

Australian Hydrographic Office – Services from March 2020 until further notice

The Australian Hydrographic Office is continuing to provide essential services to support maritime supply chains for Australian, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands waters.

Key services, and their status, include:

Electronic Navigation Charts

ENC Updates for all AU, PG and SB ENC will continue to include all changes to critical depths and aids to navigation.

ENC New Editions will continue to include full details of new hydrographic surveys as they are received and processed. This information will build upon revisions to critical depths already published as ENC Updates.

New ENC, incorporating all new content in response to new requirements, will be published only as resources permit, and may be delayed. Where a port or other authority has a new requirement, or a fixed timeline by which a new ENC is required, they should contact the AHO directly.

AusENC users operating exclusively within Australian, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands waters remain available via the AusENC service. Permits for new editions of subscribed ENC will continue to be emailed to AusENC users, with updates available from the AHO website. In the event that AusENC users encounter difficulty renewing or updating their subscription, they should contact the AHO directly via hydro.sales@defence.gov.au

ENC for international users (those seeking to merge AHO ENC with those produced by other nations) remain available via the various distributors associated with the International Centre for ENC (IC-ENC). For more information refer to www.IC-ENC.org

Australian Hydrographic Publications (Nautical Publications)

Nautical publications continue to be updated as relevant new information is received. Updates are published via Australian Notices to Mariners. Publications should be updated in accordance with each relevant Notice.

All publications remain available from distribution agents listed on the AHO website. Additionally, AHP20 – Mariners Handbook for Australian Waters, and AHP24 – Chart Maintenance Handbook, may be downloaded as a PDF document from the AHO website. Users of the PDF version should monitor Notices to Mariners, and download the latest version of AHP20 or AHP24 if a notice affecting the publication is published.

Paper Nautical Charts

Australian Notices to Mariners will continue to include all changes to critical depths and aids to navigation for all AUS, PNG and SLB paper charts.

New Editions or Notice to Mariners Block Corrections will continue to include full details of new hydrographic surveys as they are received and processed. This information will build upon revisions to critical depths already published as textual Notices to Mariners.

Emerging requirements for new paper charts will only be met in exceptional circumstances. The AHO is progressing a rationalisation program to reduce the number of scales covering ports and coastal waters, noting that paper charts are now considered a backup to ENC.