

Reporting Maritime Activities

The Australian Hydrographic Office (AHO) does not regulate maritime activities. 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-authorised 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.

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.

Note: To assist the AHO in maintaining accurate nautical charts, please provide all survey data collected during maritime activities. Survey data should include, as a minimum, the metadata specified in the [AHO Survey Summary](#) form to support appropriate attribution and management.

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

If file sizes exceed 7 MB, email 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.

Sender: (name, company, vessel etc.)	
Sender Contact details: (phone, email etc.)	
Activity:	
Activity Start / End Dates:	
Activity location description:	
Activity position (WGS84):	
As-built / As-laid details of any infrastructure established: (permanent and temporary)	