

**“8th Meso-american & Caribbean Sea Hydrographic  
Commission Conference”  
(MACHC)**

**Niteroi, Brazil, 8-10 October 2007.**

### **1. Introduction and Welcome**

The 8th Meeting of the Regional Hydrographic Commission of Meso-America and the Caribbean Sea was organized by of the Diretoria de Hidrografia e Navegação of Brazil and held at its premises in Niteroi.

Representatives from Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, France, Guatemala, Mexico, The Netherlands, Norway, Suriname, UK, USA, IHB and commercial companies attended the meeting, that was chaired by Cdr Mario Góngora on behalf of Rear Admiral Del Angel (Mexico).

The host, Vice-Admiral Edgar Lawrence Mariath (Brazil) welcomed the participants and Capt. Gorziglia (IHB) thanked Brazil for hosting the meeting and stressed the increasing importance of the work of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions.

### **2. Administrative arrangements**

Captain Cavalheiro explained the administrative details, local arrangements and social activities scheduled during the meeting.

### **3. Agenda and Time-table**

The Agenda and Timetable were unanimously approved.

### **4. Chairman Report and Report of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The Chairman summarized the work carried out since the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. He mentioned the need to amend the statutes to include a Vice-Chairman and other items that required updating, such as the limits of the Commission.

He also reminded that only four members of the Commission, Cuba, Mexico, Netherlands and UK had ratified the Amendments to the IHO Convention approved by the IHO Extraordinary Conference in 2005.

The report of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting was also tabled and approved without any further comments from the participants.

### **5. 17<sup>th</sup> I.H. Conference Decisions**

Capt. Gorziglia summarized the results of the 17<sup>th</sup> IH Conference and presented the decisions related to the new structure of the organization. He stressed the formation of two main committees, to one of which, the IRCC, the Regional Hydrographic Commissions will report. He stressed the formation of two new Working Groups on Hydrography and Cartography of Inland Waters and on Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Development and also referred to Decision 17 “Provision of Regional Staff Officers for Capacity Building Effort” highlighting the importance of having established a committee within MACHC to consider capacitybuilding issues and the nomination of a representation of MACHC at the CBC.

## **6. CBC Report**

Capt. Gorziglia, in his capability of CBC Chairman presented a report on the activities of this Committee during the inter-sessional period, including the completed and pending activities related to the MACHC. He congratulated Mr. Doherty (USA) and Mr. Villalobos on their efforts to organize the MSI course in Jamaica and the Workshop on Development of Standard Operational procedures for Multibeam Hydrographic Surveys, respectively.

Capt. Cavalheiro, CBC member representing MACHC highlighted some pending activities such as high-level visits to Belize, Suriname, Dominican Republic and Honduras, the support to the “Gulf of Honduras” project, the course on ENC to be organized in Venezuela and the multibeam course to be hosted by Brazil.

Unfortunately, the Commission could not proceed conclusively in all the above mentioned matters due to the absence of Belize, Dominican Republic, Honduras and Venezuela.

The representative from US informed that the Director of the “Gulf of Honduras” project has changed and the procedure re-started after this change. The intention was to start hydrographic activity by the end of 2007.

The CBC Chairman referred to the MACHC projects considered in the 2008 Work programme for which the Committee has requested clarification and further information but has received no reply. The CBC Chairman strongly requested the Chairman of the Commission to take urgent action on this matter.

## **7. ISPWG Report**

Capt. Cavalheiro, Vice-Chairman of the ISPW explained the progress of this working group, set up by the 17<sup>th</sup> IH Conference to re-draft the IHO Strategic Plan. Work has started by correspondence and nomination of representatives from RHCs has been requested. The Commission approved the nomination of Cuba as representative of the Commission in this WG.

He also reminded that the approval of a procedure to appoint representatives from MACHC in the future IHO Council was still pending. A working group with Cuba, Mexico, Netherlands and USA, with Brazil as Chairman was formed to address this topic and produce a draft document. A virtual forum to discuss MACHC matters will also be created (Brazil and USA).

## **8. Amendment of the Statutes**

The statutes of the Commission had to be amended to include a Vice-Chairman with functions assigned and to adapt the limits of the Commission following the inclusion of Brazil as a new member in 2006 and the establishment of the new SWAtHC in 2007.

It was decided to create a Working Group with France, Mexico, UK, USA, with Brazil as Chairman to revise the statutes and to propose amendments. The final draft should be approved at the next meeting of the Commission.

## **9. Reports from the MACHC Committees**

a) Reports from the INT Chart Committee and the Electronic Chart Committee were tabled. The reports included information about the status of regional production of INT charts and ENCs.

These reports were endorsed by the Commission.

No report was submitted by the Commission’s Capacity Building Committee (Chair:Venezuela)

b)The CPRNW Chairman, the representative of Guatemala and Mr. Villalobos presented reports respectively on the MSI Course held in Jamaica, the present status of the Gulf of Honduras project and the Multibeam Standard Operating Procedures Operational Workshop. Capt. Gorziglia thanked the efforts made by the institutions and individuals involved in the three projects/events and highlighted their importance for the development of hydrography world wide.

Colombia recommended continuing these activities with adequate funding provided by the CBC Fund.

c) The representative of the UKHO provided a report about Radio Navigation Warning Broadcast and a proposal from USA/NOAA on “International Marine Environmental Protection Products Specification was also considered by the Commission for its submission to CHRIS.

d) The representative of Land Surveys Association of Jamaica presented a report about the Workshop on National Spatial Reference Systems also held in his country.

## **10. New limits of the Commission**

Following a proposal from Brazil and the previous agreement to extend zone B through C1 towards the equator, it was agreed to liaise with CHRIS to have the necessary changes made to the IHO publication M-11.

## **11. Proposal from ESRI**

The observer from ESRI presented a proposal to establish a Stakeholders Advisory Group for MACHC. The Commission decided to consider the proposal that should be uploaded in the MACHC web site for study and conclusions of the members of the Commission.

## **12. Date and venue of the 8th MACHC Meeting**

Due to the absence of the representatives from Venezuela, the confirmation of this country as the host for the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting could not be achieved.

The Chairman will contact Venezuela and inform the Commission of the availability of this country. The representative of Suriname kindly offered to host the next meeting as an alternative.

The decision will be taken by the Commission at a later date.

## **13. Future Vice-Chairman**

Brazil was nominated as the future Vice-Chairman of the Commission, following approval of the amendments to the Statutes.

## **14.- Closure.**

Commander Mario Gongora in representation of the MACHC Chairman and the IHB Director, Captain Hugo Gorziglia made closing statements enhancing the achievements made and the tasks agreed. Finally Admiral Lawrence, Hydrographer of Brazil closed the meeting.

**ACTION LIST**  
**Resulting from the VIII Mesoamerican and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) Meeting:**

N°	Agreement	Responsible	Dead line
1	The Delegation of Cuba will be the representative of MACHC in the ISPWG. Its Delegation will present to the Members of MACHC a proposal of the Terms of Reference of that representation. . MACHC Chairman shall inform ISPWG Chairman about this nomination.	Cuba Chair MACHC	
2	Creation of a virtual forum of discussion of MACHC to improve communication between its Members	Brazil/USA	31/Dec/2007
3	Creation of a Working Goup formed by USA, France, UK, Mexico and chaired by Brazil, to review the Statutes of MACHC and to propose amendments for the election and function of the President and Vice-president of the Commission. (30/Mar/08) <u>Dead line for comments: 3 months(30/Jun/08)</u> <u>Circulate the proposal. 3 months before the next meeting. (01/Jul/08)</u>	Capt. Cavalheiro (Brazil) / Mr. Frey (USA-NOAA)	30/Mar/08 30/Jun/08 01/Jul/08
4	Creation of a Working Group formed by Cuba, USA, Netherlands, Mexico and directed by Brazil, to review the proposal of Hydrographic Interests and the representation of MACHC in the future Council of the IHO.	Brazil	15/Jul/2008
5	The Chair of MACHC will ask the Regional MACHC CBC to identify the contact point with the IHO CBC, to improve the information on the needs of Regional Capacity Building and to obtain a better support of the IHO	Chair MACHC	20/Oct/2007
6	To send to CHRIS for its consideration the proposal approved by MACHC to change the limits of the region. This proposal is based on extending zone B through area C1 until the equator.	Chair MACHC	10/Oct/2007
7	The Presidency of the Commission will be exerted by Mexico until the 2008		
8	The Chairman to contact Venezuela to confirm the readiness of this country to host the 9 <sup>th</sup> Meeting in October 2008. The Chairman will contact Suriname in case a negative response from Venezuela, as Suriname kindly offered to host the next meeting as an alternative. The Chairman to inform the Commission the findings and to organize the 9 <sup>th</sup> MACHC meeting in conjunction with the Host Country.	Chair MACHC	30/Nov/07

**Internacional Chart Committee**

8	INT Charts at 1/1 million will be displayed in PDF format in the MACHC Web site They will be addressed to the site administrator. .	MACHC members	In accordance with national programmes
9	USA and UK will inform MACHC Chair and the Committee Chair about their availability to produce INT Charts 4017 and 4021.	USA/UK	31/Dic/2007
10	Brazil and France agreed to change the numbers of INT charts letters corresponding to the decision to change the limitas of the Commission, in conformity with the final decision of CHRIS.	Brazil/France	Following amendment of the statutes

**Electronic Chart Committee**

11	To prepare a new proposal on the Terms of Reference of that Committee, to identify the functions of each member. They will be circulated by e-mail for comments from the Members of MACHC	Chair ECC	30/Nov/2007
12	To prepare a report on the results of the project pilot to involve the private sector deprived in the electronic charts production. This report will be circulated by e-mail for comments from the Members of MACHC.	Vice-Chair GT2-ECC	30/Mzo/2008
13	To present at the next WEND meeting the update of regional ENC's scheme, based on "Navigational purposes". .	Chair ECC	30/Oct/2007
14	MACHC Members will confirm to the ECC Chair the information on their ENC's schemes included in the IHO Web site.	Members	30/Nov/2007
15	To update MACHC Web site to distinguish the ENC's scheme from of the INT charts scheme.	Chair ECC	31/Dic/2007

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