



The Wreck Office at the United Kingdom Hydrographic Department and overseas hydrographic offices

The primary tasks of the Wreck Office

The examination and recording of wreck information.

- The initiation of Notices to Mariners.
- The implementation of Hydrographic Instructions so that HM surveying ships can pursue an annual planned programme of wreck sweeping and searching.
- The maintenance of a wreck information service for commercial, private, MOD (Royal Navy) and other Government department enquiries.

All marine casualties that occur in continental shelf areas are considered, with the following geographical exceptions:

- United States coastal waters, including Alaska, the Aleutian and the Hawaiian Islands.
- Australian coastal waters where the Hydrographic Department has reciprocal charting arrangements with the Australian and New Zealand Hydrographic Authorities.

Marine casualties in deep waters are not completely ignored, but generally only information that can be easily assimilated into the recording system is considered, i.e. where a sinking position (definite or approximate) is known.

Wreck Information

For the maintenance of a wreck information service the section uses a geographical card index which contains the histories of approximately 70,000 wrecks.

An alphabetical index is also used and this contains the names and positions of approximately 15,000 wrecks and provides another method of determining the history of a wreck when only the name is known.

For any inquiry, the Section attempts to provide the following details of each wreck:

- positive geographical location or reported sinking position by latitude and longitude.
- name
- nationality
- type
- tonnage
- dimensions
- details of date lost
- cargo at time of loss
- owners at time of loss
- least Depth over wreck
- depth in scour (if any)
- Decca co-ordinates for details of fix at or over the wreck
- orientation of wreck
- latest survey authority and date

It should be noted that if a wreck has not been positively identified by a responsible authority, then the best available information may only consist of an approximate position and the date that the wreck was first recorded.

It should also be noted that the card index commenced in 1913 and is therefore of little value for information concerning any casualty that occurred prior to this century, although wrecks of archaeological interest are now being recorded.

Requests for wreck information

The details of all known wrecks around the British Isles are contained in a computer data bank within the Hydrographic Department. All the wrecks are stored in latitude and longitude order and are supplied to customers in the form of a computer printout (see attachment) together with an abbreviation sheet.

Only a few wrecks have details of observed Decca readings. However, due to the popular demand for Decca positions it has been possible to compute theoretical Decca readings which have been added to the existing records for the benefit of all enquiries.

Any member of the general public who wishes to obtain wreck information is advised to use the following procedure:

- 1) Purchase a copy of either the Home or World Edition of the Catalogue of Admiralty Charts from any chart agent and select and obtain the largest scale chart available for the geographical area of interest.
- 2) Establish the position of any wrecks of interest and latitude and longitude as shown on the Admiralty Chart or give name and approximate location, or decide on the area of interest- see below:
 - a. 6.4 Metre wreck in position 54 11'23"N, 01'59"E on chart 1929.
 - b. SS St Anchester in Lyme Bay, South Coast England.
 - c. All wrecks within 52 00'00"N, 07 56'00W, 08 43'34"W.

- d. All wrecks within 20 metres between Minehead and Watchet.
- e. All wrecks within 15 miles of the coast between Flamborough Head and Whitby.

Write giving the above details to the following address:

Wreck Office

United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
Admiralty Way
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2DN

☎ +44 (0)1823 337900 ext 3308/3701

✉ wrecks@ukho.gov.uk

Search fees, for providing the above information, will normally have to be prepaid, the fee being commensurate with the work involved. The current rate of VAT will also be added to all search fees customers residing in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Quotations for providing the wreck information required will be dispatched in receipt of the initial request.

Remittance for accepted quotations should be made by cheque or postal order (Bank Transfer of International Money Order for customers abroad) and made payable to the Hydrographic Department, Taunton.

The Wreck Office is continually trying to update and correct its records, from all sources, for the benefit of all users. To this end we welcome additional or correctional material to amend our records from anyone requesting wreck information and are authorised to reduce or waive search fees for subsequent enquiries for this service, if information received has proved of value.

Square Space	82
Latitude	N 54 15 20.00
Longitude	W 000 18 30.00
Name	ELI
Date Sunk	25 12 1984
Tonnage	1,107 G
Nationality	NORWEGIAN
Dimensions	LENGTH-299, BEAM-35, DRAUGHT-16
Cargo	1,568 TONS OF COAL
Quality of Fix	
Horizontal Datum Type	STEAMSHIP
Charts (navigational)	1200, 1191, 129(M)
Charts (miscellaneous)	
Chart Symbol	
Depth Quality	DW FTHMS FT DW MRTS
Buoy	
Circumstances of Loss	MINDED, OWNED AT TIME OF LOSS BY P LINDOE.
Surveying Details	H420/15 ABOUT 38 DEG E 3.5M FROM SCARBOROUGH ROCK POSN SWEEP AND WRECK LOCATED.H6391/19 HMS EILEEN REPORTS HAVING SCRAPED AN OBSTRUCTION IN THIS POSN ON 20/12/1914 AND ELI WAS SUNK 25/12/14 POSN SWEEP AND LOCATED.H492/72 19.2.73 LOCATED USING SIDE SCAN SONAR DURING CABLE ROUTE SURVEY BY CS PETER FABER. FIXED BY DECCA (U) POSN APPROXIMATE DUE TO POOR DECCA COVERAGE. LIES 115/295 DEG 40 MTRS LONG (NCA) (K6544/1&29)

Wrecks in other parts of the world are listed, also latitude and longitude order, on the index cards. Details of any of these wrecks are usually sent in the form of photocopies of these cards, or typewritten lists if the numbers are few. Please note that there are no wreck charts that are available to the general public. However, all wrecks that are of navigational significance are shown on the largest scale Admiralty charts- those that are uncharted can be plotted onto charts using the latitude and longitude.

Countries with established hydrographic offices publishing charts of their national waters

Argentina

Servicio de Hidrografia Naval
Edificio Almirante Juan Pablo Sáenz Valiente
Avenida Montes de Oca 2124
Capital Federal, República Argentina
☎ +54 (11) 4301-0061/67
🌐 [Website](#)
✉ shn@hidro.gov.ar

Australia

Royal Australian Navy
Hydrographic Service
8 Station St
Wollongong NSW 2500
☎ +61 (0) 2 4223 6500
🌐 [Website](#)
✉ datacentre@hydro.gov.au

Brazil

Diretoria de Hidrografia e Navegação
Ministerio da Marinha
Ilha Fiscal
Rio De Janeiro, RJ
Archives:
Praça Barão de Ladário s/no, Ilha das Cobras, Centro, Rio de Janeiro. RJ
☎ +55 2104-6994 / +55 2104-6723 / +55 2104-5488 / +55 2104-5487.
🌐 [Website](#)
✉ dphdm.arquivo@marinha.mil.br

Canada

Canadian Hydrographic Service
615 Booth Street
Ottawa
Ontario K1A 0E6
☎ +1 6139470793 / +1 6139474369
🌐 [Website](#)
✉ topo.maps@NRCan.gc.ca

Chile

Servicio Hidrográfico y Oceanográfico de la Armada
Casilla 324
Valparaiso
☎ + 56 32 2266666 / + 56 32 2266502
🌐 [Website](#)
✉ shoa@shoa.cl

Cuba

Instituto Cubano de Hidrografia
Apartado 606
Mariano 13
Ciudad de la Habana

Denmark

Søkortkontoret (Danish Hydrographic Office)
Lindholm Brygge 31
9400 Nørresundby
Denmark

📞 +45 7254 5000
🌐 [Website](#)
✉️ soe@gst.dk

Finland

Merenkulkulaitos
Porkkalankatu 5
00180 Helsinki

📞 +358 (0)204481

France

Établissement Principal de Service Hydrographique et Océano-
graphique de la Marine (EPSHOM)
13 rue du Chatellier
29200 Brest

🌐 [Website](#)

Germany

Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency
Bernhard-Nocht-Straß 78
20359 Hamburg

📞 +49 (0) 40 3190-0
🌐 [Website](#)
✉️ posteingang@bsh.de

or
Neptunallee 5
18057 Rostock

📞 +49 381 4563-5
🌐 [Website](#)
✉️ posteingang@bsh.de

Greece

Hellenic Navy Hydrographic Service
Stratopedo
Papagou
TGN 1040 Athens

📞 +30-210-6442966

🌐 [Website](#)

✉️ info@hnhs.gr

Iceland

Icelandic Coast Guard
Skógarhlíð 14, 105 Reykjavík

📞 +354 545 2000

🌐 [Website](#)

India

Naval Hydrographic Office
107-A Rajpur Road
Post Box No 75
Dehradun 248 001

📞 +91 135 2746290 – 95

🌐 [Website](#)

✉️ info@navy.gov.in

Indonesia

Jawatan Hidro-Oseanografi (Janhidros)
Jalan Gunung Sahari 87
Jakarta

Italy

Istituto Idrografico della Marina
Passo dell'Osservatorio 4
16134 Genoa

📞 +39 010 24431

🌐 [Website](#)

✉️ maridrografico.ure@marina.difesa.it

Japan

Japan Hydrographic Association
Dai-Ichi Sogo Bldg. 6F
1-6-6, Haneda-Kuko, Ota-ku
Tokyo 144-0041, Japan

📞 +81 (0)3-5708-7091

🌐 [Website](#)

Korea

351, Haeyang-ro, Yeongdo-gu,
Busan,
Republic of Korea

📞 +82 (0)51-400-4341

🌐 [Website](#)

✉️ infokhoa@korea.kr

Mexico

Dirección General Adjunta de Oceanografía, Hidrografía y
Meteorología

Avenida Heroica Escuela Naval Militar Núm.
861, Los Cipreses,
Coyoacán, Ciudad de México.
C.P. 04830

📞 +52 (55) 5624-6500

🌐 [Website](#)

✉️ digaohm@semar.gob.mx

The Netherlands

Dienst der Hydrografie
Postbus 20701
2500 ES Den Haag

📞 +31 (0)70 318 81 88

🌐 [Website](#)

New Zealand

Toitū Te Whenua – Land Information New Zealand
Level 7, Radio New Zealand House
155 The Terrace
PO Box 5501
Wellington 6011

📞 +64 7 974 5595

🌐 [Website](#)

✉️ customersupport@linz.govt.nz

Norway

Statens Kartverk
Kartverksveien 2
P.O.Box 600 Sentrum
N-3507 Hønefoss

📞 +47 32 11 80 00
🌐 [Website](#)
✉️ post@kartverket.no

Pakistan

Hydrographic Department
Naval Headquarters
11, Liaquat Barracks, Karachi 75530, Pakistan

📞 +92 21-48506821
🌐 [Website](#)
✉️ hydropk@paknavy.gov.pk

Peru

Dirección de Hidrografía y Navegación
Calle Roca 118
Chucuito
Callao

📞 +51 0511 - 207 8160
🌐 [Website](#)
✉️ dihidronav@dhn.mil.pe

Philippines

Lawton Avenue
Fort Andres Bonifacio 1201
1634 Taguig City, Philippines

📞 +63 (63-2) 8810-4831
🌐 [Website](#)

Poland

Biuro Hydrograficzne Marynarki Wojennej
Jana z Kolna 8 B
81-301 Gdynia

📞 +48 261266482
🌐 [Website](#)
✉️ ___bhmw@ron.mil.pl

Portugal

Instituto Hidrográfico
Rua das Trinas 49
1249-093 Lisboa

📞 +351 210 943 000
🌐 [Website](#)

Singapore

Maritime & Port Authority of Singapore (Hydrographic Department)

📞 +65 63751227
✉️ hydrographic@mpa.gov.sg

Spain

Instituto Hidrográfico de la Marina
Pl. San Severiano,3
11007 Cádiz.

📞 +34 956 54 52 05
🌐 [Website](#)
✉️ ihmesp@fn.mde.es

Sweden

Sjöfartsverket
Tegelängsgatan 1, 602 28 Norrköping

📞 +46 771 63 00 00
🌐 [Website](#)
✉️ sjofartsverket@sjofartsverket.se

Thailand

Hydrographic Department Royal Thai Navy
222 Rintang Rodfaikao Road
Bangna
10260 Bangkok
Thailand

📞 +662 3614 822
🌐 [Website](#)
✉️ thaichartservice@navy.mi.th

Turkey

Seyir Hidrografi ve Oşinografi Dairesi Başkanlığı
34805 Çubuklu
İstanbul

📞 +90 216 3222580
🌐 [Website](#)
✉️ info@shodb.gov.tr

USA

Naval Oceanographic Office
NOAA Office of Coast Survey
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

📞 +1 888-990-6622
🌐 [Website](#)

Uruguay

Servicio de Oceanografía Hidrografía y Meteorología de la Armada
Capurro
Cassila de Correo 1381, 11700 Montevideo

📞 +598 2 3093861
🌐 [Website](#)
✉️ sohma@armada.mil.uy

Venezuela

Comandancia General de la Marina
Dirección de Hidrografía y Navegación
Final calle 9, Maiquetía 1162, La Guaira

📞 +58 212 3531553
🌐 [Website](#)
✉️ cartografia.shn@armada.mil.ve

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