

POST-CONSTRUCTION HYDROGRAPHIC GUIDELINES FOR OFFSHORE DEVELOPERS



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency

The following guidelines are intended to aid developers when performing post-construction hydrographic surveys. These guidelines should be read in conjunction with MGN 543 and the 'Hydrography Guidelines for Offshore Developers' 1-page document produced by the MCA.

These guidelines represent the MCA requirements and shall be complementary to the hydrographic requirements outlined in any Licence Conditions.

When and What to survey

For post-construction surveys, it is considered necessary that detailed and accurate hydrographic surveys are undertaken at each of the following stages:

- Post-construction: Cable route(s).
- On a pre-established periodicity during the life of the development as outlined in any License Conditions
- Covering specific areas as outlined in any License Conditions
- Post-decommissioning of all or part of the development: Cable route(s) and the area extending to 500m from the installed generating assets area.

Where shipping corridors are formed within or adjacent to the Agreement for Lease, the requirement for hydrographic surveys shall be referred to the MCA and undertaken on a case by case basis.

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.

What to deliver

On completion of each survey, the bathymetry data and reports shall be delivered to the MCA. The formats and contents of the data and reports are described in the 'Hydrography Guidelines for Offshore Developers' 1-page document produced by 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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