

An overview of the reliability of official nautical charts in the Arctic and Antarctic areas does not exist. The objective of this thesis is to collect official information on this subject to draw conclusions on where chart coverage is good, is missing or is unreliable. Publicly available sources provided a basis of information to answer this question. When not available, the country's hydrographic service was contacted. The CATZOC system and Google Earth Pro made it possible to display all data in a uniform way.

In the Arctic, the United States of America and Canada have central shipping lanes of high quality, complemented by large areas of lower quality. Throughout the Arctic, high CATZOC values are found near settlements. According to the data used, the Russian sea charts have a high reliability.

For the Antarctic region, the data of 10 countries were obtained. When these are put together, the results vary: small-scale charts have a low quality, but large-scale charts do not have a clear pattern.

Anyone planning a voyage through a polar region should check whether nautical charts are available for the entire route. Reliable chart coverage is lacking over areas of considerable size.