



## Fact Sheet:

### Reporting Maritime Activities Affecting Safety of Navigation

#### Introduction

Although the Australian Hydrographic Office (AHO) does not have a regulatory role in approval of any marine activities, it is responsible for providing Australia's national charting service in support of maritime safety. Fundamental to this is ensuring charts are up-to-date and mariners are informed of anything that may affect safety of navigation. Australian Notices to Mariners (NtM) are the most direct mechanism the AHO has for doing this.

#### Australian Notices to Mariners

NtM are the mechanism for correcting paper nautical charts and publications authorised for release by the AHO. NtM are issued fortnightly, and advise mariners of important matters affecting navigational safety, including any new or suspected dangers to navigation, changes in aids to navigation or port infrastructure, and other important data, including maritime activities that have the potential to affect safety of navigation.

#### Reporting

Whilst new or suspected dangers, changes in aids-to-navigation or port infrastructure, and discrepancies on nautical charts or publications should be reported to the AHO using a [Hydrographic Note](#) sent to [datacentre@hydro.gov.au](mailto:datacentre@hydro.gov.au), details of maritime activities that have the potential to affect safety of navigation should also be sent directly to [datacentre@hydro.gov.au](mailto:datacentre@hydro.gov.au).

#### Typical Activities

Typical maritime activities that have the potential to affect safety of navigation include, but are not limited to, aids-to-navigation establishment, maintenance or removal; surveying; dredging; drilling; rig moves; cable/pipe laying; cable/pipe decommissioning or removal etc.

#### When to Report to AHO

Keeping the AHO informed through all stages of the maritime activity ensures the AHO can take appropriate NtM action. For example, in the case of a maritime cable laying activity:

- A Preliminary NtM may be issued to advise mariners of an upcoming cable laying activity.
- A Temporary NtM may be issued advising, location, period and details of any other activities supporting the cable laying that have the potential to affect safety of navigation, i.e. support vessel movements, temporary aids to navigation, exclusion areas etc.
- After the activity, a Permanent NtM may be issued to correct paper nautical charts or publications. Depending on the complexity of the corrections, a Block NtM may be produced.

## Standard formats

When submitting attachments, or supplementary files accompanying reports for navigational hazards, standardisation of data types into recognised formats can speed up the registration process at the AHO, whilst also helping to avoid confusion.

These data standards include, but are not limited to:

- Reports - .pdf, .docx
- Point files - .pts, .xyz, .ascii
- Surfaces - .csar, .tiff
- Geometry - .shp

For larger survey datasets, the minimum metadata required for registration should be as specified in the AHO [Survey Summary](#) form.

Where datasets are too large to send via email (i.e. greater than 7 MB), the supplier should write to [datacentre@hydro.gov.au](mailto:datacentre@hydro.gov.au) requesting a link to the AHO file transfer service, which can handle a combined file size of 25 GB.

## What to Report to AHO

Please send the following information in your email to [datacentre@hydro.gov.au](mailto:datacentre@hydro.gov.au)

<b>Sender:</b> (Name, Company, Vessel etc)	
<b>Sender Contact details:</b> (phone, email etc)	
<b>Activity:</b>	
<b>Activity Start / End Dates:</b>	
<b>Activity location description:</b>	
<b>Activity position (WGS84):</b>	
<b>Details of any infrastructure established:</b> (permanent and temporary)	