

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC
BUREAU



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INTERNATIONAL

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**Report of the IHB
To
Nordic Hydrographic Commission
8-9 February 2005
Reykjavik, Iceland**

There has been active movement on several fronts since the last commission meeting in February 2004.

SPWG

Clearly, the area of greatest activity and potential importance is the efforts of the SPWG. The SPWG has concluded its work for the time being and issued its report and proposals for comment before the EIHC convenes 11-14 April 2005. The IHB has issued the "Redbook" of proposals, counter-proposals and comments. I will defer any further discussion as this is the primary agenda item of this commission meeting, but I wish to stress the need for advance preparation. I implore you to liaise with your Ministry of Foreign Affairs (or other appropriate Ministry) and understand your government's position and concerns. You should arrive in Monaco empowered to vote on behalf of your government. If you must abstain because of insufficient guidance you have just voted "NO" on the issue. While your vote does not equate to your government ratifying the proposal, the effectiveness of the Conference depends on you debating and voting the position of your government. The decisions of the EIHC that affect the Convention will be conveyed by diplomatic channels to your government for ratification. At this point it becomes critical that you champion for this ratification (assuming you supported the decision). The proposals that affect the Convention cannot take effect until ratified by two-thirds of the Member States' Governments.

United Nations

In January 2005, the UN held an International Meeting for the review of the Barbados Plan of Action (BPoA) for the sustainable development of small island developing states (SIDS). This meeting was attended by over 2000 delegates representing 114 UN Member States and 15 UN Specialized agencies, intergovernmental agencies and non-governmental agencies. While the BPoA is comprehensive, its high-level approach to the issues resulted in no mention of hydrography's importance in the sustainable development of SIDS. The Mauritius International Meeting was viewed as an excellent opportunity to input the role of hydrography in sustainable development and point out the under representation of SIDS in the IHO. During the plenary session of the first day of the meeting the IHB on behalf of the IHO delivered a brief statement. The statement generated several inquiries regarding membership and participation in the IHO Regional Hydrographic Commissions.

IMO

The IHB has been present for all sessions of the Assembly, Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), the Safety of Navigation sub-Committee (NAV) and the sub-Committee on Radio Communications and Search & Rescue (COMSAR).

- The IHB presented a follow-up report on the status of hydrography and nautical cartography in remote areas to NAV50 in 2004 and a further update will be given at NAV 51 in 2005.
- At MSC 78 the IHB obtained approval for the issuance of an MSC CL to all Member States drawing their attention to the new Resolution A.958(23), explaining how the IHO could assist and encouraging IMO, non IHO, Member States to join the IHO. Resolution A.958(23) invited Governments in addition to their obligations under SOLAS regulation V/9, to:

“ promote support for Governments which may request technical assistance in hydrographic matters, in consultation with, and with the assistance of, the Organization and the International Hydrographic Organization;”

- At COMSAR 8 the IHB achieved approval for a revised text of the NAVTEX Manual, prepared by CPRNW. This was subsequently endorsed at MSC 78 and will enter into force on 1 January 2006.
- The IHB made presentations on the requirements of the revised SOLAS Chapter V which came into force in July 2002 at both Assembly 23 and MSC 78.

WEND

The WEND Committee met in Tokyo in March 2004. The focus of WEND has undergone a fundamental shift. For the last ten years WEND has concentrated on developing high-level principles regarding the construction of ENC. In the last two years WEND has taken a broader perspective of what is necessary to make ECDIS work. This perspective adopted by the WEND Task Group has resulted in an emphasis on:

- Achieving global coverage of ENC
- Prioritizing ENC development with respect to shipping routes and ports
- Improving consistency amongst ENC of neighboring hydrographic offices
- Providing user-friendly, integrated, service-oriented distribution of ENC.

This meeting will consider these issues in Agenda Item 8.

IHO Capacity Building Committee

In September 2003, the newly reformed IHOCBC met for its first meeting. The discussions centered on framing the issues and developing a strategy to maximize the effectiveness of the work program. The second meeting follows a capacity building workshop later this week and should begin to formulate capacity building projects for approval and Implementation. The Work Program and Budget for 2005 has, for the

first time, allocated funding specifically for projects. This 50,000€ can be used for initiatives formulated by the CBC and approved by Member States.

Capacity building initiatives of the West Africa Action Team, MedChartNet, and Gulf of Honduras Pollution Control Project continue to move forward each demonstrating different approaches to capacity building and the different needs for capacity building.

GEBCO

Coincident with the last meeting of the SWPHC was the Centenary celebration of the GEBCO Project in Monaco. The IHO and IOC are reviewing GEBCO and IBC projects to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of each. CL 27/2004 provides information on various GEBCO matters and forwards a proposed reorganization of the IHO-IOC ocean mapping activities. GEBCO has been awarded a Nippon Foundation grant to provide postgraduate certificate in ocean mapping and fellowships to the “next generation” of ocean mappers. CL31/2004 forwards the TOR for the GEBCO Guiding Committee and solicits a replacement member for this committee

Update of Special Publication S-55, *Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting – Worldwide*

After an intense effort and through the generous secondment of CAPT Mike BARRITT from the UKHO, S-55 has been updated. It now must be kept up to date. A more detailed discussion will be covered as Agenda Item 10.

Communications between IHB and Member States

CL 56/2004 of 6 August 2004 dealt with the desirability that Member States respond to those CL requesting information, a Member State’s position on certain matters or a Member State’s vote on proposals. It cannot be overstressed the importance that the Directing Committee receive a clear indication of your opinions, desires or official positions. We stand ready to assist, in any manner we have at our disposal, in your timely response to CLs.