

FATHOMS' GUIDANCE NOTE 1

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1 PURPOSE

These Fathoms Guidance Notes have been prepared in order to assist our Clients to determine what is actually required of Fathoms (or, indeed, any other survey company) when instructions are prepared to undertake a survey, etc.

2 AIM

Fathoms' primary aim is to ensure that our Clients commission precisely the right survey that will meet your needs in a cost-effective way i.e. you get what you need from Fathoms at a sensible price.

3 TOPICS

There will be a variety of topics included in this series. Should there be a perceived gap in these, please do contact us at Fathoms so that we can include one that should help address the shortfall.

4 METHOD

Fathoms' Guidance Notes will focus on the desired outcomes rather than go into long detail about the exact methodology that clients should require. Reasonably competent contractors should be able to determine the optimum methodology to achieve our mutual Client's desired outcome.

However, our Guidance Notes will include descriptions of some of the methods which we use so as to show clients what is involved. This should give them a better understanding of what is required to be done by the contractor to achieve our clients' desired outcomes.

There will often be an issue over quality and how the contractor undertakes the work. It is hoped that this issue will be addressed in each Guidance Note where relevant.

It should be remembered that cost rises almost exponentially with the level of accuracy required. Similarly the more detail required in the outcome, the higher the costs in obtaining the data are likely to be. Fathoms therefore recommends that realistic assessments of the requirements are determined prior to specifying a survey (any reputable survey company should be prepared to assist the client with this process if required).

5 STANDARDS

While inter-related, standards can be broadly divided into two or three separate categories: Personnel, Methodology and/or Equipment.

Personnel

Hydrographic survey personnel should always have a recognised training in hydrographic surveying. Increasingly, there are a number of folk e.g. mariners, land surveyors, etc, who believe that with a



simple GPS, echo sounder and basic data logging software, it should be easy to conduct an SBES survey.

However, would you trust an untrained person to service your increasingly high-tech car?

For MBES surveys, where there are many more chances for significant errors to creep in to the data, it is even more important that the hydrographic surveyor should be properly trained in the use of these systems and have a full understanding of all aspects of hydrographic surveying.

Methodology/Equipment

While there is no single set of accepted standards for hydrographic surveys, the ones that are most widely used are, as follows:

- The International Hydrographic Organisation's (IHO) S-44 which can be downloaded f.o.c. from <http://www.iho.shom.fr/> then select Publications → Download List → Special Publications → S44.
- Land Information, New Zealand provides a more technical approach and has produced a definitive set which can be found at <http://www.linz.govt.nz/docs/hydro/stds-and-specs/hyspec-v3-24-apr2001.pdf>.
- Fathoms' Guidance Note No 1 – Survey Requirements provides a more generalised approach.

6 FEEDBACK

Your feedback on these would be much appreciated. Fathoms Guidance Notes are written by those who work in the industry and have a deep knowledge of it, and it is hoped that the language used is clear and easily understandable by surveyors and non-surveyors alike. In the first instance, please contact Matthew French on matthew.french@fathoms.co.uk or phone +44(0)-1458-251140.

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