



## 32<sup>th</sup> NORTH SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION MEETING

Dublin, Ireland

21 - 23 June 2016

### IHO/IHB Matters

#### Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention

1. As of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016, 46 of the required 48 approvals of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention had been reported by the Government of Monaco. All the NSHC Member States which are entitled to ratify the Protocol have notified their approval.

2. The amendments to the IHO Convention will enter force three months after the necessary majority of approvals is received by the Government of Monaco. The objective to record an additional two approvals in time to hold the first Assembly in April 2017 now seems within reach (see IHO CL 16/2016 dated 29 March). The Directing Committee is liaising with the Government of Monaco and with the relevant Member States, to achieve this goal, building on the initiatives undertaken since September 2012.

#### Status of IHO Membership

3. Following the admission of Brunei Darussalam, Georgia and Viet Nam in March 2015, IHO membership stands at 85. With three Member States remaining suspended (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic and Serbia), the current thresholds for IHO decisions are

- 42 when a simple majority is required, and
- 55 when a two-third majority is needed.

The Directing Committee reminds Member States that not responding to a Circular Letter which requires a vote is equivalent to voting NO. The following table shows the response rate of NSHC Member States to IHO CLs issued in 2015 which required a vote (IHO CLs 19, 23, 48, 49, 53, 73, 74, and 92/2015).

NSHC Member State	Response rate to IHO CLs issued in 2015 which required a vote
Belgium	8/8
Denmark	4/8
France	8/8
Germany	7/8
Iceland	7/8
Ireland	8/8
Netherlands	8/8

<b>NSHC Member State</b>	<b>Response rate to IHO CLs issued in 2015 which required a vote</b>
Norway	8/8
Sweden	8/8
United Kingdom	8/8

4. The States listed below, whose membership applications were approved in earlier years, have not yet deposited their Instrument of Accession to the IHO Convention:

- Mauritania (application approved in April 1991);
- Bulgaria (application approved in April 1992);
- Sierra Leone (application approved in September 2010);
- Haiti (application approved in November 2012).

The Directing Committee has continued to be in communication with the authorities of these States to encourage them to complete this final formality.

5. As announced in IHO CLs 32/2015 and 62/2015, applications for IHO membership were received from Malta, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Congo. The Directing Committee copied the initial diplomatic requests for the approval of their application to all Member States (see IHO CL 67/29015). As of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016, the status of approvals of the applications was as follows:

<b>States applying for IHO membership</b>	<b>Status of approvals notified to the Government of Monaco</b>	<b>NSHC Members which have not yet notified their approval</b>
Malta	30 of 53 approvals required	Denmark Ireland Netherlands Sweden
Vanuatu	30 of 54 approvals required	Denmark Ireland Netherlands Sweden
Solomon Islands	33 of 55 approvals required	Denmark Ireland Netherlands Sweden
Congo	33 of 55 approvals required	Denmark Ireland Netherlands Sweden

#### **IHO GIS and Databases (including C-55)**

6. Work has continued on the development of the IHO GIS which is composed of two main parts: a country information database and a regional information database.

7. The country information database has been progressively upgraded to include additional administrative information and facilitate the maintenance of the **Yearbook (IHO Publication P-5)** and related lists posted on the IHO website. The status of the data from the NSHC Member States in the IHO Country Information Database is as follows:

Country	P-5 - Yearbook Last update received	Comment
Belgium	2015	
Denmark	2016	
France	2015	
Germany	2015	
Iceland	2016	
Ireland	2014	
Netherlands	2015	
Norway	2015	
Sweden	2016	
United Kingdom	2015	

Countries in the NSHC Region are invited to review their entry in the Yearbook on an annual basis and provide the IHB with the appropriate updates or report no change.

8. An Esri-based GIS solution is being implemented to develop further the regional information database. This will enable access to various layers of information through the IHO website and through cloud-based on-line GIS options. The IHO ENC Catalogue and the IHO GIS for Antarctica have been transferred to this new environment.

9. Work has continued on developing a GIS database application to support **C-55 - Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide** and the work of the IHO. In response to the request to complement C-55 composite data (percentage of areas adequately surveyed / requiring re-survey / not surveyed) with CATZOC information (see IHO CL 52/2015), CATZOC data was provided by PRIMAR - on behalf of IC-ENC, PRIMAR and Canada, Singapore, Sweden and Thailand. Portrayal options in the IHB C-55 GIS are being investigated.

10. The latest updated information from NSHC Member States in C-55 is as follows:

Country	C-55 Last update received	Comment
Belgium	2014	
Denmark	2015	
France	2015	
Germany	2015	
Iceland	2010	No change reported in 2016
Ireland	2013	
Netherlands	2015	
Norway	2015	
Sweden	2015	
United Kingdom	2014	

Countries in the NSHC Region are invited to review their entry on an annual basis and provide the IHB with the appropriate updates or report no change.

11. Following the development of the regional database for Antarctica, the IHB, with support provided by the Republic of Korea, initiated an “INToGIS” project in order to move S-11 part B into an interactive GIS/S-100 compliant environment. The objective of the project is to provide the Regional International Charting Coordination WGs with relevant on-line updated information and the necessary tools to review and maintain INT chart schemes and monitor the implementation of the INT chart schemes. Extending the capability to include ENC scheming and coverage is also envisaged. As announced in IHO CL 89/2015, the new INT Chart Web Catalogue and the associated INT Chart on-line Web Manager services were made available in January 2016 through the IHO website at: [www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) > Standards & Publications > S-11 > Part B (link). The following NSHC countries have not yet requested an ID and password for the maintenance of the S-11 database: Denmark, Iceland, Ireland. They are invited to do so as indicated in IHO CL 89/2015, as the IHB discontinued the maintenance of the pdf version of the S-11 Part B - *Catalogue of INT Charts* on 1 April 2016.

12. Feedback and lessons learned from the initial use of the services and from the implementation of the experimental procedure for the review and monitoring of INT charts decided at IRCC-7 (IHO CL 64/2015 refers) were addressed during the workshop for Regional INT Chart / ENC Coordinators that was held at the IHB on 25 April 2016, just before the second meeting of the Nautical Cartography Working Group. The INT Chart / ENC Coordinators of 14 out of 15 charting regions were present or represented. . A comprehensive demonstration of the INTOGIS web-based INT chart scheme management tool was provided. The regional INT Chart Coordinator of Region D (UK) and four other NSHC countries (France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway) were represented. The workshop confirmed the need to maintain the INT chart concept for the foreseeable future, at least for small scale charts.

#### **INT Chart and ENC Production Coordination - Region D**

13. The current web-based version of S-11 Part B for Region D is edition 3.0.1 dated April 2016. This new edition reports that 215 INT charts are available to date, out of 216 charts in the scheme. It is expected that a new edition will be released, in liaison with the regional INT Chart Coordinator, before NSHC-32.

14. At its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting (March 2016), the WENDWG invited:

- Regional Hydrographic Commissions to define and adopt ENC Schemes (as it is done for INT Charts Schemes) and provide basic metadata to the IHB, and
- the IHB to consider including a layer of “Approved” ENC Schemes in the IHO ENC Catalogue or as an extension of the INT Web Chart Catalogue.

A few ENC overlap issues in region D were reported to the WENDWG.

IHO CL 61/2015 dated 24 August 2015 informed Member States of the promulgation of Circular MSC.1/Circ.1503 of 24 July 2015 on *ECDIS - Guidance for Good Practice* by the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Noting that the Circular refers to the IHO online ENC Catalogue and that the mention includes a reference to the provision of coastal State information on any requirements for ECDIS back-up arrangements using paper charts, the Directing Committee reiterated its earlier request (see IHO CL 41/2014) that Member States ensure that the relevant information which has been posted on the IHO website since 2008 (see IHO CL 10/2008) is kept current and to provide the IHB with updates as appropriate. Member States were invited to consider the provision of pending updates before the end of 2015 and the provision of subsequent updates, or confirmation of no change, at least once a year. Where relevant information has been provided by Member States, it is located at:

- Home > ENCs & ECDIS > ENC Availability > Backup Paper Charts, and

- Home > ENCs & ECDIS > ENC Availability > Online Chart Catalogues.

The latest information received from NSHC Member States is as follows:

Country	Date of requirements for ECDIS back-up arrangements using paper charts	Link to on-line chart catalogue
Belgium	2007	Yes
Denmark	2007	Yes
France	2014	Yes
Germany	2007	No
Iceland	2016	Yes
Ireland	None	No
Netherlands	2015	Yes
Norway	2007	No
Sweden	2007	Broken link
United Kingdom	2007	Yes

### Capacity Building Programme

15. The level of activity of the IHO Capacity Building (CB) Programme continued to increase. Expenditure in the IHO 2015 CB Work Programme (930,907 Euros) was 118% greater than the budget for the previous year. This was a result of the ongoing financial support provided by the Nippon Foundation of Japan and the Republic of Korea, supplemented by a contribution from the IHO budget and in-kind support from Member States and from industry. The Directing Committee is continuing its campaign to find additional donor States and funding organizations. In 2015, 86% of the budgeted work program was executed and paid for.

16. NSHC countries provide in-kind support to CB activities. France and UK in particular are leading a number of tasks of the CB Work Programme.

### Crowd Sourced Bathymetry

17. In accordance with Decision 8 of the EIHC-5, IRCC7 established the Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG) to provide guidelines on the collection and use of crowd-sourced bathymetry. Member States and other interested parties were invited to nominate representatives to participate in the CSBWG (see IHO CL 42/2015). France and UK are participating in the working group.

18. Meanwhile, the web-based interface portal to the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry, hosted by the USA in Boulder, Colorado, as part of its commitment to the system of World Data Centres, is being upgraded to be compatible with the crowd-sourced bathymetry concept. This will enable an IHO-led CSB infrastructure to be established and promoted in the IMO and across the wider maritime community.

### Report on the Overall Status of the IHO Work Programme

19. As a result of the EIHC-5 discussion on Proposal 5 concerning the assessment of the IHO Work Programme, Conference Decision No. 3 reinforced the reporting requirements by introducing a six-monthly reporting regime for all IHO bodies. The outcome of the first three bi-annual assessments was submitted to Member States through IHO CL 17/2015, 66/2015 and 14/2016. Only 6 Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) did submit a status report (EAtHC, MACHC, NIOHC, NHC, NSHC, and SAIHC).

## **Preparation of the next IH Conference / IHO Assembly**

20. The next IH Conference or first IHO Assembly is scheduled from 24 to 28 April 2017. It is likely that the meeting will be the first session of the Assembly, subject to the ratification of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention by the required two-thirds majority not later than three months before the opening day of the meeting.

21. As indicated in IHO CCL 1 dated 21 April 2016, the Directing Committee has decided that registration for the Conference / Assembly will be available on-line via the IHO website from 1 September 2016. Because of IT security issues, the initial version of the tool will be self-contained, with no connection to the IHO Country Information System (CIS). The initial registration of the identity of applicants will be validated by the IHB. After this initial approval, legitimate applicants will be able to register for further IHO meetings without having to re-enter their details. A beta-version, developed with the support of KHOA through the Project Officer seconded by the Republic of Korea, underwent a blank test at the IHB in April. Internal IHB tests will continue in May based on past meetings. It is expected that the tool will be used in full scale testing as part of registering HSSC8 participants.

22. In accordance with the General Regulations of the IHO that will enter into force once the Protocol of Amendments is ratified, the first Assembly will have to approve the list of the members of the IHO Council. If the first Assembly meets in April 2017, the selection process for the establishment of the Council should be initiated by the Secretary-General not later than October 2016. Therefore it is expected that all RHCs will have agreed before that date on the process by which they will allocate their seat(s) in the Council, and possibly instruct, the relevant representative(s).

23. The agenda of the Conference / Assembly will include a review of the IHO Strategic Plan and consideration of the IHO Work Programme for the next 3-year or 5-year cycle. In accordance with IHO Resolution 12/2002 as amended the relevant documents will be prepared by the IHB in consultation with the HSSC, the IRCC and the Member States. In particular, IHO CL 17/2016 dated 31 March invited Member States, HSSC and IRCC to submit not later than 1 July 2016 proposals to update the Strategic Plan. These proposals are expected to be circulated to all Member States in August 2016.

24. In that perspective, the NSHC is invited to consider appropriate arrangements to prepare the next IH Conference/ IHO Assembly.

## **IHO Outreach**

### World Hydrography Day

25. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2015 "*Our seas and waterways - yet to be fully charted and explored*" concentrated on the fact that much of the world's seas, oceans and navigable waters remain unsurveyed. Reports on events hosted in connection with WHD 2015 are available at:

[www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) > Home > About IHO > World Hydrography Day > WHD 2015 Celebrations around the world.

26. The theme for 2016 will be: "*Hydrography – the key to well-managed seas and waterways*". This theme will enable all stakeholders involved in hydrography to highlight the significance and importance of their particular activities which could include, but is not limited to, the support of safety of navigation, protection of the marine environment, coastal zone management, marine spatial data infrastructures, defence, resource exploration, and all other components of the blue economy. A background brief is available on the IHO web site.

### International Hydrographic Review

27. Twice a year, the IHR provides an opportunity for Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in their region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. The representative for the NSHC is Commander Lars Hansen (Denmark).

28. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the editor ([ihreview@iho.int](mailto:ihreview@iho.int), copy to [ian.halls1@defence.au.gov](mailto:ian.halls1@defence.au.gov)). The deadlines are:

- End of January for the May Edition;
- End of July for the November Edition.

29. The IHB worked with the University of New Brunswick (UNB), Canada, in a project to develop a digital repository of the complete library of the IHR. As a result, the first phase of the project has provided volumes from 1963 to 2015. They can be found at: <https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/ihr>.

### **Action Requested of NSHC Member States**

30. NSHC Member States are invited to:

- **Note** this report;
- **Expedite** the approval of the IHO membership applications of Malta, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Congo;
- **Review** entries related to IHO C-55, P-5 (Yearbook) and ECDIS back up arrangements at least annually;
- **Provide** continuous updates to S-11 Part B for INT Region D through the INTtoGIS tool;
- **Report** to the IHB on the status and description of the ENC schemes in the Region;
- **Consider** appropriate arrangements to prepare the IH Conference / IHO Assembly to be held in April 2017;
- **Consider** submitting papers for publication in the IH Review;
- **Take any other actions** as considered appropriate.