

# **The Case for Considering the Economic Benefits of Hydrography in the English Speaking Caribbean**

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## **SUMMARY**

At a workshop on the economic benefits of hydrography held during the Commission 4 sessions of XXIII International FIG Congress in Munich, Germany in 2006, participants were asked to consider a list of issues and action items (generated during that workshop) that could help promote the economic benefits of hydrography for IHO member States. This paper takes that list and examines it in the context of the English speaking Caribbean, a region whose economies are highly dependent on marine resources including port operations. In general, it is the region's inherent weaknesses in institutional arrangements, complex geography and differing states of economic and physical development which account for weak maritime services support including only minimal involvement in hydrographic data collection or marine data management. While there is a case to be made for the economic benefits of hydrography, it is complicated by resource-constrained conditions and as such, this may be the situation for many under-developed and developing countries.

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