



# FACT SHEET: Navigation

## Reporting Maritime Activities

The Australian Hydrographic Office (AHO) does not regulate maritime activities. However, as Australia's national charting authority, the AHO ensures charts are accurate and mariners are informed of anything that may affect navigational safety. Australian Notices to Mariners (NtM) are the primary mechanism for this.

### Australian Notices to Mariners and Reporting

NtM correct paper nautical charts and AHO-authorized publications. To help maintain accurate charts and navigational safety, report the following using a [Hydrographic Note](#):

- new or suspected dangers
- changes to aids to navigation or port infrastructure
- discrepancies on nautical charts or publications

Details of maritime activities that have the potential to affect safety of navigation should be sent directly to [datacentre@hydro.gov.au](mailto:datacentre@hydro.gov.au).

### Typical activities

Some examples of maritime activities that have the potential to affect safety of navigation include:

- establishment, maintenance or removal of aids to navigation
- surveying, dredging, or drilling
- rig moves
- cable or pipeline laying, decommissioning or removal

### When to report to AHO

Keep the AHO informed throughout the maritime activity. For example, NtM published during a cable laying operation would include:

- **Preliminary NtM** – advises mariners of upcoming activity
- **Temporary NtM** – details location, period and related activities (e.g. exclusion zones, support vessels)
- **Permanent NtM** – updates charts and publications after completion; may include a Block NtM for complex changes

## Standard data 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 and avoid confusion.

Standard formats include:

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

For large survey datasets, include minimum metadata as specified in the AHO [Survey Summary](#) form. If files exceed 7 MB, email [datacentre@hydro.gov.au](mailto:datacentre@hydro.gov.au) to request a link to the AHO file transfer service (up to 25 GB).

## How to report to AHO

Include 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)	