



IHB File No. S3/0302/ABLOS

CIRCULAR LETTER 87/2006
21 December 2006

ADVISORY BOARD ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (ABLOS)

Dear Hydrographer,

In November the IHB was informed by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) that they wished to withdraw from ABLOS in order to focus their efforts on the work of their Advisory Body of Experts on Law of the Sea (IOC/ABE-LOS). They hoped that there would be opportunities for ABLOS and ABE-LOS to cooperate in the future. The IHB has been in contact with the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) the other parent body of ABLOS. IAG has indicated its support for the work of ABLOS and its desire to continue supporting ABLOS with the IHO.

ABLOS held its 13th annual Business Meeting at the IHB on 11 and 12 December, the full report of which will be available from the IHO web site as soon as it is completed. During this meeting ABLOS prepared revised Terms of Reference reflecting the withdrawal of IOC and using the same structure currently used by other IHO bodies. These revised Terms of Reference, see Annex A, are also being sent to IAG. **Member States are requested to forward any comments on these ToR to the IHB by 28 February 2007.** If no objections are received they will be considered effective as from 1 March or on the date of approval by IAG if later. The revised ToR allow for IHO and IAG to have 4 full members of ABLOS in place of the current 3 members. This was considered important to ensure that there were sufficient members to take the work of ABLOS forward.

One IHO and two IAG members of ABLOS complete their 4 year membership in 2006 and need either to be re-elected or replaced. See Annex B for details of the current membership. Consequently MS are requested to **forward nominations for the IHO vacancy and the additional vacancy that will be created if the revised ToR are approved, to the IHB by the 28 February 2007.** If more nominations are received than there are vacancies the IHB will select candidates taking into consideration previous membership and the geographical distribution of members.

ABLOS decided that, considering the significant changes in membership and the timescale available that it would not be possible to hold its biennial conference in October 2007 as customary. It is therefore planning to hold the 5th ABLOS Conference at the IHB, Monaco, in the early part of February 2008. The title and dates of the conference will be confirmed by Circular Letter in early 2007. At the kind invitation of Dr Zvonko Gržetić, Director of the Croatian Hydrographic Institute, ABLOS will hold its 2007 Business Meeting in Dubrovnik, Croatia on 30 and 31 October 2007.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Maratos', written over a horizontal line.

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President

Annex A Revised ToR for ABLOS
Annex B ABLOS Membership



TERMS OF REFERENCE
For the Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea (ABLOS)
of the
International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and
the International Association of Geodesy (IAG)
(as amended 11 December 2006)

OBJECTIVE:

To provide advice on technical aspects of the Law of the Sea.

1. Terms of Reference

- 1.1. To provide advice, guidance and, where applicable, offer expert interpretation of the technical aspects of the Law of the Sea to the parent Organizations, their Member States or to other organizations on request.
- 1.2. To review State practice and jurisprudence on Law of the Sea matters which are relevant to the work of ABLOS so as to be in a position to provide expert advice when needed.
- 1.3. To study, promote and encourage the development of appropriate techniques in the application of the technical provisions contained within the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- 1.4. To review and update IHO Special Publication S-51 "A Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations' Convention on the Law of the Sea - 1982" (TALOS Manual).
- 1.5. To prepare, review and update other ABLOS publications as required by the parent organizations.

2. Rules of Procedure

- 2.1. ABLOS shall be composed of eight full members, preferably chosen with wide geographic representation. Each parent Organization shall appoint four members. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the UN Office of Legal Affairs (DOALOS), and the IHB as the Secretariat shall have representatives in an ex-officio capacity without voting rights.
- 2.2. ABLOS should normally take decisions by consensus. Should a vote be necessary then a simple majority of those present and voting is required, subject to a minimum of 4 voting members being present. In the case of a tied vote the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- 2.3. The Member States of the IHO, the IAG and ABLOS through its Chairman may nominate additional observers to ABLOS. Observers may participate in correspondence and attend

meetings but may not vote.

- 2.4. The term of office of a full member is four years, after which he/she may be re-appointed or replaced by his/her parent organization. Members are expected to attend every meeting of ABLOS. Where a member fails to attend two consecutive meetings the Chairman should raise the matter with the Parent Organization with a view to rectifying the situation.
- 2.5. Whilst members of ABLOS are appointed by their parent Organizations, to whom they are accountable, members are expected to serve as individual experts in their own right. No statements or publications may be issued in the name of ABLOS without ABLOS's prior approval.
- 2.6. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected by ABLOS and should normally come from different parent Organizations on a rotational basis. They will serve for a two-year period, after which the Vice-Chairman becomes Chairman and a new Vice-Chairman is elected. If the Chairman is not present or available, the Vice-Chairman shall act in this capacity until the next meeting. Should the Vice-Chairman not be available to take office as Chairman when required, a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman should be elected.
- 2.7. ABLOS may establish Working Groups to carry out specific tasks.
- 2.8. ABLOS will have its permanent Secretariat at the International Hydrographic Bureau, Monaco. The Secretariat will publish the documents and publications produced by the Board as required.
- 2.9. Members of ABLOS are expected to be supported by their own organizations for travel expenses and work.
- 2.10. ABLOS will normally meet once a year at a venue and time that minimize cost and conduct business by correspondence between meetings.
- 2.11. ABLOS may organise conferences and seminars. A biennial technical conference will normally be held in Monaco in conjunction with an ABLOS Meeting. ABLOS may operate a fund to cover the receipts and expenses of running such a conference. Guidelines for the operation of this fund are appended to these terms of reference.
- 2.12. The Chairman shall provide an annual report on ABLOS's activities to the IHO and IAG and a report covering the inter-sessional period to the Conferences/General Assemblies of the parent Organizations.
- 2.13. These TOR should be reviewed by ABLOS as required and not less frequently than every 4 years. Amendments, recommended by ABLOS, are to be submitted to the parent Organizations for approval.

ABLOS CONFERENCE FUND GUIDELINES
(As amended December 2006)

1. Introduction

1.1 The Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea (ABLOS) is formed by four representatives from each of the following bodies: The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the International Association of Geodesy (IAG). Secretarial support for ABLOS is provided by the IHB. The parent organizations approve the Terms of Reference (TOR) for ABLOS. The UN Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS) and the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) attend ABLOS meetings in an ex-Officio capacity.

2. Biennial Conference

2.1 The TOR invite ABLOS to organise seminars and technical conferences and permit the operation of a fund to support such activities. This fund will be operated by the IHB on behalf of ABLOS.

3. Income

3.1 The primary source of income for the fund will be from the registration fees of delegates attending such seminars / conferences. ABLOS should set the level of registrations fees in order to provide a modest excess of income over expenditure given an estimated attendance.

3.2 Additional income may be provided by royalties due on publications produced by ABLOS such as 'Continental Shelf Limits – The Scientific and Legal Interface.'

4. Expenditure

4.1 The primary expenditure for the fund will be to cover the costs of running the seminars / conferences. Expenditure may include but is not limited to: assistance to speakers / tutorial leaders, conference equipment, documentation, proceedings, staff overtime, reception and tea breaks.

4.2 ABLOS may use any funds in excess of 3000 Euros remaining after all expenses for a seminar / conference have been settled, to fund other activities conducted by ABLOS. Support for travel / subsistence in connection with production of a new edition of S-51 'A Manual on Technical Aspects of the Law of the Sea' might be considered such an activity. Such expenditure must be approved by a simple majority of the ABLOS Membership.

4.3 Routine expenditure in support of a seminar / conference may be transacted by the IHB and reported in the fund accounts.

5. Operation

5.1 The fund will be operated by the IHB on behalf of ABLOS. A copy of the fund accounts will be provided to the Annual Business Meeting of ABLOS and immediately after finalising the accounts following a seminar / conference.

6. Review

6.1 This guidance should be reviewed, and amended as necessary, by ABLOS at intervals not exceeding 4 years.

Membership / Affiliation / Term of Office

Shin Tani (Japan) (Chairman)	IHO	2003 – 2007
Chris Carleton (UK)	IHO	2002 – 2006
Zvonko Gržetić (Croatia)	IHO	2006 – 2009
Lars Sjoberg (Sweden)	IAG	2002 – 2006
Chris Rizos (Australia)	IAG	2002 – 2006
Don Grant (New Zealand)	IAG	2004 – 2008
Alexei Zinchenko (UN DOALOS)	Ex Officio	
Steve Shipman (IHB)	Ex officio	