

UNGGIM Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information

Opportunities and Challenges from the point of view of a SIDS

First expert meeting of the Working Group on Marine
Geospatial Information

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Presentation contents

- The Caribbean Region
- Hydrographic Capacities
- Ongoing work and Opportunities
- Challenges
- Opportunities and mandate of the work of the Working Group



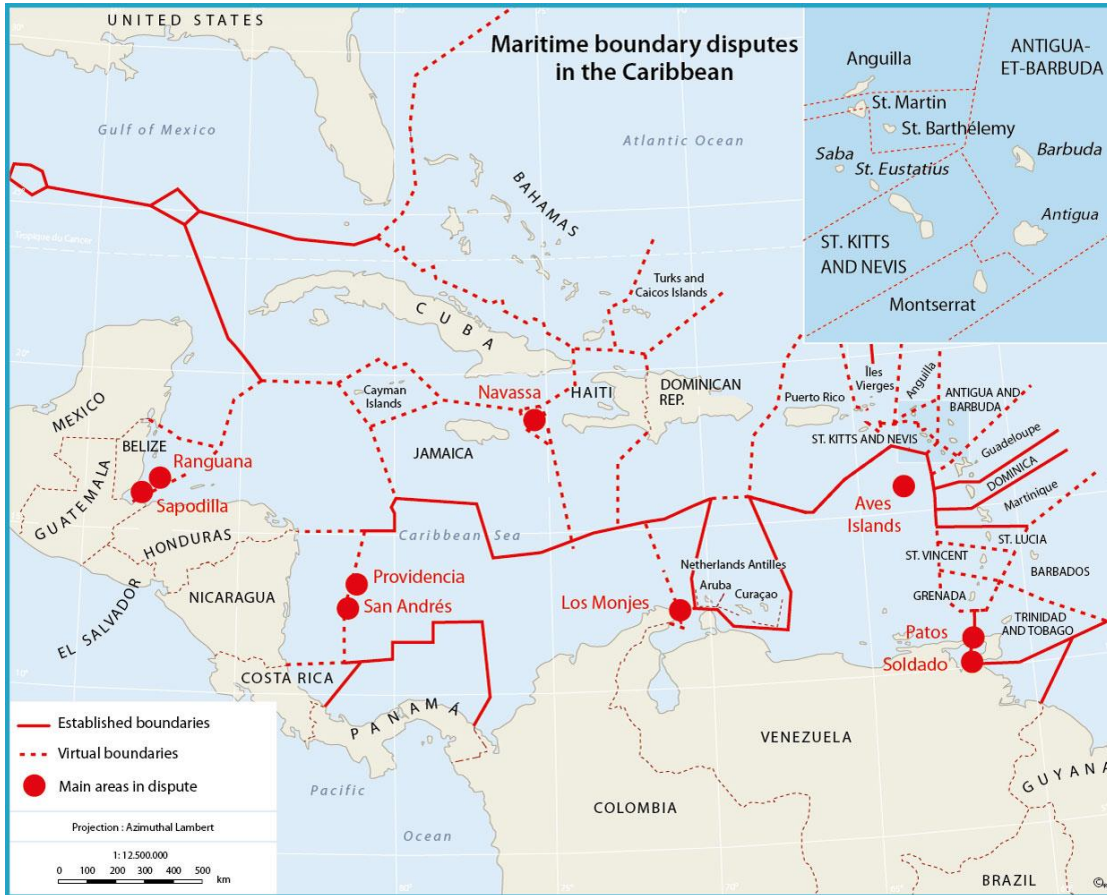
The Caribbean Region



- 26 independent countries and Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT)
- 2.754 million square kilometers
- Population 44 million plus
- Main languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese, French



Hydrographic Capacities



- HO Dominican Republic
- Approx. 10 Hydrographic departments
- OCTs: Netherlands, USA, France, UK



Ongoing Work



Under MACHC

- US Fleet Survey Team
- UKHO Joint regimes, Commonwealth Marine Economies Program
- Mexico Caribbean Project

Under IHO

- ROK Cat A, USM
- Japan Nippon Foundation



Challenges: Disasters in the Caribbean

Natural disasters and climate change know no boundaries



Flooding, hurricanes, landslides, wildfires, earthquakes, volcanos, tsunamis, droughts, disease outbreaks



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Challenges

Absence of Policy Framework:

- No mandated Hydrographic Responsibility
- High level Hydrographic Awareness is limited
- Lack of institutional arrangements, duplication of efforts
- Awareness exists only in Port Authorities – Port Management responsibility

Expert Knowledge:

- Few states have 1 or 2 Cat B Hydrographic Surveyors
- Commissioned surveys to send data to PCA

Financial:

- Great divide between policy makers and hydrographic departments
- Budgets consist of left overs from other operations



Implementation Challenges

Lots of certificates:

- Introduction to ENC's
- MSI
- IALA
- MSDI
- Hydrographic Awareness
- Basic Hydrographic Training

Retirements and promotions:

- No national database of personnel – IHO lists more accurate
- Knowledge and expertise obtained is lost
- Also through migration

Philosophies:

- Governments – We have charts! We are too small!
- Technical persons – We need more training! Where is the next training?
I have never been to that country!



UN-GGIM Mandate:

WG mandate: Shift in Philosophies

Why Caribbean Hydrography?

- Nautical Charting
- Maritime Transport / Navigation

Why MSDI? Gaps in Governance

- Coastal Zone Management
- Habitat and Fisheries mapping
- Marine aquaculture
- Marine Cadastre: Non Living Resources
- Natural Hazard / Modelling

No One Left behind?

- IHO, UKHO, ROK, NOAA, SEMAR - **heavy work**
- How can WG help?



Thank you.



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