

18th ABLOS BUSINESS MEETING  
SHOA, Valparaiso, Chile  
9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011

**1. Opening remarks by the Chairman**

Chris Carleton, Chairman of ABLOS, welcomed delegates to the meeting and outlined the arrangements for the following three days. His intention was to set aside most of the second session the following day to cover planning for the 7<sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference and to cover as many of the other agenda items during the first session.

He thanked SHOA for hosting the meeting and Commander Jorge Pereira in particular for his considerable amount of work in preparing for the meeting. The meeting was declared open at 0915.

**2. Appointment of rapporteur.**

The Chairman appointed John Brown, an observer from the UK as rapporteur.

**3. Introduction of participants and apologies for absence**

The Chairman welcomed Neils Andersen and Sobar Sutisna who are replacing Lars Sjoberg and Chris Rizos as IAG members with effect from 1 January 2012. A list of participants who attended is appended at annex 1 to this report.

Apologies were noted from Zvonko Gržetić - IHO member, Muhammad Bashir - IHO member, Chris Rizos - IAG member, Lars Sjoberg - IAG member, Graeme Blick - IAG member, HP Rajan - DOALOS ex-officio representative, Ravi Nautiyal - IHO observer and Katsuhiko Kusunoki - IHO observer who were unable to attend the meeting.

**4. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Chairman stated that the provisional agenda had been circulated amongst the members and having received no comments or proposals, moved that the agenda, as circulated, be adopted; a proposal which met with unanimous approval.

**5. Approval of the report of the 17<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting**

The Secretary said that he had circulated the report of the meeting to the members and had received no comments or amendments. The Chairman declared the report approved and thanked the rapporteur for his assistance in producing them.

## **6. ABLOS the way forward**

### **a. Terms of Reference**

The Secretary said that the ABLOS ToR required that they be reviewed at intervals not exceeding 4 years; however this was a standing agenda item on the annual BM agenda. The ToR and RoP had been updated only recently, to reflect the changed committee structure within the IHO, and no further proposals for amendment had been received. Some consequential amendments which will be required when the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention come into effect, have already been incorporated in italics

### **b. Membership**

The Chairman said that there were several issues to be addressed under this agenda item, but before he went any further he wanted to record his personal thanks, and that of ABLOS, to Chris Rizos and Lars Sjoberg, IAG members who were both completing their terms of membership. Chris Rizos has served two terms as Chairman of ABLOS, and was a founder member who had given sterling service throughout his long association with the group. Lars Sjoberg is also a long serving member who has made significant contributions to the work of ABLOS. The Chairman mentioned that both have indicated to him their intention to try and attend the 2012 conference in Monaco.

The Chairman went on to say that he is retiring from his employment at the UK Hydrographic Office in December of this year but that would not prevent him carrying out his duties as Chairman until October 2012 when he would hand over to Sunil Bisnath, the current Vice-Chairman. He did express a hope that ABLOS would be able to fund his travel and subsistence from the Conference Fund to enable him to attend the 2012 Conference and Business Meeting. The Secretary indicated that there were sufficient funds available for this purpose, and that proposal met with general approval. It was decided that the Conference Fund should cover travel and subsistence for Chris Carleton.

Beyond 2012, he said there were 2 options open to him. The UK could propose that John Brown be nominated by the UK and appointed by the IHO as a direct replacement to serve out the remainder of his time as an IHO member, with Chris Carleton then taking over from John Brown as an IHO Observer. Alternatively, Chris Carleton could resign completely as an IHO member with effect from the end of his time as Chairman, and ask ABLOS to appoint him as an observer.

A general discussion followed, during which Ron Macnab observed that with the work on the revision of the TALOS manual nearing completion, he felt that as an ABLOS appointed observer he did not want to feel he was “blocking” the appointment of another ABLOS observer and therefore was not opposed to standing aside to make way for a replacement for him to be appointed. Sunil Bisnath as Vice-Chair made the point that as there were so many other retirements and replacements imminent there should be thought given to managing a smooth transition to newer members and that it was important that

the significant experience of both Chris Carleton and Ron Macnab should not be lost. It made sense to have both as ABLOS appointed observers which could be achieved if both were willing to serve. Both indicated agreement to serve as such, and the UK will write to the IHB requesting that John Brown be appointed to serve out the remainder of Chris Carleton's term as an IHO member to assist with this transition.

**Action UK**

The Secretary drew the attention of the delegates to a list of the current members of ABLOS with dates of their terms of membership which was reviewed.

Zvonko Gržetić's and Shin Tani's membership was valid until 2014; and Muhammad Bashir's term until 2015.

Lars Sjoberg and Chris Rizos will be replaced by Sobar Sutisna and Neils Andersen with effect from 1 January 2012. Both Sunil Bisnath's and Graeme Blick's terms are due to expire in October 2012. It was pointed out that since appointment as an IAG member; Graeme Blick has only attended one Business Meeting. During the discussion the Chairman expressed his disappointment that there were some members who did not play as active a part in the work of ABLOS as others, however he was encouraged by a growing number of observers who put in a great deal of work to help the group. He also mentioned that he had received an informal approach from a US agency with a view to requesting observer status.

It was agreed that the Chairman would write to The Secretary General and the President of IAG reminding them of the requirements of the ABLOS ToR concerning attendance at meetings, with copies being sent to LINZ and to Graeme Blick. He would also ask for a nominee from IAG for the period beginning October 2012. Sunil Bisnath's time is also due to expire in 2012, but as he is the Chariman designate from 2012 it is hoped that the IAG will renew his membership for a further 4-years.

**Action Chairman / Secretary**

It was felt that it would be good to encourage closer liaison with the IOC by inviting a representative to attend ABLOS Business Meetings as an observer. The secretary undertook to draft a letter for the President of the IHB to send to the Executive Secretary of the IOC inviting IOC participation in ABLOS such a capacity.

**Action IHB**

It was noted that the current DOALOS representative who is an ex-officio member of ABLOS is due to retire shortly. The Chairman requested that IHO write to the Director of DOALOS, noting Mr Rajan's retirement and enquire who his replacement is so as to ensure that he receives all ABLOS communications.

**Action IHB**

The Chairman observed that this would be the last ABLOS Business Meeting for Steve Shipman and he wished to record his thanks for all the help and support that Steve had given over the last 9 years. In reply, Steve said that the interviews for his replacement

were taking place at the same time as the ABLOS meeting and that there would be a minimum one month handover period before his retirement at the end of May. He said that he had thoroughly enjoyed his time working with ABLOS, and was sure that his successor would equally enjoy his time with the group. (Post meeting note: Commander David Wyatt RN has been appointed as the replacement for Steve Shipman wef 31 May 2012)

**c. Capacity Building Training Course**

A small WG had met in February 2009 at the UKHO in Taunton in response to a desire from member states for technical training in Law of the Sea. The WG distributed the report of its deliberations to ABLOS in 2009 and the first application for that training was from the East Asia Hydrographic Commission.

The UKHO carried out the training in November 2010 and it was felt that due to the highly practical content of the course, two trainers were necessary, rather than the one suggested by EAHC. EAHC agreed to cover subsistence costs, but travel was funded by the UKHO.

Since then, two further requests for training have been received by the IHO, one from the ROPME Sea Area HC, and a repeat request from the East Asia HC. Both requests have been approved by the IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee, and planning is underway to conduct the next training course in Oman.

**7. 7<sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference**

The Chairman said it was his intention to defer this agenda item to the following day.

**8. TALOS Manual (C-51) – Report of the Editorial WG**

Following the meeting of the Editorial WG, held the previous day, Ron Macnab had produced a work plan with agreed deadlines, a copy of which is appended as annex 2 to this report. He gave an overview of the meeting for those delegates who were not present at the WG meeting. He also took this opportunity to ask all members of the WG to check the document to confirm that they were in agreement with the record of agreed actions, particularly dates.

The intention is to have the final draft of the Manual ready for forwarding to Member States for review and comment by mid April 2012 and it was hoped that this could be announced during the XVIII<sup>th</sup> International Hydrographic Conference. ABLOS will continue to monitor the TALOS manual for relevance and correctness and it will remain available for free download from the IHO website.

## **9. Reports on member's attendance at LOS related conferences and meetings**

The chairman invited the delegates to give an update on any LOS related conferences or meetings they had attended during the year.

Ron Macnab had not personally attended any conferences this last year, but had had 2 papers presented on his behalf.

Chris Carleton had presented a one day session to the Nippon Foundation students at IFLOS. Attended Law of the Sea Conference on "Current Problematic Issues in the Law of the Sea", Trinity College Dublin. He also was involved in preparing and delivering the LOS training package requested by EAHC from ABLOS in Thailand. Tutor at IBRU workshop on Maritime Boundary Delimitation in Singapore in September 2011.

Sunil Bisnath attended the U.S. Institute of Navigation annual conference in Sept 2011, Portland, Oregon, USA. Of note was the potential development of a terrestrial wi-fi network across entire continental U.S. could quiet possibility degrade or prevent tracking of GPS satellites in continental U.S. with current GPS receivers.

John Brown co-presented a workshop on maritime boundary delimitation at IFLOS Summer Academy in Hamburg and another held as part of the LLM in Maritime Law at Lund University in Sweden. Attended Law of the Sea Conference on "Globalisation and the Law of the Sea", Centre for Oceans Law and Policy, University of Virginia, held in Washington DC December 2010. Involved in preparation of EAHC LOS workshop training. Presented paper on Maritime Boundaries at a Seminar on Oil and Gas held at the Lebanese Parliament in April 2011. Tutor at IBRU workshop on GIS in Boundary Delimitation in July 2011. Attended seminars hosted by Royal Navy on Piracy and maritime security in Dubai.

Sobar Sutisna attended the 35th Annual Conference of the University of Virginia Center for Oceans Law and Policy which took place June 22-24, 2011, in Bali. He also attended Maritime Borders Delimitation training run by the Indonesian MFA which was run in co-operation with the British Embassy.

Shin Tani had attended a workshop in October 2011 - Sharing Experience on the Delineation of the Outer Limit of the Continental Shelf, Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 12<sup>nd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> 2011. He has also participated in CLCS meetings in New York at the UN.

Luiz Torres attended the following meetings:

- Coordination Meeting Regarding Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil Continental Shelf Outer Limits Harmonization, Montevideo, Uruguay, November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 2010;
- Chile and Brazil Meeting Regarding Continental Shelf Outer Limit Experience Exchange, Niterói, Brazil, February 9<sup>th</sup> 2011;

- University Federal Fluminense (UFF), Evaluation Staff of Master Science Dissertation as Co-Adviser, presented by Marcos Vieira Porto: “Redimensionamento do Traçado Insular do Limite Exterior da Plataforma Continental”, Niterói, Brazil, August 03<sup>th</sup> 2011.
- São Paulo University (USP) VI Oceanographic Thematic Week, where was Lecturer of the presentation: “Amazonia Azul, The Brazilian Geographic Maritime Boundaries”, São Paulo, Brazil, 29<sup>th</sup> August to 02<sup>nd</sup> September 2011;
- University of Rio de Janeiro State (UERJ), Accept as Adviser of the Jhosa Ferreira Fernandes regarding her Dissertation on the Oceanography Course Conclusion as the title: “Análise do Cenário Internacional das Submissões Junto à Comissão de Limites da Plataforma Continental”, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, October 5<sup>th</sup> 2011.
- International Workshop - Sharing Experience on the Delineation of the Outer Limit of the Continental Shelf, Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 12<sup>nd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> 2011.

Izabel King Jeck has been since the beginning of 2011 deputy coordinator of Brazilian Continental Shelf Program (LEPLAC). In this position she gives publicity inside and outside Brazil of the LEPLAC’s second phase activities.

In October 2011 she participated in a conference hosted by Argentinean Government about sharing experiences in the Continental Shelf Delimitation, presenting one paper named "Leplac - Results since 1987" and was co-author of another paper named "The Base of the Slope in Atlantic-type Continental Margins that have a Smooth, Continuous and Undivided Slope in terms of Continental Slope and Rise". She would also give a presentation on Friday at the ABLOS seminar on the Brazilian Outer continental Shelf submission.

Steve Shipman reported that the Nippon Foundation students attending the LoS training run by ITLOS had visited the IHB in February 2011 and the next class were due to visit the IHO in Monaco the following week. This was now a regular part of their course, and he would give them a full briefing on ABLOS activities during their visit.

## **10. New developments relating to CLCS submissions**

Chris Carleton gave an update on the status of the UK’s four submissions to the CLCS. The submission on Ascension Island is the only one to date to have been totally rejected by the Commissioners, and the UK has submitted a note verbale to the UN saying that they disagree with that finding.

Shin Tani gave an update on the Japanese submission and said that there had been no indications from the Commissioners as to a date when the recommendations might be issued but it was expected to be soon. He will give a presentation on the submission at the seminar on Friday.

Sobar Sutisna said that Indonesia has completed one submission and is in the process of submitting a second, possibly next year.

Neils Andersen reported that Denmark has submitted a claim relating to an area north of the Faeroes which may be heard by the sub commission next year. They hope to submit a partial claim for a sub area south of Greenland next year.

#### **11. Review of requests to ABLOS**

The Secretary said that he had received a request from Pakistan to consider the exact and correct meaning of “Historic Bay” and “Historic Water” for inclusion in S-32. He circulated a copy of the request to delegates which also included the current S-32 definitions of “Bay” and “Historic Bay”

After discussion, it was felt that the current S-32 definition was sufficient and there was no need to change it. It was also felt that there was no requirement to define “Historic Waters”. The Chairman asked the Secretary to pass this recommendation on to the Hydrographic Dictionary WG.

**Action IHB**

#### **12. Report to IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC)**

Steve Shipman drew the attention of the delegates to a copy of the report which had been submitted to the HSSC together with the report for the XVIII<sup>th</sup> International Hydrographic Conference and the ABLOS work programme, which had been circulated.

The next report to HSSC4 will be drafted and presented to the Chairman prior to submission next year.

#### **Second session of the 18<sup>th</sup> ABLOS Business meeting 10 Nov.**

##### **7. 7<sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference**

The ABLOS Business meeting re-convened at 0905 on Thursday 10 November. The Chairman began by thanking Sunil Bisnath for his outstanding work not just in collating and analysing the questionnaires submitted by conference delegates but also presenting the results in a manner which would greatly aid the planning of the next conference, and invited him to talk through the observations he had on the results.

Sunil Bisnath reported that 35 copies of the questionnaire had been completed and submitted which it was felt was a good level of response. Feedback indicated that the length of the conference, content and numbers of delegates was about right, although it was noted that there were several comments indicating that larger audiences were seen as positive.

In the following discussion it was felt that a number of the suggestions from the completed forms could readily be incorporated into the planning of the next conference, such as trying to focus on some geographical areas, and also realising that there was potential for regional workshops attached to ABLOS Business Meetings which were held away from Monaco. There could even be linkage to the country hosting the Law of the Sea Capacity Building Programme with the opportunity to host a regional ABLOS seminar and the potential to have “intro” sessions or context papers for those who are not necessarily aware of all the issues surrounding a topic

A discussion took place concerning initial thoughts for the title of the next ABLOS conference. The point was made that it might be better to agree the proposed sessions for the conference which might then point to a derived theme. He mentioned that some early ideas for a theme were

UNCLOS at 30 – Fit for purpose or time for a change?

UNCLOS – Does it work, or how do we fix it?

UNCLOS, GEBCO and Climate Change – Do they go hand in hand?

UNCLOS in a changing world

It was felt that a good keynote speaker would also help to attract delegates and after discussion the Chairman agreed to contact Bob Beckman the Director, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore to see if he would be willing and available to undertake that role. Should that not be feasible, the Chairman would contact Ambassador Tommy Koh from Singapore as a potential alternative.

#### **Action Chairman**

It was generally agreed that there was potential for the conference to grow in terms of numbers of delegates and to that end the availability of Salle des Variétés would have an effect on the date of the conference. It was also the view of the group that closer involvement with GEBCO should be sought and as they were due to meet in Monaco during the first week in October 2012 that might be an ideal time for the conference, still subject of course to availability of the venue. There would then be room to associate the GEBCO science day with the ABLOS conference. The Secretary would liaise with GEBCO and co-ordinate with venue availability. The IHB would also confirm with the Monaco Society for Law of the Sea that they were still interested in being involved with the ABLOS Conference.

#### **Action IHB**

The general consensus was that the duration of the conference could be extended to three full days plus the GEBCO Science Day, reflecting the comments which had been made in the survey after the last ABLOS Conference. There would be the same number of sessions, but there would be more time for discussion/questions and also a bit more networking time.

Ten proposed session titles were identified and are listed below.



1. Bio-prospecting
2. Sea level change
3. Impact of modern IT on the process of giving due publicity to maritime limits and boundaries.
4. Data capture using modern methods unforeseen during the formulation of UNCLOS.
5. Polar regions
6. The management and exploitation of the resources of the Area.
7. Developments concerning Article 76 claims submitted to CLCS
8. Recent trends in maritime delimitation.
9. Developments in the management of the coastal littoral zone.
10. LOS developments in South East Asia

John Brown would circulate the list to those present by Sunday 13 November.

**Action J Brown**

The Chairman requested those ABLOS members and observers who were present to submit a short description of the proposed session content to John Brown by 18 November.

**Action All delegates**

Having identified the proposed session titles, the Chairman said he felt that the title “UNCLOS in a changing world” seemed to fit well as an overall theme, which met with agreement from the delegates.

The conference committee was confirmed as

Chris Carleton as Chair

John Brown and Chris Carleton to review submitted papers and put sessions together.

Sunil Bisnath and Neils Andersen to co-ordinate IAG papers

Sunil Bisnath to look after publicity and associated matters, assisted by Ron Macnab.

Steve Shipman offered help where necessary, plus his relief when appointed.

Steve Shipman had circulated a document showing that the balance of the Conference Fund was €17,026. He pointed out that whilst there would be a deduction to cover Ron Macnab’s travel expenses for this particular meeting there would still be a healthy

balance remaining. Depending on the venue for the next conference there was the possibility that running expenses would be higher than they would be were the location to be at the IHB, but there was more than enough in the fund to cover that.

After discussion, it was agreed that the fees for the 2012 conference should be set at 250 Euros, discounted to 175 Euros for bookings received by 31 July. The Secretary reminded the meeting that all member states were entitled to one free place.

As done for the previous conference, registration fees would be waived for any graduate students whose submitted papers were accepted for presentation at the conference.

**Action IHB**

### **13. Any Other Business**

John Brown raised the fact that some of the older ABLOS documents were only held in digital format on the UNSW ABLOS website and it was felt that they ought to be fully transferred to the IHO ABLOS website before the UNSW site ceased to be supported. Steve Shipman said that he would do this in the near future.

**Action IHB**

The imminent retirement of Chris Carleton was discussed and it was pointed out that he was one of the original members of the group. It was felt that in order to prevent his experience being lost and noting that he had prepared a talk on the history of ABLOS from the beginning, for delivery at the Friday seminar, he be invited to expand his work and produce a written history of ABLOS for possible publication by the IHB as a Special Publication. This he willingly agreed to do.

**Action C Carleton and IHB**

Whilst on the subject of retirements, Ron Macnab pointed out that Chris Rizos is retiring from ABLOS which would leave the chairmanship of the editorial committee vacant. He agreed to take on that mantle, but acting more in a co-ordination role as the bulk of the work had been done.

Continuing the theme Steve Shipman announced that this was to be his last ABLOS meeting in his current capacity. He said that it had been a great pleasure to work with this group, and he wished ABLOS well for the future.

### **19. Date & venue of next meeting**

The next ABLOS business meeting will be held in Monaco. The Chairman Chris Carleton will circulate the date and venue as soon as they are confirmed as discussions with the Government of Monaco are currently underway concerning venue availability. The next Business meeting will again be in two parts, with one part immediately in advance of the conference to allow for any last minute changes to the programme, and the second part would be on completion of the conference.

The Chairman asked all delegates to give thought to potential venues for the 20<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting in 2013. Some discussion followed during which it was mentioned that countries which had received Law of the Sea Capacity Building Training may like to consider the idea of hosting the Business Meeting and take advantage of the opportunity to hold a seminar in conjunction with the meeting as a next step in the capacity building process. The IHB agreed to ask member States if they would like to host the 20<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting in the Circular Letter reporting on the 18<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting.

## **20. Close of the meeting**

In his closing remarks, the Chairman thanked the delegates for attending, and SHOA for their generous and most efficient hosting of the meeting. He hoped all present would have a safe homeward journey

Chris Carleton paid tribute to Steve Shipman for all his hard work during his period as Secretary and wished him well for his retirement.

The meeting was closed at 1518.

**Participants in the 18<sup>th</sup> ABLOS Business Meeting (with affiliations)**

Members and Members design

Chris Carleton (Chairman)	IHO (UK)
Prof. Sunil Bisnath (Vice-Chairman)	IAG (Canada)
Dr Neils Andersen	IAG (Denmark)
Dr Sobar Sutisna	IAG Indonesia)
Steve Shipman	IHB (ex-officio)
Shin Tani	IHO (Japan)

Observers

Captain Luiz Carlos Torres	ABLOS (Brazil)
Commander Izabel King Jeck	IHO (Brazil)
Rear Admiral Jair Ribas	(Brazil)
Ron Macnab	ABLOS (Canada)
Lieutenant Commander Boris Argandona	(Chile)
Commander Jorge Pereira	(Chile)
Sora Lokita	(Indonesia)
Teruo Kanazawa	(Japan)
John Brown	IHO (UK)

## Annex 2 to ABLOS 18 Report

### TALOS Manual Revisions: Proposed Workplan

*As discussed and agreed by members of TALOS Editorial Committee on November 9, 2011*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Chapter(s)</b>	<b>Member(s)</b>	<b>Action</b>
31 Nov	4 (Baselines) 6 (Bilateral Boundaries)	Chris Carleton John Brown	Finalized texts to Steve for posting on IHO website (1)
TBD	Chapter 5 Animations	Shin Tani	Scope and timing of external contributions to be discussed with Andi Arsana and Clive Schofield
15 Dec	2 (Geodesy)	Sunil Bisnath Chris Rizos	Revised text to Steve for posting on IHO website (1)
31 Dec	3 (Charts) 5 (Outer Limits)	Shin Tani	Revised texts completed in Japanese
15 Jan	3 (Charts) 5 (Outer Limits)	Shin Tani	Revised texts translated to English; sent to Steve for review and to Ron for editing
31 Jan	3 (Charts) 5 (Outer Limits)	Ron Macnab	Edited English texts sent to Steve for posting on IHO website (1)
15 Feb	1 (Introduction)	Ron Macnab	Revised text to Steve for posting on IHO website (1)
29 Feb	Bibliography, Annexes, etc.	All	Suggested revisions and updates sent to Steve for amalgamation with assistance from Ron
31 Mar	Bibliography, Annexes, etc.	Steve Shipman Ron Macnab	Revisions and internal cross-referencing completed and posted on IHO website (1)
15 Apr	Advanced draft of Manual	Steve Shipman	Forwarded to IAG and to IHO Member States for review and comment
23 Apr	Advanced draft of Manual	Steve Shipman	Progress report presented at IHO Conference
Oct?	Final draft of Manual	Chris Carleton	Completion announcement at ABLOS Conference

Notes:

(1) Steve Shipman will advise Committee members as soon as revised texts are posted on IHO website for review and comment, ideally within two weeks of posting.