

Two International Commissions Select HYPACK



HYPACK was selected as the main hydrographic tool for two international commissions responsible for important navigational areas of Argentina and Uruguay. The Administrative Commission of the La Plata River (CARP), and the Administrative Commission of the River Uruguay (CARU), are managing the Uruguay River and Rio de la Plata which constitute part of the national border between Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay.

To the South of the American continent, ranging between Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay lies the Uruguay River, about 1,750 km long. This river flows into the Rio de la Plata, which in turn is the boundary between Argentina and Uruguay. This river with is 300 km long and 219 km at its widest part; the widest river in the world, as well as an important navigational area for the ports of Buenos Aires and Montevideo.

To maintain such a route, multiple bathymetries are constantly needed to know the condition of the river and its waterways, so that the authorities can schedule dredging operations where necessary. They also need to collect data to conduct sedimentology studies that reveal the behavior of the river and allow them to schedule maintenance dredging and location of aids to navigation among other tasks. For these studies, HYPACK, HYSWEEP and DREDGEPAK are the tools selected, thereby providing a common platform that facilitates, not only hydrographic operations and standardized procedures, but also facilitates the exchange of data, conducting calibrations and the integration of a number of sensors used in the area to monitor these rivers. For this purpose, we are installing DREDGEPAK in the hopper dredges of both countries. HYPACK is also installed in their survey vessels and in their hydrographic offices to process the data and generate final products that will be made available to all users. HYPACK, Inc. will provide the licenses and sensors for the dredges and oversee installations in the vessels and provide training to operators and surveyors.

The management of the rivers has been assigned to two, binational commissions: The Administrative Commission of the La Plata River (CARP), is an international, binational organisation that provides the legal framework and facilitates dialogue among its parts, the Argentina Republic and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, for negotiation on matters of common interest to both countries in the area of Rio de la Plata. Thus, CARP regulates and manages issues pertaining to these two countries regarding the Rio de la Plata and its Maritime boundary and issues related to fishing, boating, water conservancy, pilotage, pollution, etc.

A similar situation occurs with the Administrative Commission of the River Uruguay (CARU), a body which plays a similar role in the Rio Uruguay. These entities and others working towards the safety of navigation in these important pathways such as the National Port Administration of Uruguay, or Naval Hydrographic Service of Argentina and Service for Oceanography, Hydrography and Meteorology of the Uruguayan Navy have all a common tool, HYPACK. In the Rio de la Plata, the Martin Garcia Canal is one of the major waterways in these countries, which was formally opened in 1999 and allows navigation of vessels up to 245 metres long with a 32 foot draft.