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6 December 2018

HCA Letter No. 02/2018

**IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA)
16th Conference and Seminar at ATCM XLII, Prague, Czech Republic, 3 – 5 July 2019**

To: [HCA Members, Observers](#)
Reference: [Minutes of the 15th IHO HCA Conference](#), dated 9 September 2018.

Dear Sir or Madam,

1. 16th Conference of the HCA

As indicated at the 15th Conference of the HCA in June (See Reference, paragraph 13), the 16th Conference of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA-16) will take place in Prague, Czech Republic, from 3 to 5 July 2019. Since the Czech Republic is not an IHO Member, the Secretariat of the IHO is in charge of the organisation of the event, which will be held at the Grandior Prague Hotel, Na Poříčí 42, Prague.

Thanks to the invitation of the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat, the HCA-16 will encompass a specific seminar on hydrographic matters as part of the ATCM XLII meeting. This seminar is planned on Thursday 4 July (morning session only) at the Top Hotel and Congress Centre, Blažimská 1781, Prague-Chodov.

1.1 Agenda

A preliminary agenda and timetable for the Conference is proposed in Annex A. You are kindly requested to review this draft agenda and timetable and to provide your inputs, comments and suggestions for changes or improvements **not later than 3 March 2019** (HCA Statutes, Art. 6.2 refers). A provisional agenda will then be made available **by 7 May 2019** (HCA Statutes, Art. 6.3 refers).

1.2 Venue and Accommodation

The HCA-16 will take place at the Grandior Prague Hotel. General and logistics information will be posted on the IHO website www.iho.int > Committees and WGs > HCA > HCA-16, as soon as the contract with the Grandior Prague Hotel is signed. A special rate¹ has been negotiated for HCA-16 attendees and a block reservation for 25 rooms has been made. Attendees should book their chosen hotel at their earliest convenience, and if they select the Grandior Prague Hotel, it should be **not later than 1 May 2019**.

1.3 Registration

¹ 120 € per room, single/double, per night including buffet breakfast, access to high-speed internet free of charge.

Those who intend to participate in HCA-16 are requested to register online (www.who.int > IHO Meetings & Events > [Go to the IHO On-line Registration](#)², and **not later than 1 May 2019**. Based on previous attendance of HCA Conferences, and due to meeting room limitations, the venue has been booked for a maximum of 25 delegates. HCA Members are therefore invited to consider sending no more than one representative per delegation unless a Member bears a specific HCA office duty³. As a consequence, those HCA Members who will not be able to participate are more than welcome to provide their written comments to the various agenda items if they wish so.

2. Actions from HCA-15

The minutes of the 15th HCA Conference are available from the IHO website. An updated version of the Actions List from HCA-15 providing the current status of the actions is also available on the IHO website >...HCA-15 > Post-meeting Documents.

3. National Reports to HCA-16

3.1 HCA Members are reminded that they should provide the HCA Secretary with their national reports at least one month in advance of HCA conferences. This means that national reports should reach the IHO Secretariat **not later than 3 June 2019**.

3.2 **Format and content for national reports.** As the experimentation made at HCA-14 was successful, and in order to encourage an efficient meeting and at the same time reduce the preparation workload for participants, no written national reports are required. Instead, all Member States (whether attending the meeting or not) are invited to provide their national reports as Microsoft PowerPoint presentations using the template which will be available as Doc. HCA16-07.2A on the IHO website www.who.int > Committees and WGS > HCA > HCA-16. The template is intended to cover all the key points that should be of mutual interest to all participants at the Conference.

3.3 National representatives are furthermore requested to ensure that they are appropriately briefed on all relevant aspects of their Antarctic programmes in order to contribute actively to the HCA Hydrographic Priorities Working Group that will meet and provide recommendations as part of the Conference.

4. IHO Seminar at ATCM XLII

4.1 According to the last information provided by the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat, the IHO seminar at ATCM XLII will be held on Thursday 4 July, within the morning session of the Working Group 2 of the ATCM which is in charge of Sciences, Operations and Tourism⁴. The IHO might get an allocation of about 1h – 1h30 min to brief the ATCM participants.

4.2 Following on the discussions at HCA-15, and noting the time allocated for the seminar, it was agreed to limit the number of IHO HCA speakers, while the Secretary-General of the IHO, Chair of the HCA, would act as keynote speaker. Based on the responses given to HCA Letter 2/2017 (active participation in the seminar) and on the suggestions made at HCA-15, a draft programme is given in Annex B for your consideration. Comments on this draft are welcome **not later than 7 January 2019**.

² Create a user account if needed, with your own ID and password, and then register for the HCA-16 event.

³ UK (Chair of HPWG, Region N Coordinator) and USA (HCA Vice-Chair) for instance, active role and participation in the seminar.

⁴ The themes under the remit of the Working Group 2 are: safety and operations in Antarctica, inspections under the Antarctic Treaty and Environmental Protocol, sciences issues, future science challenges, scientific cooperation and facilitation, implications of climate change for management of Antarctic Treaty area.

4.3 The procedure to register in the ATCM XLII event, including for the IHO Seminar, will be clarified by the IHO Secretariat later on, in liaison with the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat and the host country.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mathias Jonas", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General
Chair, HCA

Enclosures: Annex A – Draft Agenda / Timetable for HCA-16
 Annex B – Draft Programme of the IHO Seminar at ATCM XLII

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DRAFT AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

*[Please provide any comments to the HCA Secretary (yves.guillam@iho.int)
not later than 3 March 2019]*

Wednesday 3 July	HCA-16
0830	Registration
0900	1. Opening – Welcome Address <i>Docs: HCA16-01A List of Documents HCA16-01B List of Participants HCA16-01C HCA Chair Introduction</i>
0910	2.- Approval of Agenda and Timetable <i>Docs: HCA16-02A Agenda & Timetable</i>
0920	3.- HCA Membership Status <i>Docs: HCA16-03A HCA Membership and Observers List HCA16-03B HCA Statutes – Proposed Amendments (if any)</i>
0930	4.- Election of Vice-Chair
0935	5.- Review of Status of List of Actions resulting from HCA-15 <i>Docs: HCA16-05A Status of Actions List from the 15th HCA Conference HCA16-05B Minutes of the 15th HCA Conference</i>
0945	6.- IHO Seminar at ATCM XLII (Final Preparation and Rehearsal) 6.1 Presentations, key messages and proposal for an ATCM Resolution <i>Docs: HCA16-06.1A IHO Seminar Abstract - Presentations</i>
1030	Group Photo followed by Coffee Break
1050	6.- IHO Seminar at ATCM XLII (Final Preparation and Rehearsal (cont.)) 6.1 Presentations, key messages and proposal for an ATCM Resolution <i>Docs: HCA16-06.1A IHO Seminar Abstract - Presentations</i>
1200	Lunch
1330	7.- HCA activities in relation to the IHO Work Programme 7.1 Interaction with IOC GEBCO /IBCSO <i>Docs: HCA16-07.1A GEBCO/Seabed 2030 Project/IBCSO Project Report (Dr Boris Dorschel)</i>

1400	7.2 Presentation of National Reports <i>Docs: HCA16-07.2A National Reports</i>
1500	Adjourn HCA-16 Coffee Break
1530	HCA Hydrography Priorities Working Group meeting
1700	END OF DAY ONE
Thursday 4 July	IHO Seminar at ATCM XLII and HCA-16 (cont.)
0800 - 1200	IHO Seminar at ATCM XLII (Top Hotel), Observers at WG2 Session
1200	Back at Grandior Hotel, Lunch
1400	6.- IHO Seminar at ATCM XLII (Debriefing) <i>Docs: to be defined</i>
1430	7.- HCA activities in relation to the IHO Work Programme 7.2 Presentation of National Reports (cont.) <i>Docs: HCA16-07.2A National Reports</i>
1530	Coffee Break
1550	7.3 HCA Hydrography Priorities Working Group <i>Docs: HCA16-07.3A HPWG Report HCA16-07.3B Revised Survey Plan and Short List</i>
1630	7.4 INT Charts and ENC Scheming and Production <i>Docs: HCA16-07.4A INT Charts and ENCs Schemes and Production Status for Region M HCA16-07.4B INTtoGIS Phase II Project and GIS for Antarctica (HCA Sec.)</i>
1700	END OF DAY TWO – Break into ad hoc WGs, if required
Friday 5 July	HCA-16 (continues)
0830	8.- Any Other Business – Preparation of C-3 and A-2
0930	9.- Date and Venue of Next Conferences
0945	10.- Review of the Decisions and Actions List
1015	11.- Closure – End of meeting
1200	Lunch (to be confirmed)

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DRAFT PROGRAMME OF THE IHO SEMINAR AT ATCM XLII

[Please provide any comments to the HCA Secretary (yves.guillam@iho.int)

not later than 7 January 2019]

Note for expected contributors/speakers: please confirm your agreement.

Topic	Content	Timing	Provider(s)/Speaker
General briefing on HCA as recognized body of the IHO	IHO diagram, list of members, roles and responsibilities, objectives of the seminar	10 min, 3 slides	HCA Chair
Hydrographic information drives marine knowledge in Antarctica	Regional coverage/marine knowledge: survey data, nautical charts, tide gauges, GEBCO data	20 min, 6 slides	(AR, BR, CL, FR, IT, UK US) ⁵ + Boris Dorschel/UK or HCA Chair (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
User requirements, crowd sourced bathymetry	Seasonal traffic in Antarctica, collaboration with IAATO, COMNAP, professional survey for multiple use	15 min, 6 slides	IAATO, COMNAP, CSBWG ⁶ /CL or HCA Chair (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
Conclusion	Existing ATCM Resolutions in relation to hydrography ⁷ , their impact if any, and Proposal for a new ATCM Resolution	15 min, 3 slides	All/HCA Chair
Questions	If spare time: short video on the IHO, or GIS tools		

⁵ List of IHO MS who responded positively to HCA Letter 2/2017.

⁶ Crowd Sourced Bathymetry Working Group

⁷ See HCA Statutes, Resolutions 5 of the 31st ATCM (2008) and 37th ATCM (2014).