



THE UNITED KINGDOM
HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE

The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office

History

1795 Founded by Royal Warrant - King George III	1808 Under the second Hydrographer, Thomas Hurd, charts sold to the public for the first time	1833 Tide Tables first published	1939 WWII Printing moved to Taunton (good links with Naval Ports)	1970s Last copper engraved charts published. Metrication programme expanded.	1996 Admiralty Raster Chart Service (ARCS) launched. The UKHO becomes a Trading Fund within the MOD, allowing sharper customer focus. IHO agreed product specification for ENC's	2003 Ritchie Building to house the new Repository and Archive completed. Opened by HRH Prince Andrew	2005 Printing presses again upgraded to allow rapid plate production. Print on demand capacity expanded. UKHO incorporates IC-ENC and PRIMAR ENC cells within the Admiralty ENC and ECDIS Service
1796 Existing chart holdings brought together and catalogued	1829 Sailing Directions to accompany charts first appeared	1855 1,981 charts published. 65,000 charts being sold, and 67,500 issued to the fleet	1867 Programme of modernisation and metrication of charts begun. Evolution and acceptance of international charting	1993 Able to capture all data on metric charts in digital format. Admiralty Leisure charts become popular	2000 Advent of online services. New printing press allows introduction of computer-to-plate technology		
1795 Office of Hydrographer to the Admiralty established and Alexander Dalrymple FRS appointed as the first Hydrographer to the Admiralty	1825 An early chart catalogue published, listing 736 charts	1834 Admiralty Notices to Mariners first published	1953 First purpose-built survey ship - HMS Vidal	1980s New technology enables digitising of soundings, text and simple line work in support of chart production	1997 First official ENC produced in January	2004 Print on demand introduced, allowing improved supply	
1800 First new chart created	1829 Fourth Hydrographer, Rear-Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort KCB, FRS, developed the Office and its work. Chart coverage expanded and improved	1930s UKHO takes on additional commitments in oceanography and meteorology. Printing of charts brought in-house	1968 UKHO moves to Taunton	1995 UKHO celebrates its bicentenary (200 years)	2001 Roles of National Hydrographer and Hydrographer of the Navy divided, after a new Chief Executive appointed at the UKHO	2008 Admiralty World magazine launched, bringing the latest news, views and reviews to the mariner worldwide	

www.ukho.gov.uk