

**11<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL  
COORDINATION COMMITTEE (IRCC11)  
3-5 June, Genoa, Italy**

The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IHO Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC11) was held in Genoa, Italy, from 3 to 5 June, hosted by the Italian Hydrographic Institute. The meeting was chaired by Mr Parry Oei (Singapore) and attended by 47 participants from 23 Member States and two observing Organizations. All but one of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) and all subordinate bodies of IRCC were represented. The ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission (RSAHC) was not represented.

The IRCC reviewed the reports and activities of the RHCs and of its subordinate bodies. It also received reports and input from other IHO bodies and from external stakeholders. The meeting was informed of the difficulties in ensuring Maritime Safety Information (MSI) infrastructures in the West and Central Africa region, where there are only three Member States and 18 Associate Members, with only two hydrographic services in place. The Committee urged close liaison between regional CB Coordinators and the WWNWS-SC on the programming of and candidate selection for MSI training.

Participants acknowledged the significant effort of CB Coordinators to assess the needs in the regions, to identify national and regional projects that may contribute to the Capacity Building Work Plan (CBWP) and to coordinate the support for countries in need. The IRCC acknowledged the concerns of the CBSC due to the restrictions caused by a shortage of funding to support the CBWP. The Committee recognized the work done by the IBSC in the delivery of Edition 2.1.0 of the companion document *Guidelines for the Implementation of the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers* (May 2019). The meeting acknowledged the generous financial support from the Republic of Korea and the Nippon Foundation of Japan and the in-kind support from Member States and industry stakeholders.

The meeting identified the need for a regional engagement to encourage Member States to use CATZOC to generate the input to C-55 (*Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide*) in a consistent and harmonized way. For this to be effective, there is the need to encode meaningful values of CATZOC in ENCs. Reports were received on the status of populating CATZOCs in ENCs, paper charts generated automatically from ENCs, high resolution ENCs and on possibilities to support and/or regulate the chart production for leisure boats.

The importance of data quality and consistency was considered and the Committee invited RHCs to encourage Member States to distribute their ENCs via the RENCs and to provide their agreement for making CATZOC values available in the additional layers of INTogIS II (Manager Mode, available to MS only). Participants noted that work continues by Member States to improve coverage and to manage overlaps and the Committee approved a revision to the WENDWG Terms of Reference that support an implementation strategy for S-100 based products, including S-101 ENCs.

The meeting noted the improvements to the IHO ENC Catalogue and commended IC-ENC and PRIMAR for the ongoing support to ENC producers and user communities and the EAHC Regional ENC Coordination Centre (RECC) for its progress in establishing its operations. It also commended Republic of Korea and other participants for their hard work in developing INTogIS Phase II.

Progress were reported on surveying, with the developments on the vertical Common Reference Surfaces, risk assessments and resurvey plans, Satellite Derived-Bathymetry (SDB), depth contouring algorithms, autonomous surveys with emphasis to very shallow waters and on new hydrographic vessels reported in Fiji, Morocco and Nigeria. Progress was noted in Crowdsourced Bathymetry (CSB), the new IHO Publication B-12 (*Guidance on Crowdsourced Bathymetry*) and the need for RHCs to engage and encourage Member States to release datasets or subsets into the public domain via the IHO Data Center for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB). Reports were received on increased data contributions to the DCDB and for GEBCO, highlighting the positive impact of GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project.

The Committee endorsed the draft amended IHO Resolutions 2/1997 *Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions* and 1/2005 *IHO Response to Disasters*. MapAction, a humanitarian mapping charity, presented its work and the potential synergies in responding to disasters by working with the IHO and with RHCs. Disaster response plans are under development in some RHCs and experiences were shared during the meeting.

The International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) reported its activities and the Committee noted the growing threat to submarine cable infrastructure from uncoordinated deep seabed mining activity and the need to chart cables to full ocean depth in these areas, recognizing the need for ICPC members to provide as-laid cable data in a timely manner. It also noted the dialogue of ICPC with OGC with respect to commissioning an Interoperability Experiment and future Pilot project with the objective to develop a S-4xx submarine cable product specification.

The next meeting of the IRCC is planned to be held in Gdansk, Poland, from 1 to 3 June 2020, hosted by the Hydrographic Office of the Polish Navy. Following meetings will be held in Monaco (2021), Ecuador (2022, to be confirmed) and Japan (2023, to be confirmed). The IRCC meeting in 2021 will follow the CBSC18, a two-day CB Stakeholders' Seminar and the celebration of the World Hydrography Day of the Centenary.