



IHB File No. S3/0128

**CIRCULAR LETTER 11/2006
24 January 2006**

**IHO HYDROGRAPHIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTICA
5th Meeting, Christchurch, New Zealand, 2-4 November 2005**

Dear Hydrographer,

The 5th meeting of the Hydrographic Committee on Antarctica (HCA) took place at the International Antarctic Centre, Christchurch, New Zealand, on 2-4 November 2005. The Minutes of this meeting are available on the IHO website (www.iho.shom.fr > Reg Hydro Commissions > HCA). Eleven IHO Member States (Australia, Chile, China, France, Germany, Greece, India, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa and United Kingdom) were represented, as well as seven international organizations (ATCM, COMNAP, SCALOP, IAATO, GEBCO, IBCSO, and SCAR). Capt.Hugo GORZIGLIA, IHB Director, chaired the meeting.

The Committee reviewed the membership status and noted that several potential participating Member States had not yet signed the Statutes of the HCA. Following the meeting these MS were approached in order to ascertain their intentions with respect to their participation in HCA activities. The Committee elected Captain Rod NAIRN (Australia) as Vice Chairman of the HCA, and thanked Captain Roberto GARNHAM (Chile) for having filled that post since the previous meeting.

The Committee examined the reports submitted by MS and international observer organizations, and discussed HCA representation on the future Council and the state of progress of INT charts and ENC production, and of S-55 in Antarctica.

It should be stressed that all participating observer organizations very actively contributed to the work of the HCA. For example, the INT Chart scheme is being updated thanks to contributions mainly from IAATO and COMNAP. Also, the Executive Secretary of ATCM noted the importance given to the work of the HCA by the Antarctic Treaty System.

The recently established HCA Hydrographic Survey Program Working Group (HSPWG) had developed a detailed long term survey plan for Antarctica, which was presented by its Chairman, Mr. Andrew WILLETT (UK), and adopted by the meeting. As part of this plan, a short list of high priority surveys was agreed, which has now been provided to MS, seeking an indication of funds that might be allocated for the execution of the hydrographic surveys required, especially on the occasion of the International Polar Year (2007-2008). The short list has also been sent to the IPY Coordinating Committee, IMO, ATCM and COMNAP, seeking their endorsement of this high priority survey plan, vital for the safety of navigation in the region.

The meeting approved a form for "Collection and Rendering of Hydrographic Data", also developed by the HSPWG, to be used by captains of Antarctic vessels in order to assist the IHO in the hydrographic data gathering process. This form has been provided to IAATO and COMNAP for dissemination to their ships' captains.

Twenty additions to the INT Chart Scheme for Region 'M', as prepared by the HSPWG following a proposal by the IAATO Marine Committee, were accepted for inclusion as new INT charts / inset plans. An update of the INT Chart Scheme is being prepared accordingly.

It is believed that HCA's achievements, in particular the Antarctic survey plan, should be used as guidance for hydrographic efforts in Antarctica, specially referring to the contribution that the IHO might offer towards the IPY objectives. This event presents an excellent opportunity to improve data gathering, compilation and production of nautical charts, for the benefit of safety of navigation and Antarctic preservation.

A number of actions were agreed to progress HCA issues during the intersessional period. **Annex A** provides a list of these actions with their current status.

The 6th HCA Meeting is scheduled to be held in Punta Arenas, Chile, on 6-8 November 2006, at the kind invitation of the Chilean HO (SHOA).

Any comments will be welcome.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Hugo Gorziglia', written in a cursive style.

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director

Annex A: - Action List from HCA/5 and Status

STATUS OF ACTIONS RESULTING FROM THE 5th HCA MEETING

| Para. # | Action # | Action Details | Action By | Status (Jan. 06) |
|---------|----------|---|--------------------|------------------|
| 2. | 1. | HCA Chair to write a letter to each of the following IHO Member States who have not yet signed the HCA Statutes, i.e. Brazil, Ecuador, Japan, Rep. of Korea, Peru, Poland, Ukraine, USA and Uruguay, with a view to obtaining clarification of their intentions about participating in HCA activities. It was decided that, meanwhile, they will appear in a separate "pending confirmation of membership" list. The letter to USA will further check their intention regarding the production of INT Charts 909, 9062 and 9105 which have USA as producer country in the INT chart scheme, having noted NGA's statement to cease any paper chart production from 2007 (Action No 9 from HCA/4). COMNAP to contact their members from the above countries, to urge them to participate in HCA activities. | HCA Chair & COMNAP | IHB: Done. |
| 6.3 | 2. | HCA Chair to seek IMO guidance on the application of SOLAS Convention, Chapter V, Regulation 9, in Antarctic waters. | HCA Chair | In progress. |
| 7.1 | 3. | IHB to draft an ENC scheme for Region 'M', taking into consideration the approaches adopted by other RHCs. Initial focus should be on navigational purposes 1 (overview) and 2 (general). IHB to then circulate the draft scheme to HCA members for comments. | IHB | In progress. |
| 7.1 | 4. | HCA Members to change the 'triangle' symbol for a refuge, hut, or unoccupied station, which currently exists on a few Antarctic charts, to an isolated building symbol (D5) with abbreviation Ref (T14) at the next New Edition of such charts. | IHB & HCA Members | IHB: Completed. |
| 7.3.2 | 5. | HCA Members to consider nominating suitable candidates to participate in the work of IBCSO Editorial Board; names to be provided to the IHB. | HCA Members | |
| 7.4.1 | 6. | IHB to include new chart INT 9037 (Aus 599) in M-11, Chapter M | IHB | Completed. |
| 7.4.1 | 7. | New Zealand to provide the IHO DCDB with bathymetric data collected in the Ross Sea, in view of its use for the IBCSO project. | LINZ | |

| Para. # | Action # | Action Details | Action By | Status (Jan. 06) |
|---------|----------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 7.4.1 | 8. | IHB, in liaison with New Zealand, to monitor the findings / outcomes of the IHO Seminar on Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) [Rostock, Germany, 8-9 November 2005] and identify any implications for HCA. | IHB & LINZ | IHB: In Progress. |
| 7.4.2 | 9. | HCA Members which have not submitted data for the review of S-55, as requested in HCA Letter 3/2005, are asked to do so by 31 December 2005. | HCA Members | |
| 7.4.2 | 10. | HCA Members are urged to include data for Antarctica in their regular review of S-55 information. | HCA Members | |
| 7.4.2 | 11. | S-55 Project Coordinator, SHOA and IHB to complete the development of the GIS prototype of a regional database. | IHB, SHOA and Capt. Barritt | IHB: In Progress. |
| 7.5 | 12. | IHB to continue maintaining a list of HO's nautical publications related to Antarctica, including a brief résumé of their content, on the IHO website. HCA Members to provide input to the IHB as appropriate. | IHB & HCA Members | Ongoing. Australia, France and UK already included. |
| 8. | 13. | IHB to provide IAATO and COMNAP with the form for "Collection and Rendering of Hydrographic Data", for dissemination to ships' captains. When completed, the forms are to be returned to the following single point: Attn: Chairman of HCA Survey Programme WG, United Kingdom Hydrographic Office, Taunton, Somerset TA1 2DN, UK - andy.willett@ukho.gov.uk - Fax: +44 (0)1823 284077. | IHB, IAATO & COMNAP | IHB: Completed. |
| 8. | 14. | IHB to post the form for "Collection and Rendering of Hydrographic Data" on the HCA page of the IHO website. | IHB | Completed. |
| 8. | 15. | HCA Chair to mention the form for "Collection and Rendering of Hydrographic Data" in the IHO report to the 2006 ATCM, seeking ATCM endorsement and support. Deadline: April 06. | HCA Chair | In progress. |
| 8. | 16. | IHB, in liaison with the HCA Survey Programme WG Chair, to prepare an update of the INT Chart Scheme for Region 'M', so as to include the 20 agreed additions as new INT charts / inset plans (Decision No 4). Work will comprise identification of existing INT charts which will include inset plans, assignment of INT numbers to new INT charts, and allocation of responsibilities for their production. | IHB & HSPWG Chair | In progress. |
| 8. | 17. | IHB to circulate the implementation details resulting from Action No 16, to the IHO CSPCWG Chair and to HCA members and observers, for comments and endorsement. | IHB | |

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| 8. | 18. | HCA Chair to submit the short list to IPY Coordinating Committee, and to ATCM/COMNAP, seeking endorsement of importance for safety of navigation in the region. | HCA Chair | Completed. |
| 8. | 19. | HCA Chair to circulate the short list, with supporting rationale, to National Hydrographers of IHO MS seeking indication of assets that might be allocated to the survey requirement in the IPY. HCA to indicate that options may exist for participation in vessels of opportunity and that HCA can submit bids to CBC for travel and subsistence funding. HCA to indicate benefits of participation. Letter to be copied to IMO, ATCM, COMNAP, IAATO, IBCSO. | HCA Chair | Completed. |
| 9.2 | 20. | HCA Chair to propose to SPWG that representation of HCA matters on Council will be undertaken by a nominated member state with a seat on Council. | HCA Chair | Completed. |
| 9.2 | 21. | HCA to produce necessary amendments to HCA Statutes for approval at HCA/6 and entry into force at the same time as the amended Convention. Australia will lead on the production of amendments, circulating drafts by correspondence. | Australia | |
| 9.2 | 22. | HCA Chair to ask the SPWG to include the HCA in the development of Performance Indicators for subordinate bodies e.g. progress with INT chart scheme; input for IHO advice to IMO on safety of navigation in remote areas. | HCA Chair | Completed. |
| 9.4 | 23. | HCA Chair and Vice Chair to identify which HCA activities should be reflected in the IHO Work Programme 2008 - 2012. | HCA Chair & Vice Chair | |
| 10. | 24. | Chile to confirm to the HCA Chair their ability to host the 6 th HCA Meeting in November 06. | Chile | Completed. HCA/6 to take place in Punta Arenas, 6-8 November 2006. |