



The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office

History

1795 Founded by Royal Warrant - King George III.	1808 Under the second Hydrographer, Thomas Hurd, Admiralty Charts sold to the public for the first time.	1833 Admiralty Tide Tables first published.	1939 WWII Printing moved to Taunton, Somerset (good links with Naval Ports).	1970s Last copper engraved charts published. Metrication programme expanded.	1996 Admiralty Raster Chart Service (ARCS) launched. UKHO becomes a Trading Fund within the MOD, allowing sharper customer focus. IHO agreed product specification for Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC).	2003 Ritchie Building to house the new Repository and Archive completed. Opened by HRH Prince Andrew.	2006 Source Data Receipt & Assessment (SDRA) system rolled out internally to allow for full digital capture and assessment of all incoming data.
1796 Existing chart holdings brought together and catalogued.	1829 Sailing Directions to accompany Admiralty Charts available.	1855 1,981 charts published. 65,000 charts being sold, and 67,500 issued to the Fleet.	1967 Programme of modernisation and metrication of charts begun. Evolution and acceptance of International Charting.	1993 Able to capture all data on metric charts in digital format. Specialist Admiralty Leisure charts launched and quickly become popular.	2000 Advent of Online Services. New printing press allows introduction of Computer-To-Plate technology.	2005 UKHO purchases German ECDIS software supplier SevenCs. SeaZone Solutions becomes wholly owned by the UKHO.	2008 Admiralty Vector Chart Service (AVCS) launched.



1795 Office of Hydrographer to the Admiralty established and Alexander Dalrymple FRS appointed as the first Hydrographer to the Admiralty.	1825 An early Chart Catalogue published, listing 736 nautical charts.	1834 Admiralty Notices to Mariners first published.	1955 First purpose-built survey ship - HMS Vidal launched.	1980s New technology enables digitising of soundings, text and simple line work in support of chart production.	1997 First official ENC produced.	2004 Print on Demand introduced, allowing improved supply.	2007 In-house printing bolstered with full book print and binding press.
1800 First nautical chart created.	1829 Fourth Hydrographer, Rear-Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort KCB, FRS, developed the Office and its work. Chart coverage expanded and improved.	1930s UKHO takes on additional commitments in oceanography and meteorology. Printing of charts brought in-house.	1968 UKHO moves to Taunton.	1995 UKHO celebrates its Bicentenary (200 years).	2001 Roles of National Hydrographer and Hydrographer of the Navy divided, after new Chief Executive appointed.	2005 Printing presses upgraded to allow rapid plate production. UKHO incorporates IC-ENC and PRIMAR ENC cells within the Admiralty ENC and ECDIS Services.	