Hydrographic Surveys Past, Present and Future in Jamaica

Presented to:

GEBCO Symposium: Map the Gaps
Busan, South Korea

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November 15, 2017
GEBCO Symposium: Map the Gaps

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Presentation Outline

- The Island of Jamaica
- Hydrographic Beginnings
- Post Independence
- Jamaica’s obligations and Current Situation
- Joint and Proposed Surveys
- Future Prospects for Hydrography in Jamaica
The Island of Jamaica

Population: 2,881,000
Area: 10,991km²

1655 - 1962 Jamaica was a British Colony
The Island of Jamaica

Hydrographic Surveys using Lead Line by British Directorate of Surveys

Independence from England 1962

Joint Surveys with Canadian Hydrographic Office to train Jamaican Surveyors in Basic Hydrographic Surveying

Two Hydrographic Survey Launches donated by Canada to Jamaica
Post Independence

1962
- Independence from England
- Hydrographic work by Survey Department

1988
- First vessel lost during Hurricane Gilbert

1995
- Second vessel decommissioned due to high repair costs

2001
- National Land Agency (NLA)- Hydrographic Section

2006
- National Hydrographic Committee formed
Jamaica’s obligations and Current Situation

International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) in April 2000

Responsibilities are set out in:

- United Nations Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)

Jamaica’s obligations and Current Situation

Exploitation of resources within its EEZ
Jamaica’s obligations and Current Situation

Tourism and Recreation

Coastal Engineering
Jamaica’s obligations and Current Situation

Oil and Gas Exploration
Jamaica’s obligations and Current Situation

Management of protected areas
Jamaica’s obligations and Current Situation

Location of the Hydrographic Survey Section
Jamaica’s obligations and Current Situation

Hydrographic Staff Compliment:

- Chief Hydrographer
- Senior Hydrographer
- Hydrographic Surveyor
- Assistant Hydrographer x2
- Survey Technician (vacant)
- Coxswain (vacant)
- Boatman (vacant)
Jamaica’s obligations and Current Situation

Equipment and Chart Production:

- Jamaica’s Hydrographic Charts are produced by the UKHO
- No dedicated survey vessel
- Single beam Echo Sounder and GNSS receivers
- Uses Hypack Software
- No tide gauge or sound velocity profiler
- No multibeam or side scan sonar
Jamaica’s obligations and Current Situation
Falmouth Harbour
October 2015

Port Antonio Harbour
September 2015

Portland Bight
January 2018

Kingston Harbour
November 2017
Future Prospects for Hydrography in Jamaica

Hydrography can be done in a sustainable way when:

- Policy holders recognize the importance of Hydrographic Data
- Activities are Mandated by policy changes
- Stakeholders Pool their resources to fund the work or;
- Government provides the funding to the NLA
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End of Presentation