

MARINER'S OBLIGATION AND A CHART MAKER'S PLEA

Observing changes at sea proactively and reporting them promptly to the concerned charting agency, is an obligation that all mariners owe to the entire maritime community towards SOLAS. Mariners are requested to notify the Chief Hydrographer to the Government of India at the above mentioned address/fax number/ E mail address immediately on discovering new or suspected dangers to navigation, changes/defects pertaining to navigational aids, and short comings in Indian charts/publications. The Hydrographic Note [Form IH – 102] is a convenient form to notify such changes. Specimen form is attached at Section IX with this notice. Also visit our website for downloading and filling up instructions for Hydrographic Note.

**Chief Hydrographer
to the Government of India**



EXPLANATORY NOTES

Corrections to Charts and Publications. Section I comprises List of Charts affected by the notices contained in this edition. Whereas sections II and III contain information for correcting the charts and publications. Mariners should insist on corrected charts from their chart distributors/agents.

- (a) Geographical positions given are in the horizontal datum of the current edition of the chart, unless otherwise stated.
- (b) Bearings are true, reckoned clockwise from 000° to 359°. Bearings to lights are from seaward.
- (c) Symbols referred to, are those shown on the chart INT 1 (5020).
- (d) Alterations to depth contours, deletion of depths to make way for new detail, etc; are not normally mentioned, unless they have some navigational significance.
- (e) Blocks and notes, if any, accompanying the Notices in Sections II and III are placed after Section IX.

Temporary and Preliminary Notices. These are indicated by (T) and (P) respectively after the Notice number and are placed in Section III. SI Nos. of those in force are published quarterly on 01 Jan, 01 Apr, 01 Jul and 01 Oct, and their text is published in Annual Edition of Indian Notices to Mariners. These corrections are not inserted on charts before they are issued to the users. They should be inserted in pencil, by the user, on receipt.

Source of Information. A star preceding the number of a Notice indicates that the notice is promulgated by INHO based on original information received.

Sailing Directions. Corrections for the Sailing Directions (Pilots) are given in Section VI.

Lights. Corrections to Indian list of Lights are given in Section VII, where affected Light List number is quoted.

- (a) These corrections should be incorporated as per instructions given on page XI of the list of Lights.
- (b) Such correction notices to list of lights may be published in either an earlier or a later Edition of N to M than the Edition containing the Notice to the chart correction.
- (c) The range of a light given is its nominal range. Its geographical range is given in parenthesis only if it is less than the nominal range.
- (d) A star indicates that the corresponding field is to be amended and all stars indicate that new light is to be inserted.

Radio Signals. The corrections in Section VIII should be cut and pasted in the appropriate volume of the List of Radio Signals.

Radio Navigational Warnings.

- (a) These are broadcast as serially numbered NAVAREA warnings by the concerned NAVAREA coordinator through GMDSS and Area Radio Broadcasts.
- (b) They contain important information affecting navigational safety, which cannot await the publication of the next edition of N to M.
- (c) It should be borne in mind that they may be based on reports which cannot always be verified before promulgation.
- (d) It is therefore necessary to be selective, and promulgate only the more important warnings to avoid over loading users; the less important information is included in the forthcoming edition of N to M or the Chart/publication concerned.

Laws and Regulations. While in the interest of the safety of shipping, the Hydrographic Office makes every endeavor to include in its publications details of the laws and regulations of all countries pertaining to navigation, it must be clearly understood: -

- (a) That no liability whatsoever can be accepted for failure to publish details of any particular law or regulation and
- (b) That publication of details of a law or regulation is solely for the safety and convenience of shipping and implies no recognition of the International validity of the law or regulation.

Correction of Charts and Publications by the Users. Notices to Mariners contain important information concerning safety of navigation at sea, hence, they should be used to keep the specified charts and publications up-to-date.

Reliance on Charts and Associated Publications. While every effort is made by the Hydrographic Office to ensure the accuracy of the information on Charts and Publications before they are published, it should be appreciated that it may not always be complete and up-to-date. The mariner must be the final judge for the reliance he can place on the information available, bearing in mind his particular circumstances, local pilotage guidance and judicious use of available navigational aids.

Use of Global Positioning System (WGS 84) positions.

- (a) The positions of hydrographic objects shown on most of the Indian charts and publications are in Everest datum. However, the positions of vessels obtained from Global Positioning System (GPS) are on World Geodetic System 1984 datum. There will always exist a difference in the position values obtained by visual fixing (Everest Datum) and GPS position (WGS 84 datum).
- (b) Wherever these differences have been ascertained, their average values are published as a Cautionary Note on the chart concerned, as shifts in Latitude and Longitude. Whilst plotting GPS positions on charts, the shift values as given on the chart must be applied, before making any assessment of the navigational situation vis-à-vis the other charted information.
- (c) These datum shift values are not uniform, particularly in areas off Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands, as these places are not linked to mainland network (Everest datum). Mariners are advised to use alternate source of position information such as Visual or Radar, particularly when closing the shore or navigating in the vicinity of dangers.

Source Data on Charts. All Indian charts contain specific information on their source of hydrographic data. In areas where the source data is very old, incomplete and less reliable, the mariner must use such charts with prudence. Mariner should always use the largest scale charts available for the area. Apart from being the most detailed, the larger scale charts are usually corrected first. Hydrographic information may be sparse on small scale charts. On such charts, a charted shoal may be in error as regards position, least depth and extent. Uncharted dangers may also exist, particularly in areas away from well-established routes. Mariners must exercise due caution.

Further Guidance. The Mariner's Hand Book (NP 100) gives full explanation on the use of charts and the type of information contained on charts. In their own interest, all users of charts should refer to it.