

**MONDAY, 22 JUNE 2015  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY 2015  
ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA**

Each year the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) celebrates World Hydrography Day, an opportunity to increase public awareness of the vital role that hydrography plays in everyday life. This year marks its 94th anniversary, and Precision Hydrographic Services (PHS) was pleased to host an Adelaide event at the Arkaba Hotel on Friday 19 June to celebrate the occasion.

This year's theme 'Our seas and waterways yet to be fully charted and explored' concentrates on the fact that much of the world's seas, oceans and navigable waters remain unsurveyed. Many people do not know that less than 10% of the world's oceans have been systematically surveyed and that coastal waters are far from being fully charted. Figures specific to Australia include, 35% of Australian coastal waters have been adequately surveyed; 20% need to be re-surveyed to modern standards, and 45% have never been surveyed at all.

Measuring the depth and shape of the seafloor, and identifying any hazards that might exist on the seafloor, together with an understanding of the tides and the currents is the work of hydrographic surveyors, also known as hydrographers. Their work is most fundamental of everything that enables the safe and efficient use of the seas, oceans, coastal areas, lakes and rivers. Their measurements underpin almost every human activity that takes place in, on or under the sea. The most widely-known use of hydrographic data is to make navigational (nautical) charts. Nautical charts enable mariners to navigate their ships and boats avoiding all known dangers along their intended routes.

The Adelaide event attracted over fifty people nation-wide from what is a very niche hydrographic surveying industry. Representatives from hydrographic surveying service companies, equipment/software suppliers, and university/tafe students, who are studying towards their surveying diploma/degree, heard from presentations from CARIS, Pilbara Ports Authority, Coda Octopus Products, Bureau of Meteorology (Tidal Unit), Fugro LADS, Surveying and Spatial Science Institute (SSSI) and PHS. The event also proved an opportunity for delegates to network in an informal environment.

**ENDS**

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