



SPECIALIST  
PROFESSIONAL  
INDEMNITY  
INSURANCE

# Hydrographic Surveyors

Specialist professional indemnity insurance

ITIC  
IS MANAGED  
BY **THOMAS  
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# Professional indemnity insurance for hydrographic surveyors

## Expert view

Hydrographic surveyors provide services to diverse businesses. These can include the laying of pipelines and transoceanic telecommunication cables, positioning of wind farms and environmental agencies. ITIC's comprehensive professional indemnity insurance is applicable to a wide range of surveys, such as: bathymetric; environmental; aerial; satellite and laser imaging; wave measurement and analysis. ITIC has wide experience in assisting its hydrographic surveyors in minimising the financial impact arising from such mistakes as:

- Errors in data set due to a mistake of the surveyor
- Failure to notify interested parties on the laying of a submarine cable
- Failure to conduct a harbour survey correctly, causing the grounding of a vessel
- Producing a chart with an incorrectly marked rock

## Policy highlights

- **Worldwide professional indemnity (errors & omissions) cover**
- **Legal defence costs insurance**
- **Automatic cover for subcontractors**
- **Contractual risk management guidance**
- **Quality loss prevention advice**
- **Support from worldwide network of correspondents**
- **Discretionary insurance adjudicated upon by fellow transport industry professionals**
- **No external shareholders**
- **Mutual dividends paid at renewal**
- **Underwritten with industry knowledge**

The above list is merely to show examples of the areas ITIC covers. If your particular field is not included, just contact ITIC to discuss your needs.

## Why choose **ITIC**?

<b>ITIC provides professional indemnity insurance at cost</b>	ITIC is the mutual insurer of the transport industry with no external shareholders to take a profit from the business.
<b>ITIC will provide a sympathetic approach</b>	ITIC understands that you will often have commercial relationships which will need preserving if a claim arises and we will work with you to allow that business association to continue. ITIC's unique insurance cover allows some discretion and could support a claim which may not normally be paid by another professional indemnity insurer.
<b>ITIC understands your business</b>	ITIC's specialist knowledge of your business will make it quicker and easier for you to obtain advice and support on a claim under your professional indemnity insurance.
<b>ITIC is more than just insurance</b>	As an assured at ITIC you will receive support from a team who understand the unique situations and liabilities that your business faces.
<b>ITIC pays dividends annually</b>	Surplus funds have been paid out to the members in the form of continuity credit since 1994.

Any hydrographic surveyor will face day-to-day exposure to risk, but will be able to rely on ITIC to help reduce any potential hazards. To demonstrate potential liabilities in this sector, the following claims scenarios may be helpful.

### Swedish Hydrographic Office

The Swedish Hydrographic Office produced a navigation chart with an incorrectly marked rock. A Russian tanker struck the rock and filed a claim against the organisation.

The Swedish Supreme Court held that the Hydrographic Office was liable to the tanker owners for the consequences.

This included the damage to the ship. Additionally, the Court held that because the chart was defective, the owner had a valid defence to any claim for the clean-up costs of the resulting oil spillage and any pollution claims.

### Why cover is necessary

Historically, hydrographic surveyors have chosen not to purchase professional indemnity insurance, a common view being that they have been working for years and have never experienced a claim. However, in the current business environment, there is an increasing need for professional indemnity cover.

As hydrographic charts are now generally available to many members of the public, particularly following the introduction of the Electronic Navigational Chart and the increase of new companies which market and distribute hydrographic information, the number of people who rely on the information provided by the hydrographer, and therefore to whom the hydrographer owes a duty of care, will have significantly increased.

### United States Hydrographic Office

In a case in the US, a court held that the then US Hydrographic Office (USHO) was not negligent in causing a passenger ship to ground between Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard after the ship's owners claimed that a reef had been charted negligently.

The court held that the error on the chart did not result from negligence by the USHO because the organisation conducted the survey in 1939 with state-of-the-art techniques.

The court also held that there was no pressing need for the USHO's successor, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), to perform a new survey. Additionally, the court held that the ship did not actually rely on the defective chart when fixing its course. Therefore, even if the chart had been defective, it did not cause the loss.

The US Court of Appeal confirmed the second point, but the first was not mentioned in the judgment.

This is an example of an event where even though a mistake was not made, legal action was commenced, causing a great deal of expense in both time and legal cost.

# ITIC facts & figures at a glance

All figures US\$  
All facts and figures correct as of 1st July 2024

Fact  
Sheet  
Series

Hydrographic surveyors

## Gross premium

\$71m

for the year

## Claims paid

\$491m

since 1992

## Members

3,651

## Security rating

Backed by at least "A-" rated reinsurance programme



## Worldwide insurance cover

ITIC is able to provide professional indemnity insurance, without restrictions, worldwide. An ITIC account executive is responsible for each country and will be your first point of contact. The ITIC team speaks French, German, Greek, Japanese, Mandarin and Spanish.

## Credits paid

\$205m

surplus funds have been paid out to the members in the form of continuity credit since 1994

## Disbursements & commissions

\$244m

of disbursements and commissions collected for members since 1992

## Free reserves

\$260m

for ITIC and TIMIA combined

## Annual premium

from **\$1,500**  **\$1.8m**

ITIC is committed to consistently providing competitively priced professional indemnity insurance (and related insurance covers) with valuable and high quality loss prevention advice to businesses servicing the marine, aviation, rail and general transport industry. The ITIC team have a wealth of experience and knowledge.

28

Staff

A full time team to provide you with the best service possible.

22

Years

Average staff member's experience in the insurance/transport industry.

12

Years

Average staff member's time with ITIC. Several staff have over 25 years of service.

6

Lawyers

6 lawyers and a dedicated claims team.

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