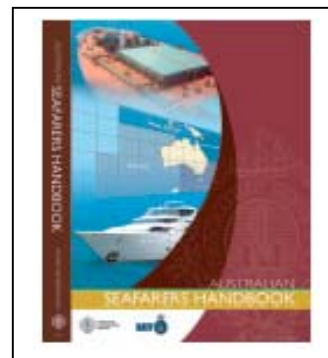


## MEDIA RELEASE

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23 Dec 2004

## NAVY LAUNCHES SEAFARERS HANDBOOK



The Hydrographer of Australia CAPT Bruce Kafer, RAN launched the 'Australian Seafarers Handbook'© on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2004. The launch was held at the Australian Hydrographic Office, Wollongong in the company of the Maritime Commander, Rear Admiral Rowan Moffit, AM, RAN and representatives of maritime-related agencies and publications.

The 'Australian Seafarers Handbook'© provides mariners with a description of the Australian physical and jurisdictional marine environment and combines information from various government agencies under the cover of one official nautical publication maintained up-to-date by Australian Notices to Mariners. It complements the Australian Navigational Chart series, containing much of the textual information that cannot be shown on charts.

The official launch of the Seafarers Handbook marks a major milestone for the Australian Hydrographic Service. The publication is of a high quality, and complements the Australian chart series. It will enhance navigation safety, but will also reduce the risk to mariners of accidentally transgressing the many federal and state regulations that apply in our waters.

The Seafarers Handbook will be issued to the fleet units Royal Australian Navy and then available nationally for sale through AHS' product distributors (listed at [www.hydro.gov.au](http://www.hydro.gov.au)) from January 2005.



Photo: Shows CAPT Bruce Kafer (Hydrographer of Australia) & RADM Rowan Moffit (MCAUST) at the launch.

Photo courtesy of Mr Bob Walker

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Issued under the authority of the Hydrographer of Australia.