

**PARLIAMENT OF THEDEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF**   
**SRI LANKA**

*————————*

**NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC**

**A**

**BILL**

**to Make Provisions for Giving Effect to certain Specific Obligations of Sri Lanka Under the International Convention for the Safety of Life At sea 1974; for the Establishment of the National Hydrographic Office; for the Registration of Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartograpers and for Matters Connected Therewith Or incidental Thereto.**

*————————*

*Presented by the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms on 20th of October, 2023*

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**[Bill No. 211]** *————————*

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*National Hydrographic*

L.D. – O. 36/2023

**AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISIONS FOR GIVING**

**EFFECT TO CERTAIN SPECIFIC OBLIGATIONS OF SRI LANKA UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA 1974; FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **HYDRO** | **GRAPHIC** | **OFFICE;** | **FOR** | **THE** |

**REGISTRATION OF HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYORS**

**AND NAUTICAL CATOGRAPERS AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR INCIDENTAL THERETO.**

**WHEREAS** an International Convention for the Safety of Preamble. Life at Sea, 1974 was adopted by the International Conference   
 on Safety of Life at Sea on November 1, 1974 and entered into   
 force on May 25, 1980 (in this Act referred to as the   
5 “Convention”):

**AND WHEREAS** the Government of Sri Lanka acceded to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 on August 30, 1983:

**AND WHEREAS** although the Merchant Shipping Act, No. 10 52 of 1971 as amended by Act, No. 17 of 2019 has already given effect to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, it is necessary to make specific legal provisions to give effect to Sri Lanka’s obligations in relation to Regulations 4 and 9 of Chapter V of the aforesaid 15 Convention:

**NOW THEREFORE,** be it enacted by the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as follows: -

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | 1. (1) This Act may be cited as the National Hydrographic | | Short title |
| Act, No. of 2023. | | and date of |
| operation. |
| (2) | The provisions of this Act other than this Section |

shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may appoint by Order published in the *Gazette.*

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(3) The provisions of this Section shall come into operation on the date on which the Bill becomes an Act of Parliament.

**PART I**

5 **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL**  **HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2.** (1) There shall be established an Office which shall be called and known as the National Hydrographic Office (hereinafter referred to as the “Office”). | Establishment of the  National  Hydrographic |

Office.

10 (2) The Office shall, by the name assigned to it by Subsection (1), be a body corporate and shall have perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in such name.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | **3.** The objects of the Office shall be – | | Objects of |
| the Office. |
| (a) | to be responsible for the provision of |

hydrographic services required by the   
Convention;

(b) to produce and maintain accurate nautical charts for the safe navigation of ships and 20 to provide information about water depths, underwater features, coastlines, hazards and aids to navigation;

(c) to collect data for updating and improving   
 nautical charts and ensure maritime safety;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | (d) | to establish and maintain aids to navigation |

and to help mariners to determine their   
positions and navigate safely, especially   
in challenging conditions; and

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(e) to improve hydrographic survey   
 techniques, data processing methods and   
 technologies used in the field.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | **4.** The powers, duties and functions of the Office shall | | Powers, |
| duties and |
| be – | |
| functions |
| (a) | to collect, preserve, regulate and compile | of the |
| Office. |
| marine geospatial data for the purpose of | |

preparation, distribution, and updating of   
all types of navigational charts;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | (b) | to publish all types of navigational charts |

required for the safe navigation in the   
maritime zones of Sri Lanka;

(c) to carryout hydrographic surveying of   
 maritime zones of Sri Lanka;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | (d) | to keep all maritime data which may have |

an impact on confidentiality and safety of   
national and regional security:

Provided that, the Office shall obtain the concurrence of the Secretary to the 20 Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Defence before publishing or disseminating any such data which may in its opinion have a bearing on the national security;

25 (e) to ensure the safety of international shipping –

(i) to carryout adequate surveying in accordance with international hydro- graphic standards and specifications 30 adopted by Sri Lanka;

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(ii) to publish such specifications by way   
of notificationspublished in the   
*Gazette*;

(iii) preparation and issuance of nautical   
charts and nautical publications which

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 5 | include routes, lighthouses, obelisks, identification of all types of buoys and |

beacons and all information of tidal   
data in accordance with accepted   
internationalstandards;

10 (iv) to prepare and issue notices to mariners containing information on maritime accidents and to assist in the rescue of any person who has encountered with such accident; and

15 (v) to issue instructions regarding the updated printed and electronic nautical charts and publications;

(f) to maintain nautical charts and publi-  
 cations in accordance with international

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | (g) | conventions and standards; |
| to provide accurate and reliable |

hydrographic and navigational information   
related to the maritime zones of Sri Lanka;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | (h) | to conduct training on hydrographic |
| surveying and nautical cartography in |

accordance with international conventions   
and standards;

(i) to monitor, record prepare reports on tides in the coastal zone and to publish the same 30 in order to ensure safety and other

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navigational requirements in the maritime   
zones of Sri Lanka;

(j) to collect, regulate, issue, preserve and maintain all hydrographic survey data, 5 marine dataand hydrospatial data as may be prescribed;

(k) to provide necessary assistance subject to   
 the relevant written laws to any agency,   
 institution or organization engaged in   
 following activities: -

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | (i) | coastal management and development; |

(ii) conducting feasibility studies and   
assessments, dredging operations,   
maintenance and development of port   
facilities;

15 (iii) coastal erosion monitoring and controlling;

(iv) land reclamation from sea and the   
establishment of disposal sites at sea   
for industrial wastes and the

20 monitoring of the same;

(v) conduct research and develop aquatic   
 resources;

(vi) implement any project in cargo and   
passenger transport in coastal waters;

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 25 | (vii) implement infrastructure construction, development and any other project in |

coastal waters;

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(viii) promote tourism and recreational   
 activities in coastal zones; or

(ix) engage in marine pollution prevention   
 and disaster management;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | (l) | to assist and provide advice in respect of |
| maritime boundary demarcation in the |

waters of Sri Lanka;

(m) to provide necessary consultancy and other assistance for the development 10 activities including laying of pipelines, undersea cable systems and establishment of mineral extraction wells and to preserve data and information regarding such activities;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | (n) | to coordinate with other educational |
| institutions engaged in the hydrographic |

and marine geospatial information in the   
waters of Sri Lanka to maintain prescribed   
educational standards;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | (o) | to coordinate with other institutions within |

or outside Sri Lanka to maintain high   
professional standards in hydrography;

(p) to conduct higher educational training   
 related to hydrographic surveying and

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 25 | nautical cartography and to obtain necessary technical and professional |

training with the assistance of foreign   
institutions having expertise in the relevant   
fields;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 30 | (q) | to assist relevant authorities to enhance |

safety in navigation in the waters of

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Sri Lanka and to provide necessary   
assistance to those authorities to manage   
economic activities in the waters of Sri   
Lanka;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | (r) | to receive grants, gifts or donations in cash |
| or kind: |

Provided however, the Office shall obtain the prior written approval of the Department of External Resources of the 10 Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Finance, in respect of all foreign grants, gifts or donations made to the Office;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | (s) | to open, maintain and operate any account |
| (t) | with any bank as it may think appropriate; |
| to manage, control, administer and operate |

the Fund of the Office;

(u) to invest such amount of money belonging   
 to the Office as are not immediately required

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | (v) | for the purposes of this Act; |
| to purchase, hold, take or give on lease or |

hire, mortgage, pledge, sell or otherwise   
dispose of any movable or immovable   
property;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | (w) | to enter into and perform either directly or |

indirectly through any authorized officer   
or agent of the Office, all such contracts or   
agreements as may be necessary, for the   
exercise, performance and discharge of the

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 30 | (x) | its powers, duties and functions; |
| make rules in respect of the administration |

of the affairs of the Office;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 8 | (y) | *National Hydrographic* |
| to levy fees or charges for any service |

rendered by the Office;

(z) to appoint, employ, remunerate, exercise   
 disciplinary control or dismiss such

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 5 | officers, employees and agents as may be necessary for the carrying out of the object |

of the Office;

(aa) to provide training to officers and   
 employees of the Office within or outside

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | (bb) | Sri Lanka; |
| to appoint committees for the effective |

discharge of its functions; and

(cc) to do all such other acts and things which

may be incidental or conducive to the 15 attainment of the objects of this Act.

**PART II**

**ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT**

**OF AFFAIRS OF THE OFFICE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | **5.** (1) The administration and management of the affairs of | Administration |
| and |
| the Office shall be vested in the National Hydrographic |
| management |
| Council (in this Act referred to as the “Council”). |
| of the Office |
| (2) The Council shall, for the purpose of administering | vested in the |
| Council. |

and managing the affairs of the Office in a manner expedient

for the achievement of the objects of this Act, exercise, perform

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | and discharge the powers, duties and functions conferred | Constitution |
| on, assigned to, or imposed on the Office by this Act. |
| **6.** (1)The Council shall consist of – |
| ofthe Council. |

(a) the following *ex-officio* members, namely -

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(i) Secretary to the Ministry of the   
 Minister assigned the subject of   
 Defence or his representative not below   
 the rank of an Additional Secretary;

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 5 | (ii) Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of |

Finance or his representative not below   
the rank of an Additional Secretary;

(iii) Secretary to the Ministry of the

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 10 | Minister assigned the subject of Foreign relation or his representative |

not below the rank of an Additional   
Secretary;

(iv) Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 15 | appointed in terms of the Navy Act (Chapter 358); |

(v) Chairman of the Governing Board of   
the National Aquatic Resources   
Research and Development Agency

20 appointed under the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency Act, No. 54 of 1981;

(vi) the Surveyor-General;

(vii) Director-General of Merchant Shipping

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 25 | appointed under the of Merchant Shipping Act, No.52 of 1971; |

(viii)Harbour Master appointed under the   
Sri Lanka Ports Authority Act, No. 51   
of 1979;

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 30 | (ix) Director-General of the Department of Coast Guard appointed under the |

10 *National Hydrographic*

Department of Coast Guard Act, No. 41   
of 2009;

(x) Chairman of the University Grants   
 Commission appointed under the

5 Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 or the Vice-Chairman of the same;

(xi) Chairman of the Board of Management   
of the Geological Survey and Mines   
Bureau appointed under the Mines and

10 Minerals Act, No. 33 of 1992;

(xii) Chairman of the Marine Environment   
Protection Authority appointed under   
the Marine Pollution Prevention Act,   
No. 35 of 2008;

15 (xiii)Director-General of Coast Conser vation and Coastal Resource Management appointed under the Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource management Act, No. 57 of 20 1981; and

(xiv)Chairman of the Central Environmental   
Authority appointed under the   
National Environmental Act, No. 47 of   
1980; and

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | (b) | three members appointed by the Minister |

who shall possess academic or   
professional qualifications and has   
experience in the fields of hydrography or   
hydrography related discipline (hereinafter

30 referred to as “appointed members”).

(2) Where the Commandar of the Sri Lanka Navy is appointed as an *ex officio* member under subsection (1), such

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appointment shall be made in terms of the Navy Act , (Chapter 358) in respect of the performance of non-naval duties under the provisions of that Act.

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| 5 | **7.** (1) The Minister shall appoint one of the appointed | Chairperson |
| of the |
| members to be the Chairperson of the Council. |
| Council. |

(2) The Chairperson may resign from his office by letter addressed to the Minister and such resignation shall be effective from the date on which it is accepted by the Minister.

(3) The Minister may for reasons assigned therefor remove 10 the Chairperson from the office of Chairperson.

(4) Subject to the provisions of sub-sections (2) and (3), the term of office of the Chairperson shall be the period of his membership of the Council.

(5) Where the Chairperson is temporarily unable to exercise,

15 perform and discharge the powers, duties and functions of his office due to ill health, other infirmity, absence from Sri Lanka or any other cause, the Minister may appoint any other appointed member to act as the Chairperson in addition to his normal duties as an appointed member during the absence of

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | the Chairperson. | | Disqualifications |
| **8.** A person shall be disqualified from being appointed or | |
| from being a |
| continuing as a member of the Council, if he – | |
| member of |
| (a) | is or becomesa member of Parliament or of | the Council. |

any Provincial Council or of any local

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | (b) | authority; |
| is not or ceases to be a citizen of Sri Lanka; |
| (c) | is under any law in force in Sri Lanka or |

any other country found or declared to be   
of unsound mind;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 30 | (d) | is a person who having been declared |

insolvent or bankrupt under any law in

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force in Sri Lanka and is an undischarged   
insolvent or bankrupt;

(e) is subject to an ongoing investigation in   
 respect of an offence under any other

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | (f) | written law; |
| is serving or has served a sentence of |

imprisonment of more than six months   
imposed by any court in Sri Lanka or any   
other country;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | (g) | holds or enjoys any right or benefit under |
| any contract made by or on behalf of the |

Office; *or*

(h) has any financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially the discharge 15 by him of his functions as a member of the Council.

**9.** Every appointed member of the Council shall, unless he Term of vacates office earlier by resignation, death or removal, hold office.

office for a period of three years from the date of his 20 appointment and unless is removed from office, shall be eligible for reappointment for not more than one further term, whether consecutive or otherwise.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | **10.** (1) Any appointed member of the Council may at any | Resignation |
| time, resign from his office by a letter to that effect, addressed | and removal. |
| to the Minister, and such resignation shall be effective from |
| the date on which it is accepted by the Minister in writing. |

(2) Where anyappointed member by reason of illness, infirmity or absence from Sri Lanka is temporarily unable to discharge the functions of his office**,** the Minister may, having 30 regard to the provisions of paragraph (b) of section 6, appoint some other person to act in his place during his absence.

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(3) The Minister may for reasons assigned, remove an appointed member from office. An appointed member who has been removed from office shall not be eligible for reappointment as a member of the Council or to serve the

5 Council in any other capacity.

(4) Where an appointed member dies, resigns or is removed from office, the Minister may having regard to the provisions of paragraph (b) of section 6, appoint another person in his place and the person so appointed shall hold

10 office for the unexpired period of the term of office of the member whom he succeeds.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | **11.** (1) The meetings of the Council shall be held at least | Quorum and |
| once in every month and the quorum for a meeting of the | meetings of |
| the Council. |
| Council shall be seven members. |
| (2) The Chairperson shall preside at every meeting of the |
| Council. In the absence of the Chairperson from any meeting |

of the Council, a member elected by the members present shall preside at such meeting.

20 (3) A meeting of the Council may be held either-

(a) by the number of members who constitute   
 a quorum being assembled at the place, date   
 and time appointed for the meeting; *or*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | (b) | by means of audio-visual linkageby which |
| all members participating and constituting |

a quorum can simultaneously see and hear   
each participating member for the duration   
of the meeting.

(4) All questions for a decision at any meeting of the

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 30 | Council shall be decided by the vote of the majority of members present at such meeting. In the case of an equality |

of votes, the Chairperson shall, in addition to his vote have a casting vote.

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(5) Subject to the preceding provisions of this section, the Council may regulate the procedure in relation to the meetings of the Council and the transaction of business at such meetings.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | **12.** The Council may act notwithstanding any vacancy | Acts or |
| 10 | among its members and any act or proceeding of the Council | Proceedings |
| of the Council |
| shall not be or deemed to be invalid by reason only of the |
| deemed not to |
| existence of any vacancy among its members or any defect |
| be invalid by |
| in the appointment of a member thereof. | reason of any |
| vacancy. |
| **13.** The members of the Council shall be paid remuneration |
| Remuneration |
| in such manner and at such rates as may be determined by | of the |
| members of |
| the Minister, with the concurrence of the Minister assigned |
| the Council. |

the subject of Finance.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | **14.** (1)The seal of the Office shall be in the custody of | Seal, logo and |
| such person as the Council may decide from time to time. | flag of the |
| Office. |

(2) The seal of the Office may be altered in such manner as may be determined by the Council.

(3) The seal of the Office shall not be affixed to any instrument or document except with the sanction of the 20 Council and in the presence of the Chairperson and one other member of the Council who shall sign the instrument or document in token of their presence:

Provided however, where the Chairperson is unable to be   
present at the time when the seal of the Office is affixed to 25 any instrument or document, any other member of the Council authorised in writing by the Chairperson in that behalf shall be competent to sign such instrument or document in accordance with the preceding provision of this sub-section.

(4) The Office shall maintain a register of the instruments

30 and documents to which the seal of the Office has been affixed.

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(5) There shall be a logo exclusive for the use of the Office.

(6) There shall be a flag to maintain the identity of the Office.

(7) A person who knowingly or wilfully misuses the seal,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 5 | logo or the flag of the Office under this Act, commits an offence under this Act and on conviction after summary trial |

before a Magistrate be liable to a fine not exceeding two million rupees or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two year or to both such fine and imprisonment.

10 **PART III**

**NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHER AND THE STAFF**   
 **OF THE OFFICE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | **15.** (1) There shall be a National Hydrographer of the | Appointment |
| Office appointed by the Council in consultation with the | of the |
| National |
| Minister. |
| Hydrographer |

of the   
Office.

(2) The person appointed as the National Hydrographer shall –

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | (a) | be a citizen of Sri Lanka; |
| (b) | be physically and mentally fit; |
| (c) | be a Hydrographic Surveyor or a Nautical |

Cartographer with at least fifteen years   
experience in –

(i) nautical charting and related activities;

(ii) practical use of electronic and printed

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | nautical | charts | and | nautical |

publications; and

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(iii) hydrographic project management;

(d) be not more than fifty five years of age as   
 at the date of appointment; and

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | (e) | be competent, of high moral integrity and |
| of good repute. |

(3) The National Hydrographer, unless he vacates office   
earlier by death, by operation of law, resignation or removal shall hold office for a term of three years and unless removed from the office shall be eligible for reappointment subject to a 10 maximum period of any three terms of office whether consecutive or otherwise.

(4) The National Hydrographer shall, subject to the general or special directions of the Council, –

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | (a) | be charged with the conduct of day to day |
| administration of the affairs of the Office |
| including the administration and control |

of the staff;

(b) be responsible for the execution of all   
 decisions of the Council; and

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | (c) | carry out all such functions as may be |

assigned to him by the Council.

(5) The National Hydrographer shall be the Secretary to the Council and be present and speak at any meeting of the Council, but shall not be entitled to vote at such meeting.

25 (6) The National Hydrographer may, with the approval of the Council, wherever he considers it necessary to do so, delegate in writing to any officer or employee of the Office, any of his functions referred to in subsection (4) and the officer or employee to whom any such function is delegated

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 30 | shall discharge them subject to the directions of the National Hydrographer. |

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(7) The Council may remove the National Hydrographer from office –

(a) if he becomes permanently incapable of   
 performing his duties;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | (b) | if he had done any act which the Council |

has decided to be of a fraudulent or illegal   
character or is prejudicial to the interests   
of the Office; or

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | (c) | has failed to comply with any direction |
| issued by the Council. |

(8) The National Hydrographer shall be paid such remuneration as may be determined by the Council with the concurrence of the Minister assigned the subject of Finance.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | **16.** (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Office | Staff of the |
| may employ or appoint such officers and employees as may | Office. |
| be necessary for the efficient exercise, performance and |

discharge of its powers, duties and functions.

(2) The Council shall have the power subject to the provisions of the Act to –

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | (a) | exercise disciplinary control over and |

dismiss the officers and employees of the   
Office appointed under subsection (1);

(b) determine the terms and conditions of   
 service of officers and employees of the

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | (c) | Office appointed under subsection (1); and |
| fix the rates at which such officers and |

employees shall be remunerated with the   
concurrence of the Minister assigned the   
subject of Finance.

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(3) All officers and employees of the Office shall, within one month of employment, declare in writing to the Office of their personal direct or indirect interest to the affairs and transactions of the Office including those of their close 5 relations or, concerns in which such officer or employee has a substantial interest.

(4) The Office may establish and regulate pension and provident funds and schemes for the benefit of the National Hydrographer and its officers and employees and their

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 10 | dependants and nominees with the concurrence of the Minister assigned the subject of Finance and may make |

contributions to any such fund or scheme.

(5) The Office shall promote and sponsor the training of its officers and employees and for this purpose, the Office 15 shall be authorised to defray the costs of study, in Sri Lanka or abroad of the officers and employees of the Office who are of proven merit as determined by the Office.

(6) The Office shall establish a code of conduct which shall be applicable to the officers andemployees of the Office.

20 (7) The Office shall not appoint any person to the staff of the Office under subsection (1), where such person –

(a) has been previously found guilty of   
 serious misconduct by a court or tribunal   
 or has been subject to a disciplinary action

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | (b) | by a regulatory body; |
| has been previously dismissed from |

office; or

(c) has committed a breach of the provisions of this Act, regulations or rules made 30 thereunder.

(8) At the request of the Office, any officer in the public service may, with the consent of the officer and the Public

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Service Commission be temporarily appointed to the Office for such period as may be determined by the Office or with like consent, be permanently appointed to such staff.

(9) Where any officer in the public service is temporarily

5 appointed to the staff of the Office, the provisions of subsection (2) of section 14 of the National Transport Commission Act, No. 37 of 1991, shall *mutatis mutandis*, apply to and in relation to such officer.

(10) Where any officer in the public service is permanently

10 appointed to the staff of the Office, the provisions of subsection (3) of section 14 of the National Transport Commission Act, No. 37 of 1991, shall *mutatis mutandis*, apply to and in relation to such officer.

(11) Where the Office employs any person who has agreed

15 to serve the Government for a specified period, any period of service to the Office by that person shall be regarded as service to the Government for the purpose of discharging the obligations of such agreement.

(12) At the request of the Office any officer of the Sri 20 Lanka Army, Sri Lanka Navy or Sri Lanka Air Force may, with the written sanction of the Commander of the Army, Commander of the Navy or the Commander of the Air Force, as the case may be, be temporarily appointed to the Office for such period as may be determined by the Office subject to 25   
the provisions of the Army Act (Chapter 357), Navy Act (Chapter 358), and the Air Force Act (Chapter 359), as the case may be.

(13) The Office may with the consent of such officer or employee propose secondment of its officers or employees 30 to other state institutions or regulatory authorities in Sri Lanka or abroad for a period determined by the Office on an assignment agreed upon between such institution or the

20 *National Hydrographic*

authority and the Office. The period of secondment shall be deemed to be considered as service to the Office.

**PART IV**

**REGISTRATION AS HYDROGRAPHIC**

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| 5 | **SURVEYORS OR NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHERS** | Hydrographic |
| **17.** (1) Aperson shall not practice as a Hydrographic |
| 10 | Surveyor or as a Nautical Cartographer unless such person is | Surveyors or |
| Nautical |
| registered under the provisions of section 18 of this Act: |
| Cartographers |
| to register |
| Provided that, any Hydrographic Surveyor or a Nautical |
| under this |
| Act. |
| Cartographer who is engaged in the practice of hydrographic |

surveying or nautical cartography other than on the Sri Lanka internal waters on the date of commencement of this Act shall, within Two years from the date of commencement of this Act, register himself under the provisions of section 18.

15 (2) Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of subsection (1) commits an offence under this Act and shall on conviction after summary trial before a Magistrate be liable to a fine not exceeding hundred thousand rupees or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | such fine and imprisonment. | Application |
| **18**. (1) A person who wishes to practice as a Hydrographic |
| 25 | Surveyor or a Nautical Cartographer shall make an application | for |
| registration |
| to the Office for registration. | as a |
| Hydrographic |
| (2) The applicant under subsection (1) shall possess such | Surveyor or a |
| Nautical |
| qualifications and experience as may be prescribed. | Cartographer. |

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(3) An application under subsection (1) shall be substantially in a form as may be prescribed by regulation and accompanied by a prescribed fee.

(4) The Office may require an applicant to furnish further

5 information in connection with an application as it may specify.

(5) An applicant shall bear the cost incurred in connection with the verification of information submitted in support of an application.

(6) Upon the receipt of an application under subsection 10 (1), the office shall on consideration of the matters contained in the application decide either to register as a Hydrographic Surveyor or a Nautical Cartographer subject to the provision of this Act and to such terms and conditions specified therein or for the reasons to be recorded by it refuse to register as a

15 Hydrographic Surveyor or a Nautical Cartographer.

(7) The Office shall in writing inform the applicant of its decision and in the case of a refusal to register, it shall state its reasons therefor within one month from the date of informing the said decision.

20 (8) A Hydrographic Surveyor or a Nautical Cartographer registered under this section shall be granted with a Certificate of Registration in the respective field in the form and manner as may be prescribed (hereinafter referred to as the “Certificate of Registration”).

25 (9) The Certificate of Registration shall include such terms and conditions subject to which such registration has been granted.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 22 | *National Hydrographic* | Duration of a registration. |
| **19.** (1) A Certificate of registration that has been granted under this Act shall unless cancelled earlier be valid for a | |

period of one year from the date of the issue of the Certificate of Registration.

5 (2) The Office may cancel a Certificate of Registration issued under section 18, if it is satisfied that the holder of the Certificate of Registration has violated the provisions of the Act or regulations made thereunder or any of the terms and conditions of such Certificate of Registration.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | **20.** A Certificate of Registration issued under section 18 | Renewal of |
| Certificate of |
| shall be renewable on an application in a form as may be |
| Registration. |

prescribed being made in that behalf to the Office not later than thirty day before the expiry of the Certificate of Registration and be accompanied by a fee as may be

15 prescribed:

Provided that, any Hydrographic Surveyor or a Nautical Cartographer who is a public officer shall not be required to renew the registration under this section for so long as such officer serves as a public officer.

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| 20 | **21.** (1) Where an application is made for the registration or | Refusal to |
| renewal of a Certificate of Registration, the Office may refuse | register or |
| renew a |
| to register or renew the Certificate of Registration on any of | Cerificate of |
| Registration. |
| the following grounds: - |

(a) non-compliance with the rules made in that 25 behalf;

(b) failure to comply with the provisions of this   
Act or, regulations or rules made   
thereunder;

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(c) the information or documents furnished by   
 the applicant to the Office is false or   
 misleading or, material omissions exist; or

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | (d) | has been convicted for an offence under |
| the provisions of this Act. |

(2) The Office shall not refuse to register or renew the Certificate of Registration without giving the applicant an opportunity of being heard.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | **22.** (1) Every Hydrographic Surveyor or a Nautical | Use of |
| Cartographer, as the case may be, who is registered under | abbreviated |
| section 18, shall have the right to use, if such person is – | designations |

(a) a Hydrographic Surveyor, the abbreviated   
 designation “HyS”; and

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 15 | (b)a Nautical Cartographer, the abbreviated designation “NauC”. |

(2) A person shall not use any abbreviated designation referred to in subsection (1) unless such person is registered as a Hydrographic Surveyor or a Nautical Cartographer under the provisions of this Act.

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| 20 | **23.** (1) Where the Office is satisfied that any Hydrographic | | Cancellation |
| 25 | Surveyor or a Nautical Cartographer – | | or suspension |
| of a |
| (a) | has contravened the provisions of this Act, or any |
| registration |
| regulation or rule made thereunder; | |
| (b) | has contravened any term or condition of the |
| Certificate of Registration issued under section 18; | |
| 30 | or | |
| (c) | has been found guilty of a prescribed act or |
| professional misconduct, after an inquiry held by | |
| the Complaint Resolution Committee established by | |
| the Office under section 26, | |

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the Office shall take steps to suspend the registration of such Hydrographic Surveyor or a Nautical Cartographer issued under section 18 and cause a notice of such suspension be issued forthwith to such Hydrographic

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 5  10  15  20  25  30 | Surveyor or a Nautical Cartographer.  (2) Any such notice shall specify the grounds on which the decision of the Office is based on, and shall indicate that such Hydrographic Surveyor or the Nautical Cartographer may within a period of one month commencing from the date of receipt of the notice submit to the Office in writing any reason as to why the registration shall not be cancelled.  (3) Where such Hydrographic Surveyor or the Nautical Cartographer, as the case may be, fails to submit the reasons within the period of one month or where the Office is not satisfied with the reasons given by the Hydrographic Surveyor or the Nautical Cartographer, the Office may cancel the registration of such Hydrographic Surveyor or the Nautical Cartographer as the case may be, and inform such person in writing about such cancellation.  (4) Where any Hydrographic Surveyor or a Nautical Cartographer is convicted for an offence under this Act, the Certificate of Registration issued to such person under section 18 shall – | |
| (a) | where no appeal is preferred against the conviction, |
| be cancelled; or | |
| (b) | where an appeal is preferred in terms of relevant |
| written law, be suspended until the decision of the appellate court to which the appeal is preferred is pronounced.  (5) Where the registration of a Hydrographic Surveyor or a Nautical Cartographer is cancelled, the name of such person shall be removed from the registers kept under section 37 of this Act. | |

(6) Any person whose registration is cancelled under this section shall within fourteen days handover his respective Certificate of Registration to the Office.

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**PART V**

**APPEALS**

**24.** (1) Any person who is aggrieved by the decision of Appeals

the Office other than under subsection (4) of section 23 may 5 within thirty days of being notified of such decision, appeal to the Appeals Board appointed by the Minister for this purpose under section 25.

(2) The Appeals Board may, after taking into consideration all the relevant factors and where it is appropriate and

10 reasonable –

(a) allow the appeal and vary the decision of the Office or confirm such decision; or

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | (b) | disallow the appeal. | | Appeals |
| **25.** (1) The Minister shall appoint an Appeals Board which | | |
| shall consist of – | | | Board |
| (a) | | a registered Hydrographic Surveyor or a |

Nautical Cartographer with at least five   
years experience;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | (b) | an Attorney - at - Law who is qualified in |
| the field of maritime law with at least ten |

years experience in the relevant field; and

(c) a Class 1 officer of the Sri Lanka   
 Administrative Service.

(2) The Minister when appointing the members of the 25 Appeals Board may consult the Office.

(3) The members of the Appeals Board shall hold office for a term of three years from the date of appointment and shall be eligible for reappointment.

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(4) The Minister may make regulations prescribing the manner in which the meetings and business of the Appeals Board shall be carried out.

(5) The Appeals Board shall inform its decision to the 5 Office.

(6) Upon receiving the decision of the Appeals Board, the Office shall forthwith inform the appellant of such decision and act in accordance with the decision of the Appeals Board.

(7) The members of the Appeals Board may be paid such

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | remuneration as may be determined by the Minister with the | Inquiry by |
| concurrence of the Minister assigned the subject of Finance. |
| **26.** (1) The Office shall establish a Complaints Resolution |
| 15 | Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”) | Complaints |
| comprising of such officers authorised by the Office to hear | Resolution |
| Committee |
| complaints by any person relating to the professional |

misconduct or breach of any provision of this Act, or regulations or rules made thereunder

(2) The Committee may hold such inquiries as may be deemed necessary or expedient and for such purpose

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| --- | --- |
| 20 | summon and call upon any person to appear before the Committee to give evidence or to produce any book or |

document in the possession or control of such person as are required for the purpose of such inquiries.

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| 25 | (3) The Office shall establish an appropriate procedure for handling such complaints and all matters incidental |

thereto by rules made under this Act.

(4) The Committee may on receipt of any written complaint made by a person, examine the evidence produced before such Committee to find whether any prescribed act of

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| --- | --- |
| 30 | professional misconduct has been committed by the Hydrographic Surveyor or Nautical Cartographer, against |

whom the complaint is made.

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| 5 | *National Hydrographic* | 27 |
| (5) Where the Committee finds that a person has contravened any provision of this Act, or regulations or a rules made thereunder, the Committee shall convey such finding with a recommendation to the Office and the Office shall have the discretion to either give effect to such recommendation or take any other action as it may deem expedient. | |

(6) The Office shall not take any action under this section without affording the person an opportunity of being heard.

10 **PART VI**

**FINANCE**

|  |  |
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| **27.** (1)The Office shall have its own Fund (hereinafter referred to as “the Fund”). | Fund of the Office |

(2) There shall be credited to the Fund –

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| 15 | (a) | all such sums of money as may be voted |
| from time to time by Parliament, for the use |
| 20 | (b) | of the Office; |
| all such sums of money as may be received |
| by the Office in the exercise and discharge |
| of its powers, duties and functions under |
| 25 | (c) | this Act; and |
| all such sums of money as may be received |
| by the Office by way of income, fees, |
| charges, grants, gifts or donations from |
| any source whatsoever whether within or |
| outside Sri Lanka: |

Provided that, the Office   
shall obtain the prior written approval of   
the Department of External Resources of

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 30 | the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Finance, in respect of all foreign |

grants, gifts or donations made to the   
Office.

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(3) There shall be paid out of the Fund –

(a) all such sums of money as are required to   
 defray any expenditure incurred by the   
 Office in the exercise, performance and

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | (b) | discharge of its powers, duties and |
| functions under this Act; and |
| all such sums of money as are required to |

be paid out of the Fund by or under this   
Act.

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| 10 | **28.** (1) The financial year of the Office shall be the calendar | Financial |
| year. | year and |
| (2) The Council shall cause proper books of accounts to | audit of |
| accounts. |
| be kept of the income and expenditure, assets and liabilities |

and all other transactions of the Office.

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| 15 | (3) The provisions of Article 154 of the Constitution |

relating to the audit of the accounts of public corporations shall apply to the audit of accounts of the Office.

(4) The Council shall submit the audited statement of

|  |  |
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| 20 | accounts together with the auditor’s report to the Minister within five months of the end of the financial year to which |

such report relates. The Minister shall place such statement and the report before Parliament within two months of the receipt thereof.

**PART VII**

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| 25 | **GENERAL** | Delegation |
| **29.** (1) The Council may in writing and subject to such |
| conditions as may be specified therein, delegate to the | of the |
| powers of |
| National Hydrographer the powers, duties and functions |
| the Council. |
| conferred on the Council under paragraphs (a) and (b) of |

subsection (2) of section 16 and the National Hydrographer

*National Hydrographic*  29

shall exercise, perform and discharge such powers, duties and functions in the name and on behalf of the Council.

(2) The Council may, notwithstanding any delegation made under subsection (1), by itself exercise, perform or discharge

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | any power, duty or function so delegated and may at any time | Protection |
| revoke any such delegation. |
| **30.** No civil or criminal proceedings shall be instituted |
| 10 | against the National Hydrographer, any officer or employee of | for action |
| taken under |
| the Office or any member of the Council, for any act which in |
| this Act |
| good faith is done or purported to be done by him under this |
| Act or on the directions of the Office or the Council as the |

case may be, if he proves that he acted in good faith and exercised all due diligence, reasonable care and skill.

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| 15 | **31.** (1) Every member of the Council, the National | Duty to |
| Hydrographer, and every officer or employee of the Office | maintain |
| shall, before entering into the duties of his office sign a | Secrecy |

declaration that he will not disclose any information received by him or coming to his knowledge in the exercise, performance

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| 20 | and discharge of his powers, duties and functions under this Act except for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions |

of this Act to the extent permitted under the provisions of Right to Information Act, No. 12 of 2016.

(2) Any person who contravenes the provisions of

subsection (1), commits an offence under this Act, and shall

25 on conviction after summary trial before a Magistrate be liable

to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand rupees or to

imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding

one year or to both such fine and imprisonment.

|  |  |  |
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| 30 | **32.** (1) The Office shall create, manage and maintain a | Database |
| database of all hydrographic survey data, marine data and |

hydrospatial data collected by the Office.

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(2) The Office shall take all necessary steps including technical safeguards to ensure the security of all its databases and data.

**33.** (1) The duplicates of all the nautical charts and nautical Duplicates . publications prepared by every registered Hydrographic   
5 Surveyor or a Nautical Cartographer during the preceding   
 month to be submitted to the Office on or before the fifteenth   
 day of every month together with a list in duplicate in such   
 form and manner as may be prescribed.

(2) The Office shall maintain such duplicates in the form

10 and manner as may be prescribed.

(3) Where any nautical chart or fair sheet is not prepared by a Hydrographic Surveyor or a Nautical Cartographer in any month, such person shall, unless he is absent from Sri Lanka furnish a nil list for that month on or before the fifteenth

15 day of the following month.

(4) A Hydrographic Surveyor or a Nautical Cartographer who fails to submit the duplicates commits a professional misconduct under the provisions of this Act.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | **34.** (1)A person who knowingly or willfully removes, | Interference |
| destroys, alters the position of or markings on any | with survey |
| marks. |
| hydrographic survey mark at the sea or coastal area, buoys |

or beacons that have been placed or set up for the control of hydrographic surveys or delineation of boundaries or identification of danger or for the purpose of any survey

25 conducted under this Act, commits an offence under this Act and shall on conviction after summary trial before a Magistrate be liable to a fine not exceeding one million rupees or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both such fine and imprisonment.

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(2) Any person who is convicted under subsection (1) shall, in addition to the fine or term of imprisonment or both for which such person is liable also be liable to such costs as may be determined by the Office in respect of repairing, 5 replacing or restoring any such survey marks, buoys or beacons specified in subsection (1).

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| 10 | **35.** (1) For the purpose of exercise, performance and | | Power to |
| discharge of the powers, duties and functions, it shall be | | access any |
| place |
| lawful for the Office or any person authorised by the Office | |
| to conduct the following: - | |
| (a) | to have access to any place, premises, vehicle, |

aircraft or a vessel;

(b) to place or enact any permanent light, benchmark, reference mark or any temporary flag, sign or other 15 mark for the purpose of hydrographic surveying; and

(c) to remove any flora or fauna obstructing any beacon, mark, trigonometrical point, flag, buoy or signal unless it is prohibited under any other written law.

20 (2) For the purpose of exercising the powers specified under subsection (1) –

(a) prior written notice shall be given to the owner, occupier or the person in possession of the place, premises, vehicle, air craft or vessel within a

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | (b) | reasonable period of time; |
| the owner, occupier or the person in possession |

shall be reimbursed with any damage caused to such   
person’s property while carrying out any power,   
duty or function under subsection (1) in the manner

30 specified by the Office; or

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | 32 | *National Hydrographic* | Vessels of the |
| (c) | prior written approval of the relevant authority be |
| obtained if the access to any place, premises, | |
| vehicle, aircraft or vessel is restricted due to national | |
| security or under the provision of any other written | |
| law. | |
| **36.** Any vessel used for the hydrographic surveying in | |
| 10 | the waters of Sri Lanka and any mechanical or non-mechanical | | hydrographic |
| equipment shall be approved by the Office as may be specified | | servey fleet |
| by the Office in accordance with the rules made in that behalf. | |
| **37.** The Office shall, in accordance with the provisions of | |
| Registers to |
| 15 | this Act and regulations made thereunder maintain the | | be kept by |
| registers of the Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical | | the Office |
| Cartographers in the form and manner as may be prescribed. | |
| State |
| **38.** (1) In terms of the provisions of this Act, where any | |
| immovable property of the State is required for the purposes | | property |
| 20 | of the Office, such purpose shall be deemed to be a purpose | | both movable |
| for which a special grant or lease of such property be made | | and |
| immovable be |
| to the Office under section 6 of the Crown Lands Ordinance | |
| made |
| (Chapter 454) and accordingly the provisions of that | |
| available to |
| Ordinance shall apply to a special grant or lease of such | |
| the Office |
| property to the Office for such purpose. | |
| 25 | (2) Where any movable property of a Government | | Penalties for |
| department or any public corporation is required for the | |
| purposes of the Office, the Minister may by Order published | |
| in the *Gazette* transfer to and vest in the Office the possession | |
| and use of such movable property. | |
| (3) No Order affecting any movable property of any | |
| 30 |
| Government department or public corporation shall be made | |
| by the Minister under subsection (2) without the concurrence | |
| of the Minister assigned with that department or public | |
| corporation. | |
| **39**. Where any person contravenes any provision of this | |
| 35 | Act or any regulations or rules made thereunder and no | | cotraventions |
| penalty has been specified under this Act in respect of such | | for which no |
| spesific |
| contravention, such person shall, on conviction after | |
| provisions |
| summary trail by a Magistrate, be liable to a fine not exceeding | |
| have been |
| fifty thousand rupees or to imprisonment of either description | |
| made |

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for a term not exceeding six months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

|  |  |  |
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| 5 | **40.** An officer authorized in writing by the Office shall be | Provision |
| deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of section | regarding |
| prosecution |
| 136 of the Code of Criminal Procedure Act, No. 15 of 1979, for |
| the purpose of instituting proceedings in respect of offences |

under this Act.

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| 10 | **41.** The Office shall be deemed to be a Scheduled | Office  deemed to be a Scheduled |
| Institution within the meaning of the Anti Corruption Act, |
| No. 9 of 2023 and the provisions of that Act shall be construed |
| Institution  within the  meaning of |
| accordingly. |
| **42.** All members of the Council, the National Hydrographer | the Anti  Corruption  Act |
| Members,  National  Hydrographer, officers and  employees of the Office  deemed to be public  servants |
| and all officers and employees of the Office shall be deemed |
| to be public servants within the meaning and for the purposes |
| of the Penal Code (Chapter 19). |
| 15 | **43.** The Minister may from time to time issue to the | Directions of the Minister |
| Council, general or special directions as to the exercise, |

performance and discharge of the powers, duties and functions of the Office.

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| 20 | **44.** The provisions of this Act shall have effect | Provisions of |
| notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other written | this Act to |
| 25 | law and accordingly in the event of any inconsistency or | prevail over |
| other written |
| conflict between the provisions of this Act and such other |
| law |
| written law, the provisions of this Act shall prevail. |
| Regulations |
| **45.** (1) The Minister may make regulations in respect of all |
| matters required by this Act to be prescribed or in respect of |
| which regulations are authorized by this Act to be made. |

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of   
the provisions contained in subsection (1), the Minister may 30 make regulations in regard to :–

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(a) the mode and manner of preparation and maintenance of nautical charts in relation to the waters of Sri Lanka;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | (b) | adaptation of international procedures related to |

hydrographic services;

(c) the manner in which hydrographic surveys to be conducted and the form and the manner in which 10 the nautical charts, fair sheets, digital data and other records pertaining to a hydrographic survey to be prepared and the details to be inserted in such nautical charts, fair sheets, field books and records;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15 | (d) | the degree of accuracy to be attained in hydrographic |

surveys and the limit of error to be allowed;

(e) the steps to be taken to test the accuracy of hydrographic surveys and for the correction of any inaccuracies that may be discovered;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | (f) | the courses of study and training required to be |

obtained by a hydrographic surveyor before   
renewing such person’s registration;

(g) guidelines to be followed by registered hydrographic surveyors and Nautical Cartographers;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 25 | (h) | form and manner and procedure relating to qualifying |

exams and professional tests to be followed by

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persons who intend to register under the provisions   
this Act; and

(i) registration of institutions which provide   
 educational and professional qualifications to any

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 5 | person who intends to obtain a registration under the provisions of this Act. |

(3) Every regulation made by the Minister within three months after its publication in the *Gazette* be brought before Parliament for approval.

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| 10 | (4) Any regulation which is not so approved shall be |

deemed to be rescinded as from the date of such disapproval but without prejudice to anything previously done thereunder.

(5) Notification of the date on which any regulation is so disapproved shall be published in the *Gazette.*

15   
 **46.** (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Council Rules

may make rules in respect of all or any of the following matters: -

(a) all matters for which rules are authorised or required to be made under this Act;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 20 | (b) | the meetings of the Council and the procedure to be |
| (c) | followed at such meetings; |
| code of conduct to be followed by the officers and |

employees of the Office and a code of conduct to be followed by the registered Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers; and   
25

(d) the appointment, promotion, remuneration and disciplinary control of officers and employees and the grant of leave and other emoluments to officers and employees.

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(2) Every rule made by the Office shall be approved by the Minister and be published in the *Gazette* and shall come into operation on the date of its publication or on such later date as may be specified therein.

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| 5 | **47.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires- | Interpretation |

‘‘contiguous zone” means the zone which   
may not extend beyond twenty   
four nautical miles from the   
baselines from which the breadth   
of the territorial sea is measured;

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 10 | ‘‘digital data” means information obtained or created by the operation of |

electronic equipment in the course   
of hydrographic surveying,   
nautical charting or related

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 15 | incidental activities; |

‘‘exclusive economic zone” means the zone   
which shall not extend beyond two   
hundred nautical miles from the   
baselines from which the breadth   
of the territorial sea is measured;

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 20 | ‘‘Fair sheets” means bathymetric data set in digital or graphic formats; |

‘‘hydrography” means the branch of applied   
sciences which deals with the   
measurement and description of the   
physical features of oceans, seas,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 25 | coastal areas, lakes and rivers, as well as with the prediction of their |

change over time, for the primary

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purpose of safety of navigation   
and in support of all other marine   
activities, including economic   
development, security and

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 5 | defence, scientific research, and environmental protection.; |

‘‘hydrographic services” includes the management, maintenance, interpretation, certification and 10 dissemination of bathymetric, hydrographic, shoreline, geodetic, geospatial, geomagnetic, and tide,

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| water | level, | and | current |

information, including the 15 production of nautical charts, nautical information databases, and other products derived from hydrographic data; the develop ment of nautical information

20 systems and related activities;

‘‘hydrographic survey” means any conduct   
 of hydrography;

‘‘hydrographic surveyor” means any person   
who studies and practices the

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 25 | science of hydrography complies with the international standard of |

competence as laid down by the   
international organizations;

‘‘hydrospatial data” means the data,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 30 | information or knowledge that is associated with a particular |

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location and time of the earth’s   
water and contiguous zone;

‘‘internal waters” mean waters located landward of the base lines from 5 which the territorial sea is measured and includes such as rivers, lakes, ponds and reservoirs of Sri Lanka;  
 “marine data” means any data which is 10 related to the sea and the creatures and plants that live therein;

‘‘marine geospatial data” includes dense   
data on the depth of oceans,   
magnetic nature, gravity changes,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 15 | sound wave propagation in sea water temperature and pressure |

variations, behaviour of ocean   
currents and tides in the coastal   
zone of Sri Lanka;

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 20 | ‘‘maritime zone” means any maritime zone declared under the Maritime |

Zones Law, No. 22 of 1976 and includes –  
 (a) the contiguous zone;   
25 (b) the exclusive economic zone;   
 (c) the continental shelf; and   
 (d) the pollution prevention zone,

declared by Proclamation in terms of the aforesaid Law, and any other zone 30 which may be declared at a future date under the said Law.

‘‘Minister” means the Minister assigned the   
 subject ofthe

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Defence under Article 44 or 45 of the   
 Constitution;

‘‘nautical cartography” means the art and   
science of expressing electronic or

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 5 | printed nautical charts by means of computer hardware and |

software which aids humans to   
make decisions and perform their   
functions;

10 ‘‘nautical cartographer” means the person employed in drawing and constructing electronic or printed nautical charts complies with the international standard of 15 competence as laid down by the international organizations;

‘‘nautical charting” means the activity or   
process of making a digital or   
printed chart of water bodies;

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 20 | ‘‘nautical charts” means a measurement, electronic or printed presentation, |

in, graphical or numerical form, or a combination of such forms, of the depth, nature of the bottom, elevation, magnetism or other 25 information of water and land, including water and land (whether natural or both) otherwise or a projection by which information is compiled to enable mariners to

30 navigate their vessels safely;

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‘‘navigation” means the process of directing   
the movement of a craft from one   
point to another;

‘‘notices to mariners” means corrections to

5 nautical charts and publications. These only contain information which is vitally important to safety at sea;

‘‘ocean” means the vast body of water on 10 the surface of the globe, which surrounds the land the main or great sea, one of the main areas into which this body of water is divided geographically;

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 15 | ‘‘Pollution prevention zone’’ means the zone which is formulated to prevent, |

reduce, control and manage pollution arising out of ship based activity and shore based maritime 20 related activity in the territorial waters of Sri Lanka or any other maritime zone, its fore-shore and the coastal zone of Sri Lanka;

‘‘prescribed” means prescribed by 25 regulations made under this Act;

‘‘public officer” shall have the same meaning   
 assigned to such expression   
 under the Constitution;  
‘‘sea” means the great body of salt water in

30 general, as opposed to land;

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‘‘territorial waters” includes the territorial sea

and the historic waters of Sri

Lanka;

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 5 | ‘‘waters of Sri Lanka” includes internal waters and territorial sea of Sri |

Lanka.

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| --- | --- |
| **48.** In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail. | Sinhala text to prevail in case of |

inconsistency

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