

DOCUMENT FOR PUBLICATION BY GOVERNMENT EMAIL
SERVICES ON WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY 2024
(21 JUNE 2024)

1. World Hydrography Day is celebrated every year on the 21st of June to raise awareness about hydrography and the role it plays in improved knowledge of the seas and oceans. The International Hydrographic Organisation defines hydrography as “*the branch of applied sciences which deals with the measurement and description of the physical features of oceans, seas, coastal areas, lakes and rivers, as well as with the prediction of their change over time, for the primary purpose of safety of navigation and in support of all other marine activities, including economic development, security and defence, scientific research, and environmental protection.*” The theme for this year is “**Hydrographic Information - Enhancing safety, efficiency and sustainability in marine activities**”.

2. As in previous years, the theme for 2024 is intended to provide a broad range of opportunities to publicise the hydrographic work and services provided by National Hydrographic Offices, industry stakeholders and expert contributors, and the scientific community. The theme also focuses attention on the fundamental importance of hydrography and our knowledge of the shape, nature and depth of the seafloor as a fundamental requirement for the proper, safe, sustainable and cost effective use of the world’s seas, oceans and waterways.

3. In Mauritius, hydrography has a wide-ranging perspective considering the island's geo-strategic location in the Indian Ocean and large Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Mauritius Hydrographic Service, established in 2013 under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning is responsible for hydrographic surveying (surveying the oceans) and nautical charting in Mauritius. Additional details about hydrography and the Mauritius Hydrographic Service can be found in the attached brochure.

4. On this World Hydrography day, let us all embrace this moment to show our appreciation to our Earth's resources and recognize the vital role that hydrography plays in protecting marine life, supporting maritime safety and contributing towards the sustainable development of our seas/oceans.

*Mauritius Hydrographic Service
Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning
21 June 2024*