

For the Bulletin
IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA)
10th Meeting, Cambridge, United Kingdom, 20-22 September 2010

The 10th Meeting of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) took place in Cambridge, United Kingdom, 20-22 September 2010, organized by the UKHO at the facilities and with the support of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS).

Dr. Nick OWENS, Director of the BAS welcomed all participants and highlighted the importance of the work of the HCA. The Chairman, Capt GORZIGLIA (IHB Director) thanked this kind words and also welcomed the 16 IHO Member States (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Korea (Rep. of), New Zealand, Norway, Peru, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom and USA), 5 international organizations and projects (COMNAP, IAATO, IALA, GEBCO, IBCSO) and a representative of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office that attended and participated actively in the event.

The Commission continued to be composed by 23 IHO Member States and therefore the participation of 16 representatives constituted an appropriate quorum. Following Art 5.2 of the Statutes, the Commission elected Commodore Rod NAIRN (Australia) as Vice Chairman of the HCA.

The Commission reviewed the status of the actions agreed at the last meeting, discussed the progress achieved and realized that almost all actions had been completed. Those subjects requiring further discussion were considered under the different agenda items during the meeting. The reports provided by IAATO, IALA, GEBCO and IBCSO as well as those provided by IHO Member States were commented. The reports on the progress made regarding the INT chart scheme; ENC scheme and production; the C-55 status with regard to the Antarctica; and an Antarctic GIS under development at the IHB, were also considered and discussed. Several actions were identified to progress further the actions. The Commission regretted that there was no representation and no reports from IMO, IOC and AT Secretariat.

The Commission took note with satisfaction of the constant support and contribution made by IAATO. At this meeting the delegation of IAATO was formed by four representatives in a clear demonstration of interest on the HCA work. The Commission discussed in great extent the outcomes of the seminar delivered by HCA at the last IAATO Annual Meeting in June 2010 as well as the technical visits paid to IAATO ships before heading to Antarctica, briefing Captains on the procedure to collect and render hydrographic data collected as Ships of Opportunity. With regard to this last topic, IAATO offered to collect and made available all old available bathymetric data collected by IAATO ships; it was agreed to continue the practice of ships's visit and a group was established to study complementary future actions to implement the existing procedure.

Especial discussion took place on availability of ENC covering Antarctic waters. It was agreed to include in the IHO report to the next ATCM the status on ENC production and a call to enhance ENC availability as a mechanism to improve safety to navigation and protection of the marine environment in the region. It was also

agreed to prepare a paper to be submitted to IMO to report on the real ENC coverage of Antarctic waters by 2012 due to poor bathymetric data availability, datum mis-adjustment and other relevant factors. The IHB as the coordinator of the INT Chart of Antarctica was requested to develop and propose a large-scale ENC scheme for consideration by the HCA.

The Hydrographic Survey Prioritisation Working Group continues to analyse the needs and its work will be improved with input from a new assessment on Maritime Shipping Routes and surveys requirements that will be made by all HCA Members. Input is also awaited from IAATO that agreed to review the HCA survey plans.

The Commission also agreed on a number of other actions to be carried out during the intersessional period, with clear identification of the responsibilities and deadlines.

Following a kind invitation from the Australian Hydrographic Service, the Commission decided to have the 11th HCA meeting in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia on 5 – 7 October 2011.

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British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge, UK
20 - 22 September 2010



HCA Group photo taken at the BAS entrance, Cambridge, UK.