

Needs for Professional Hydrography in the Caribbean Towards Risk Reduction in Maritime Navigation

Keith Miller

Department of Geomatics Engineering and Land Management, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies; E-mail: Keith.Miller@sta.uwi.edu

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Abstract: *With a focus on the Caribbean Sea, the needs of hydrography and national economic benefits are explored. Expectations in terms of data requirements are identified and components where shortage often exists are acknowledged. It is anticipated that shipping activities will increase in both density and size of vessels, the need for professional staff capable of functioning with accepted survey standards is then fundamental to maritime safety. While the majority of states that have territorial ownership of some part of the Caribbean Sea are signatories to the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), questions arise as to whether the requirements for provision of hydrographic data to the international community are being maintained. The need for professionally qualified staff to maintain state services is identified, and there is also a need for surveying operations to be undertaken by professionals, where a professional refers to those having undertaken a recognised programme of study.*

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