

**IHB File N° S3/6003**

**CIRCULAR LETTER No. 9/2001  
13 February 2001**

**MEMBER STATES APPROVE  
MODIFICATION TO IHO RESOLUTION T 1.1  
(Responses to IHB CL 45/2000)**

Reference: IHB CL 45/2000 dated 2 October 2000.

Dear Sir,

Member States are advised that 39 replies were received to the above-referenced Circular Letter which sought the approval of the Member States to modify Resolution T 1.1 so as to allow Terms of Reference (TOR) for IHO Committees and Statutes of Regional Hydrographic Commissions to be posted on the IHO Web Site.

We are pleased to inform you that 37 Member States voted in favour of the proposed modification and 2 countries (France and Oman) voted against. As a simple majority of all Member States was required for this modification to be adopted, we confirm that the proposal contained in IHB CL 45/2000 is now formally approved. The text of T 1.1, paragraph 6.1 now reads:

*6.1 Terms of Reference: Every subsidiary body shall be governed by Terms of Reference (TOR) clearly stating the Objectives of the body. With the exception of Working Groups formed under 5.3(b) above, the TOR shall be approved by the Member States, reconfirmed during each relevant session of the Conference and deposited with the IHB. Approved Terms of Reference for Committees and Boards shall be posted on the IHO WEB site in the MS-only section.*

For your information, we reproduce in the annex to this Circular Letter the various comments made by Member States.

**RESPONSES TO IHB CL 45/2000 - MEMBER STATES' COMMENTS**

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**IN FAVOUR**

**Chile**

We totally agree with the IHB proposal and will support all initiatives which are aimed at simplifying the administrative aspects, by using the facilities offered by the communication systems which we have today.

**Turkey**

It would be more efficient to notify on the IHO Web Site when modified TORs are released.

**United Kingdom**

UK supports this amendment while noting that there are some Member States which may not have access to the IHO Web Site. If this amendment is adopted, these Member States should be notified that they can obtain copies of the current Terms of Reference from the Bureau, on request.

**United States (NOAA)**

The United States is of the opinion that in order for these Committees and Working Groups to fulfill their objectives, their Terms of Reference (TOR) must have the flexibility to adjust to the current dynamic conditions. Further if they are able to be made available to IHO members, the TORs currently in force should be reflected. Consequently if they were published in the Resolutions, they may well be out of date. Thus when the need to revise TORs arises, it should be accomplished via the most expeditious means and posted on the IHO Web Site.

**NOT IN FAVOUR**

**France**

The increased use of the new information technologies and, in particular, the IHO Web Site is certainly desirable, indeed necessary.

It is however essential to take certain measures to make the IHO site a proper working tool and amongst other things:

- distribute to Member States up to date information on the contents of the section which is reserved for them;
- distribute an updated status of publications and information indicating those which are available only in printed form, those that are available in both printed form and on the internet and those that are available only on internet.
- add the date to the information available on the site. At present to find out the modifications which