

REPORTING OF NAVIGATIONAL DANGERS

Appeal to all Mariners

1. Mariners at sea whilst on passage, or whilst entering / leaving ports / harbours and other waterways, are requested to look out for new or suspected dangers to navigation, changes in aids to navigation, or corrections to published charts and Sailing Directions. Whenever any such changes / dangers are observed, mariners are requested to notify the same to the Chief Hydrographer to the Government of India at the following address: -

National Hydrographic Office
107-A, Rajpur Road,
Dehradun - 248001
(UTTARAKHAND), INDIA
e-mail: - inho@navy.gov.in, msis-inho@navy.gov.in
Fax No.: +91-135- 2748373
WEB: www.hydrobharat.gov.in

Instructions for filling up IH 102

2. Kindly follow the instructions below in order to help the Hydrographic Office (the recipient) to quickly issue NAVAREA warning / Notice to Mariners for the benefit of all other mariners at sea.

Position Reporting

3. Accurate position or knowledge of position error is of great importance. Latitude and Longitude should only be used to specify position details when they have been fixed by GPS or Astronomical Observations. A full description of the method, equipment, time and datum (WGS 84/ Everest/Other) used should be given. When position is defined by sextant angles or bearings (true or magnetic to be specified), more than two bearings should be used in order to provide a redundancy check. Distances observed by Radar should be corrected for index errors. Where position is derived after the event, from other observations and/or Dead Reckoning, the methodology of deriving the position should be included.

4. **Paper Charts.** A copy/tracing of largest scale chart is the best medium for forwarding details, the alterations and additions being shown thereon in red, but adequate details from the chart must be traced in black ink to enable the amendments to be fitted correctly.

5. **ENCs.** A Screen shot of largest scale usage band ENC with the alterations and additions being shown thereon in red. If it is to report an issue with the display of an ENC, a screen shot of the affected cell should be sent along with details of the ECDIS make and version in use at the time.

Depth Reporting

6. When soundings are obtained using echo sounders, the echo sounding trace should be duly annotated with date, times, position, depths, etc., and forwarded with the IH102. It is important to state whether the echo sounder is set to register depths below the surface or below the keel; in the latter case the vessel's draught should be given. Time and date should be given in order that corrections for the height of the tide may be made where necessary. The make, name and type of echo sounder should also be given.

7. For modern echo sounders that use electronic 'range gating', care should be taken that the correct range scale and appropriate gate width are in use. Older electro-mechanical echo sounders frequently record signals from echoes received back after one or more rotations of the stylus have been completed. Thus with a set whose maximum range is 500m, an echo recorded at 50m may be from depths of 50m, 550m or even 1050m. Soundings recorded beyond the set's nominal range can usually be recognised by the following:

- (a) the trace being weaker than normal for the depth recorded;
- (b) the trace passing through the transmission line;
- (c) the feathery nature of the trace.

As a check that apparently shoal soundings are not due to echoes received beyond the set's nominal range, soundings should be continued until reasonable agreement with charted soundings is reached. However, soundings received after one or more rotations of the stylus can still be useful and should be submitted if they show significant differences from the charted depths. Efforts should be made to identify and negate false echoes if any. The Mariners Handbook (NP100) and Notice 15 Special Edition of Notice to Mariners may be consulted.

8. Reports which cannot be confirmed or are lacking in certain details should not be withheld. Shortcomings should be stressed and any firm expectation of being able to check the information on a succeeding voyage should be notified.

9. Reports of **shoal soundings**, uncharted dangers and aids to navigation out of order should, at the mariner's discretion, also be made by radio to the nearest coast radio station. The draught of modern tankers in such that any uncharted depth under 30 meters or 15 fathoms may be of sufficient importance to justify a radio message.

10. Changes to Port information should be forwarded on Form IH.102A together with form IH.102. Form 102 A contains the information required for Sailing Directions and should be used as an *aide memoir*. The Mariners Handbook, NP100, Chapter 8 gives general instructions. Where there is insufficient space on the forms an additional sheet should be used.

Please Note: - An acknowledgement will be sent by National Hydrographic Office for Hydrographic Notes received. When a Notice to Mariners is issued, the sender's ship or name is quoted as authority unless the information is also received from other authorities/foreign Notices to Mariners. Further communication from National Hydrographic Office to the sender of Hydrographic Notes will only be necessary to verify unusual features or abnormal values reported.

