A Hydrographic Survey is a survey having for its principal purpose the determination of data relating to bodies of water, and which may consist of the determination of one or several of the following classes of data; depth of water and configuration of bottom; directions and force of current; heights and times and water stages; and location of fixed objects for survey and navigation purposes. Such determinations and the reporting or mapping fall within the definition of land surveying under G.S. 89C-3(7)(a) and must be performed by a Professional Land Surveyor (PLS) or under the responsible charge of a PLS as defined in Board Rule 21-56.0701(c)(3).

Specifically, it falls within the following paragraphs of G.S. 89C-3(7)(a):

2. Locating, relocating, establishing, or laying out the alignment or elevation of any of the fixed works embraced within the practice of professional engineering;

5. Determining the configuration or contour of the earth's surface or the position of fixed objects on the earth's surface by measuring lines and angles and applying the principles of mathematics or photogrammetry;

7. Creating, preparing, or modifying electronic or computerized data, including land information systems and geographic information systems relative to the performance of the practice of land surveying.