrographic Committee (NHC) revisited the issue of MSI reporting procedures based on reports to the MACHC that there was a lack of reports from Jamaica and other regional countries to the NGA. The revised MSI reporting procedures and guidelines implemented by the National Hydrographic Committee (NHC) in 2013 continues to operate effectively.

The Jamaica Defense Force Coast Guard (JDFCG) is the focal point for the broadcast of short term Safety Messages on the internationally assigned marine radio frequencies and for all e-mail alerts to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) for NAVAREA IV.

The Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ) has responsibility for disseminating long term messages to the print media, the charting agency, shipping agencies and to the JDFCG for transmission to the NGA.

At the end of October, eleven Notice to Mariners were promulgated by the PAJ.

The Maritime Authority of Jamaica (MAJ) monitors and coordinates MSI activities. Both the MAJ and the NLA are copied on all messages promulgated to facilitate reporting requirements.

- **New infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan.**
No update is available at this time

5. CAPACITY BUILDING

- **Training**
- Currently, one of our Hydrographic staff is in training in South Korea for the Category B course in Hydrography which will be completed in December 2018. Our next goal is access training in the Category A course in 2019.
- **Status of national, bilateral, multilateral or regional development projects with hydrographic component. (In progress, planned, under evaluation or study)**

Jamaica continues to benefit from assistance from the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO), under the UK's Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme (CME). This is in the form of comprehensive, modern hydrographic surveys of two of Jamaica's major economically and ecologically important maritime areas – Kingston Harbour and Portland Bight (see **ANNEX B**).

These surveys were completed in January 2018 and Jamaica received the data early November from the UKHO and training will be done early 2019 on managing the data received.

6. C-55 LATEST UPDATE

- There has been no change to the status of Jamaica's hydrographic coverage and the C-55 database reflects the current status (see **ANNEX A**).

7. OCEANOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES

- Rehabilitation of Refuge Cay (Port Royal Mangrove) from Kingston Harbour pollution. This involved removal of solid waste and installation of solid waste barriers, in addition to replanting of seedling. To date **8200** garbage bags have been removed from Refuge Cay.
- Research on Marine Debris: Micro-plastics in the Kingston Harbour with emphasis on Mangrove areas was carried out by University of the West Indies Marine science lab. The results show that 25% of plankton's population consist of micro-plastics which are eaten fish, oysters and filter feeders.
- The ongoing monitoring of tide levels at Port Royal, Montego Bay and Port Antonio is done by Meteorology Office.

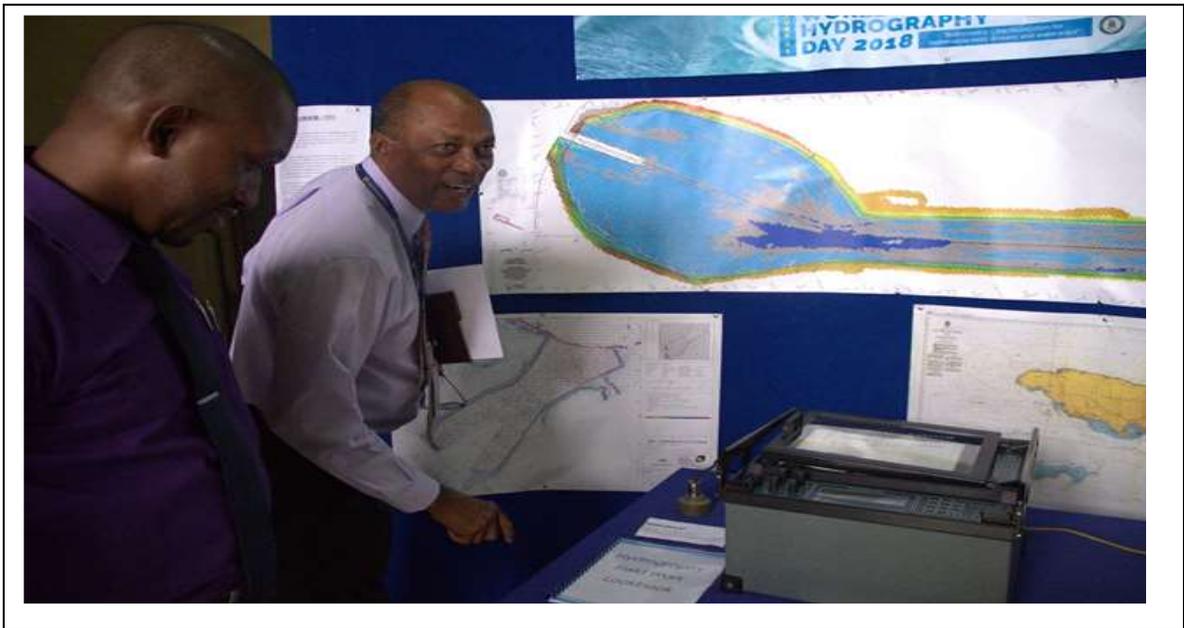
8. Hydrographic Awareness

NLA Celebrates World Hydrography Day on June 21, 2018

- ❖ A booth was set up in the customer foyer of the Surveys and Mapping Division, with a display of the projects previously undertaken and equipment used.



- ❖ Hydrographic Staff interacted with internal and external customers throughout the day to educate them on the importance of Hydrographic Survey to the Jamaican economy.



❖ World Hydrography Day was also featured on the NLA website so that the rest of Jamaicans and the international community are made aware of Hydrography and its relevance to our development.
<http://www.nla.gov.jm/content/world-hydrography-day-2018>

9. CONCLUSIONS

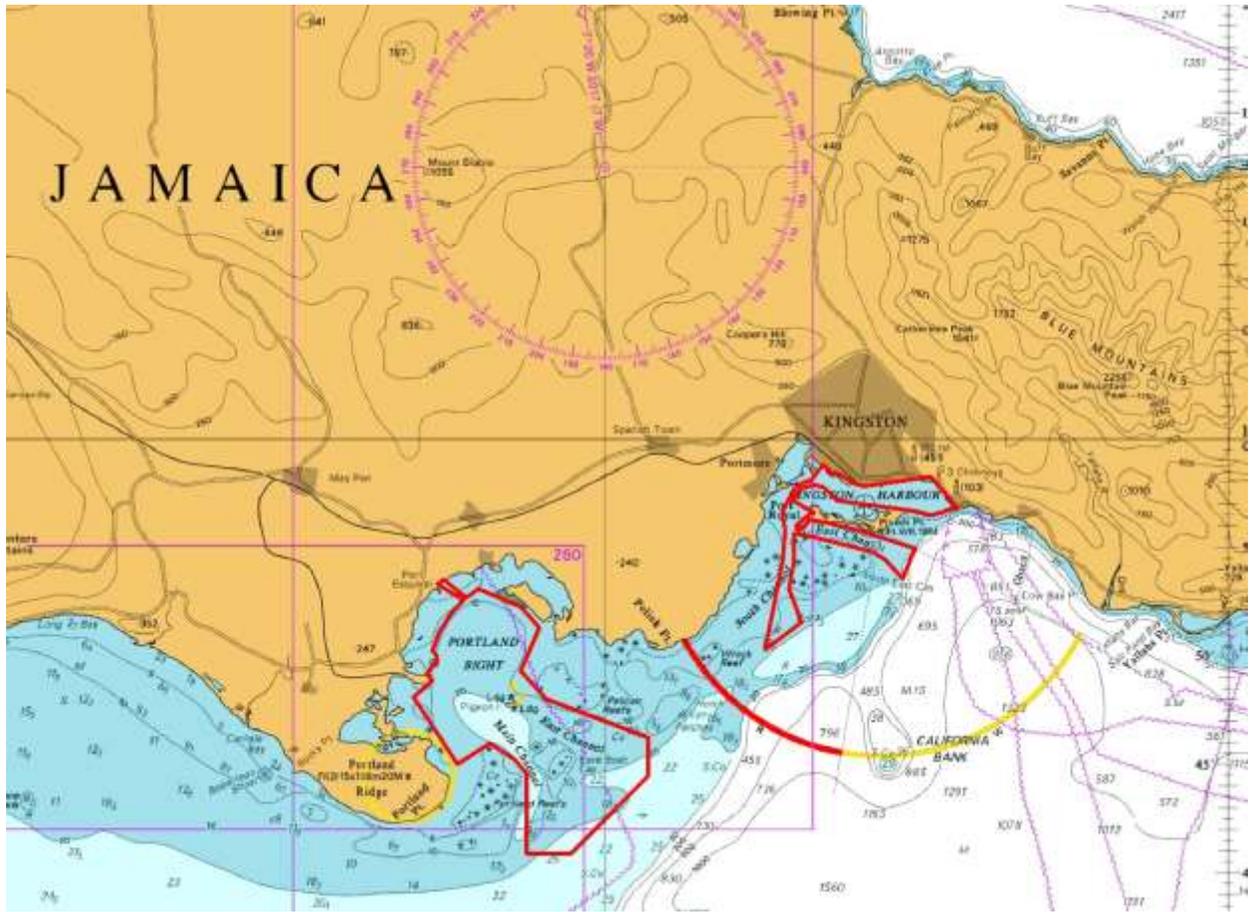
Jamaica's hydrographic office, the NLA, is making strides to develop a systematic approach to improving Hydrography in our island. We are working on developing a National Hydrographic Survey Plan. As such we are on the cusp of going into deeper waters, and we are thankful for all the assistance that we have received thus far. We look forward to the continued support from of IHO Member States, the MACHC and our bi-lateral partners.

ANNEX A

C-55_2017 JAMAICA

Field to display: 31 (change this field only)				Comments on Charts: Much of the paper chart coverage was converted to WGS84 datum in 2004.
Country: Jamaica				
Region: B				
Last updated: 16/05/2007				
Provided by:				Comments on Surveys: Top priority is modern survey with sidescan sonar of the shoals on the S coast and the banks to eastwards.
Charts	Passage	Coastal	Port	
INT	100	100	100	
RNC	100	100	100	
ENC	100	100	100	
Paper metric	0			
Paper satellite	0			
Surveys	Adequate	Resurvey	No survey	
0-200m	40	60	0	
> 200m	15	0	85	
MSI	Y/N	Comments:		
Local warning				
Coastal warning				
Nav warning				
Port warning				
GMDSS	Y/N	Comments:		
Master Plan	YES			
Area A1	YES			
Area A2	N/A	MF transmissions are ineffective in the Caribbean due to climatic conditions and A2 coverage therefore cannot be achieved.		
Area A3	NO			
NAVTEX	NO			
SafetyNet	NO			

ANNEX B



UKHO – CME Hydrographic Survey Areas