



THIS CIRCULAR LETTER REQUIRES YOU TO VOTE

IHO File N° S3/6004

CIRCULAR LETTER 55/2018
13 November 2018

**CALL FOR APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
THE IHO RESOLUTION 2/1997, AS AMENDED**

References:

- A. IHO CL 44/2018 dated 07 September - *Outcome of the 10th Meeting of the IRCC*
- B. IHO CL 51/2018 dated 29 October - *Outcome of the 2nd Meeting of the IHO Council.*
- C. Summary Report of the 2nd Meeting of the IHO Council.

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The IHO Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) was tasked by the Assembly at its first session (A-1) to review the IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended *Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions - RHC* in accordance with Decision A-1/5 (item o) on Proposal 9.
2. The IRCC reviewed and endorsed the Proposed Amendments to the IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended at its 10th meeting in June 2018 (Reference A). The proposed amendments mainly reflect the alignment with Article 8 of the General Regulations of the IHO and with the new IHO Convention.
3. Reference B informed Member States on the outcome of the 2nd Meeting of the IHO Council. The summary report of the meeting (Reference C) indicates that the Council reviewed and endorsed the Proposed Amendments to the IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended with a minor adjustment in wording (Decision C2/19).
4. As reported in Reference C (Action C2/20), Member States are also invited to note that more substantive amendments to this IHO Resolution are currently in preparation by the IRCC in order to update the framework under which the IHO and the RHCs cooperate. These new amendments will be submitted for approval at the 2nd Session of the Assembly after endorsement by the Council at its 3rd meeting.
5. The resulting Proposed Amendments to the IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended, are provided in Annex A.
6. Member States are requested to take into account the endorsement of the IRCC and the IHO Council and consider adopting the Proposed Amendments to the IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended and to indicate their decision by returning the Voting Form, provided in Annex B, **no later than 10 January 2019**.

On behalf of the Secretary-General

Yours sincerely,

Mustafa IPTES
Director

- Annex A: Proposed Amendments to the IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended
Annex B: Voting Form

Proposed Amendments to the IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended

(RED-LINE VERSION as endorsed at C-2)

TITLE	Reference	Last amendment (CL or IHC/A)	1 st Edition Reference
ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS (RHC)	2/1997 as amended	xx/2019	T1.3

1 It is resolved that the **IHO Secretariat**~~HB~~ shall encourage Member States having common regional interests in data collecting or nautical charting to form Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) to cooperate in the undertaking of surveys and other projects. ~~Recognized by the AssemblyAs part of IHO~~, the RHCs shall complement the work of the **IHO Secretariat**~~Bureau~~.

2 RHCs are intended to provide, in pursuance of the resolutions and recommendations of the IHO, regional co-ordination with regard to nautical information, hydrographic surveys, production of nautical charts and documents, training, technical cooperation and hydrographic capacity building projects. They (RHC) should enable the exchange of information and consultation between the hydrographic services concerned. Geographically adjacent RHCs should liaise with each other.

2 bis Where Capacity Building is required in a region, RHCs are recommended to establish an internal body to deal with CB matters and to designate a focal point to ensure continuity in the CB process. This part-time allocation to assist RHCs should come primarily and ideally from an HO within the region. If that is not possible then the RHC might agree to request support from another RHC or an HO that might wish to take that responsibility.

These regional contact points, the responsibilities of which should be given directly and in detail by the RHC concerned, shall have the support of the RHCs; shall be nominated having in mind the importance of continuity; shall be in permanent contact with the corresponding RHC Chairman as well as with the **CBSC** Chair~~man~~. Ideally should be a **CBSC** member with access to RHC meetings.

In the absence of any other viable alternative and despite its limited human resources availability a request of support could be requested to the **IHO Secretariat**~~HB~~.

3 RHCs shall be properly constituted and have activities in line with the objectives of the IHO as described in Article II of the Convention **and Article 8 of the General Regulations** on the IHO and in accordance with the approved IHO Work Programme. Geographical areas of the RHC will normally coincide with INT chart regions, modified as appropriate to meet regional requirements and special circumstances. There are special provisions for Region M (Antarctica) because of its special status.

4 RHC membership may include full members, **and** associate members, ~~and observers, all~~ willing to contribute to the safety of navigation in the fields of hydrography, nautical charting, nautical information or navigational warnings in the region concerned. The roles of full members, associated members and observers will be defined by each RHC.

Full membership is reserved for IHO Member States within the region who sign the statutes of the RHC.

Associate membership is available to other IHO Members States or States of the region who are non-IHO members, both being signatories of the statutes of the RHC.

Other States and International Organizations active in the region concerned may be invited by the RHC to participate as observers.

The invitation procedures should be established by each RHC.

5 The working languages used by the RHC shall be agreed upon by their members and designated to ensure the best communication between participants. The reports and IHO documents relating to RHC activities shall be in at least one of the official languages of the IHO. For correspondence with the ~~IHO Secretariat Bureau~~, one of the official languages of the IHO shall be used.

6 A representative of the ~~IHO Secretariat Bureau~~ shall be invited to attend meetings of RHCs.

6bis RHCs shall assess regularly the hydrographic capacity and requirements within their region.

7 Chairs of RHCs shall report to the ~~I.H. Conference Assembly~~ on RHC activities, hydrographic capacity and requirements within their region, future plans and the agreed key targets that support RHC tasks detailed in the IHO Work Programme. The Chairs of RHC's shall also submit an annual report to the ~~IHO Secretariat~~ indicating progress made against the agreed key targets in the IHO Work Programme for general dissemination. Between sessions of the ~~Assembly~~, reports of studies or other activities, which may be considered of general interest to all IHO Member States, shall be sent by Chairs of RHCs to the ~~IHO Secretariat Bureau~~ for general dissemination.

8 The following structure is to be used for National Reports made to those RHCs that wish to receive such reports:

Structure for National Reports to Regional Hydrographic Commissions

Executive summary

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Hydrographic Office / Service: | General, including updates for the IHO Yearbook e.g. reorganization |
| 2 | Surveys: | Coverage of new surveys.
New technologies and /or equipment
New ships
Problems encountered |
| 3 | New charts & updates: | ENCs
ENC Distribution method
RNCs
INT charts
National paper charts
Other charts, e.g. for pleasure craft
Problems encountered |
| 4 | New publications & updates: | New Publications
Updated publications
Means of delivery, e.g. paper, digital
Problems encountered |
| 5 | MSI | Existing infrastructure for transmission
New infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan
Problems encountered |
| | | Note : Use the WWNWS template for this section |
| 6 | C-55 | Latest update (Tables) |
| 7 | Capacity Building | Offer of and/or demand for Capacity Building
Training received, needed, offered
Status of national, bilateral, multilateral or regional development projects with hydrographic component. (In progress, planned, under evaluation or study) |

Definition of bids to IHOCBC

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|---|
| 8 | Oceanographic activities | General
GEBCO/IBC's activities
Tide gauge network
New equipment
Problems encountered |
| 9 | Other activities | Participation in IHO Working Groups
Meteorological data collection
Geospatial studies
Disaster prevention
Environmental protection
Astronomical observations
Magnetic/Gravity surveys
MSDI Progress
International
Etc. |
| 10 | Conclusions | |

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| 3 | New charts & updates: | ENCs
ENC Distribution method
RNCs
INT charts
National paper charts
Other charts, e.g. for pleasure craft
Problems encountered |
| 4 | New publications & updates: | New Publications
Updated publications
Means of delivery, e.g. paper, digital
Problems encountered |
| 5 | MSI | Existing infrastructure for transmission
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Definition of bids to IHOCBC |
| 8 | Oceanographic activities | General
GEBCO/IBC's activities
Tide gauge network
New equipment |

Problems encountered

- 9 Other activities
- Participation in IHO Working Groups
 - Meteorological data collection
 - Geospatial studies
 - Disaster prevention
 - Environmental protection
 - Astronomical observations
 - Magnetic/Gravity surveys
 - MSDI Progress
 - International
 - Etc.
- 10 Conclusions

APPROVAL OF THE REVISED IHO RESOLUTION 2/1997, AS AMENDED

VOTING FORM

(to be returned to the IHO Secretariat **no later than 10 January 2019**)

E-mail: cl-lc@iho.int - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)

**Member
State:**

Contact:

E-mail:

Do you approve the revised IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended?

Please tick the appropriate box:

YES

NO

If you answer 'NO', please explain in the comment section below.

Comments (if required)

Name / Signature : Date :