

MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LANDS
HYDROGRAPHIC UNIT

1. The Hydrographic Unit at the Ministry of Housing and Lands deals with applied sciences concerning the measurement and description of the physical features of oceans, seas, coastal areas, lakes and rivers, as well as with the prediction of their change over time, for the primary purpose of safety of navigation and in support of all other marine activities, including economic development, security and defence, scientific research, and environmental protection. The Hydrographic Unit being the nodal agency for hydrographic surveys has a very well established organisational set up. Under the assistance provided by the Government of India, the Unit is presently being supervised by a Commander of the Indian Navy. (<http://housing.gov.mu>)

2. **Objectives.** The main objectives of the Hydrographic Unit are:-

- (a) to set up hydrographic infrastructure;
- (b) to carry out hydrographic survey of ports and passes;
- (c) to provide quality training in the field of hydrography;
- (d) to develop and strengthen hydrographic research;
- (e) to provide nautical information to the international marine community for safe navigation; and
- (f) to provide hydrographic and geodetic data for the delimitation of maritime zones.

3. **Safety of Marine Navigation and Charts.** Safe navigation requires an accurate and up to date navigational chart, the basic and indispensable instrument of marine navigation. In April 2009, a protocol for the sale of Navigational Charts was signed with the Government of India. Six new navigational charts have been produced and are on sale at this Ministry. The list of charts is as follows: -

- (a) Approaches to Cargados Carajos Shoals
- (b) Agalega Island
- (c) Port Louis and Approaches
- (d) Mathurin Harbour
- (e) Approaches to Port Mathurin Harbour

(f) Grand Bay and Grande Riviere Noire Bay

All charts are up-to-date/corrected as per Notices to Mariners issued by National Hydrographic Office, Republic of India from date of publication up to March 2014. Notices to Mariners contain important information concerning safety of navigation at sea. All corrected charts are ready for sale at the Cartography Section of this Ministry @ 33 dollars per chart.

4. **Hydrographical Measurements.** It includes the tidal, current and wave information apart from bottom measurements, with particular emphasis on those marine geographical features that pose a hazard to navigation such as rocks, shoals, reefs and other features that obstruct ship passage. Bottom measurements also include collection of the nature of the bottom as it pertains to effective anchoring.

5. **Contract Surveys.** The newly established Hydrographic Unit is fully geared to undertake surveys on contract basis for non-government organisations at Mauritius. These surveyed will be conducted on payment basis. An application form for request of survey is available on our website. (<http://housing.gov.mu>)

6. The contact details of Hydrographic Unit and Cartography Section are as follows: -

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