



Office of Coast Survey products and services have an inherently international dimension. Beginning with an Act signed in 1807 by President Thomas Jefferson, Coast Survey became the nation's chartmaker in 1832. More than 200 years later, the U.S. depends upon maritime trade and economic activity associated with the use of coastal waters and resources. This trade supports the 1.3 billion metric tons of cargo valued at \$1.8 trillion coming in and out of U.S. ports every year.\*



### Policy and Coordination

Work with our international partners\*\* to coordinate services and design policy to support marine navigation and geospatial information



### Technology, Standards, and Science

Promote and advance technology, standards and science in the marine domain



### Building Capacity

Strive to ensure that partner and developing nations are able to support marine navigation in their waters and on the path to contribute to global initiatives



### Diversity and Inclusion

Promote and contribute to diversity and inclusion initiatives around the world and support equal representation in international organizations



### Financial

Ensure that U.S. taxpayer dollars are used responsibly and contribute to the health of Coast Survey

\*Source: NOAA, [About Coast Survey](#)

\*\*Partners are foreign governments, NGOs, private companies, etc.



**In line with the Office of Coast Survey [Strategic Plan \(2020-2024\)](#), this international plan highlights Coast Survey's international reputation and leadership by:**

Providing relevant authoritative NOAA navigation data in interoperable, easily discoverable, and user-friendly open source and international formats

Influencing international policies, standard setting and service bodies for charting, mapping, and oceanographic modeling

Developing S-100 based standards, and enhanced and innovative electronic navigational charts

Realizing a vision of next generation marine transportation



In 1926, the Secretaries of Commerce, State, and Navy designated the Director of the Office of Coast Survey to represent the U.S. before the [International Hydrographic Organization](#) (IHO). The IHO now includes 95 Member States, collectively joining together to chart the world's oceans and protect the marine environment. Coast Survey's IHO engagement spans many of the IHO Regional Hydrographic Commissions and technical Working Groups. In recognition of international stakes and responsibilities, the Coast Survey director chairs the U.S. interagency United States Hydrographic Planning Committee (USHPC) to coordinate U.S. positions, develop standards, and share best practices across the U.S. government and effectively represent a unified U.S. position to the global community.



**Coast Survey's international program and strategy seeks to:**

- Support Coast Survey leadership by carrying out international duties
- Review international issues, develop action plans, and prioritize/mitigate risks
- Facilitate U.S. interagency collaboration and coordination
- Contribute to safe and efficient navigation by working with hydrographic colleagues around the world
- Engage in collaboration with a number of global hydrographic offices, organizations, academia, etc.
- Support the National Ocean Service and NOAA international community and other external bodies
- Advance U.S. interests in the marine domain
- Encourage diversification of U.S. representation
- Advance NOAA as the global leader in hydrography
- Advance oceanographic interests, for example through the IOC, UN Decade of Ocean Science and other global initiatives





To accomplish these goals, the Coast Survey International Program builds upon Coast Survey core strengths, capacities and directions as a global leader in hydrography by:

### Coordinating U.S. interagency positions

USHPC, Partners (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, State Department, Census, NASA, USGS)

### Meeting U.S. treaty obligations

The International Hydrographic Organization, SOLAS, Regional coordination committees and technical working groups

### Strengthening diplomatic and technical engagement with the United Nations

SOLAS, ECDIS, SDG support, [UN Decade of Ocean Science](#), [UN-GGIM](#)

### Building key bilateral relationships

Cooperation with many hydrographic offices worldwide, Bilateral relationships, including but not limited to those between NOAA and Japan, the Republic of Korea, Canada, Singapore and the United Kingdom

## Hydrographic perspective in a changing world – the decade ahead

As the global hydrographic and maritime communities modernize, a new era of digital navigation and high-tech hydrography begins to take shape in the current decade. It has become imperative that Coast Survey and its domestic and international partners retain a leading role in setting new global technology standards that underpin not only the future of digital navigation, but also the contributing role of hydrography to [Seabed 2030](#), the U.N. global sustainable development goals, and U.N. Decade of Ocean Science. Hydrography can be the basis for addressing practical mitigation measures to the climate change crisis, and contribute to relevant climate areas, such as surface currents, precision navigation for shipping efficiency, coastal modeling and storm surge modeling, sea level rise, and datum work.

### The U.S. as a Maritime Nation

The goals of the Coast Survey international strategy contribute to maritime trade and U.S. international trade, which have grown rapidly over time.

*“The United States is a maritime nation consisting of an integrated network of 25,000 miles of coastal and inland waterways, 361 ports, 124 shipyards, more than 3,500 maritime facilities, 20,000 bridges, 50,000 federal aids to navigation, and 95,000 miles of shoreline that interconnect with critical highways, railways, airports, and pipelines. The Maritime Transportation System contributes to one quarter of all United States gross domestic product, or approximately \$5.4 trillion.”\**

\*Source: United States Committee on the Maritime Transportation System, [Why the Maritime Transportation System Matters](#).

