



Kunstenjeh Anchorage chart: Witnessing the birth of a new port

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Constanta (Kustenjeh in Turkish) has been a port city at the Black Sea since the times of Ancient Greece and the Roman Empire. Plans for building a modern port began to develop in the late nineteenth century under the Kustendje Harbour Company Ltd. for connecting trade along the Danube with Black Sea. A chart was elaborated in 1881 and published two years later, under the direction of Sir Charles Hartley, at the time the Superintendent Engineer to the European Commission of the Danube. The chart presents the state of the coast in natural regime before the construction of the port that started in 1896. Georeferencing and DEM construction offers the opportunity to characterize the morphology of this coastal area and is uniquely valuable in understanding the anthropogenic modifications of the region in the last 130 years. The morphology of Constanta embayment suggests the presence of a submerged terrace between 4 and 7 m water depth as well as submerged capes that served as anchoring points for the construction of the initial port. The Constanta port, the largest in the Black Sea and fourth largest in Europe, has since far expanded beyond the natural forms of the embayment.