

HYDROGRAPHY GUIDELINES FOR OFFSHORE DEVELOPERS

The following guidelines are intended to aid developers when submitting consent applications which impact upon hydrography. These guidelines should be read in conjunction with MGN 543.



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency

Survey Requirements

All hydrographic surveys should provide full seafloor coverage that meets the requirements of IHO S44ed5 Order 1a. Particular attention should be given to horizontal and vertical sounding accuracy, together with target detection requirements and, we would request that all data and reports are passed on to the UKHO for the update of the UK's nautical charts and publications.

When to survey

In order to establish a baseline, confirm the safe navigable depth, monitor seabed mobility and to identify underwater hazards, detailed and accurate hydrographic surveys are required of the development at the following stages:

- i. Pre-consent: The site and its immediate environs extending to 500m outside of the development area shall be undertaken as part of the licence and/or consent application. The survey shall include all proposed cable route(s).
- ii. Post-construction: Cable route(s).
- iii. Post-decommissioning of all or part of the development: Cable route(s) and the area extending to 500m from the installed generating assets area.

The development may result in an alteration to maritime traffic patterns as vessels seek alternative passage around the installed generating assets area. Where this is the case, it may be considered necessary that a hydrographic survey of these alternate passages and their immediate environs extending to 500m be undertaken. MCA can provide guidance here if required.

What to deliver

It is requested that the bathymetry data be delivered in the following formats:

- All data should be rendered in digital form. Ideally, this should be in one of the following formats: Caris HDCS directory (i.e. "HIPS"); Generic Sensor Format or Fledermaus PFM; or ASCII xyz.
- Spurious data should be cleaned from the final, delivered, dataset. Digital data should have rejected soundings included, but flagged as deleted. The method used in any data-cleaning (e.g. Shoal or Median Biased) should be clearly stated.
- Digital data should be full density (i.e. prior to any gridding, binning or tinning being applied).
- If gridded datasets have been created then these should also be included.
- The soundings should be reduced using observed tides (not predicted tides from Tide Tables).
- Depths should be referenced to UKHO Chart Datum for the area.

A report should be submitted with the survey data that describes how the data was gathered and processed and should include:

- A list of the equipment and software used, and the personnel involved.
- How positioning equipment was set up, calibrated and used.
- How the echo-sounder transducer was set up and levelled, together with all sensor offsets.
- Details of the horizontal datum to which the positions are referred (or the grid, if appropriate).
- How tides were measured, how the tide pole or tide gauge was levelled and how depths were reduced to chart datum.

On completion of each survey, the bathymetry data and reports shall be delivered to the MCA. The MCA is responsible for collecting and supplying data to the UKHO to update nautical charts and publications for the purposes of navigation safety. Because of this we would always ask that the data and reports are also sent to the UKHO. Any commercial sensitivity of your data will be respected at all times.

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