

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC  
ORGANIZATION



ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE  
INTERNATIONALE

IHB File No. S3/0128

CIRCULAR LETTER 15/2007  
2 February 2007

IHO HYDROGRAPHIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTICA  
6<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Punta Arenas, Chile, 6-8 November 2006

Dear Hydrographer,

The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Hydrographic Committee on Antarctica (HCA) took place at the Chilean Antarctic Institute, Punta Arenas, Chile on 6-8 November 2006. The Minutes of this meeting are available on the IHO website ([www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) > Reg Hyd Comm > HCA). Eleven IHO Member States (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Ecuador, India, Italy, Norway, South Africa and United Kingdom) were represented, as well as three international organizations (COMNAP, SCALOP, and IAATO). Capt. Hugo GORZIGLIA, IHB Director, chaired the meeting. Captain Rod NAIRN (Australia) was confirmed as Vice Chairman. All the actions which were agreed as a means of progressing HCA issues during the forthcoming inter-sessional period are listed at **Annex A**, together with a record of their current status.

The Committee reviewed its Statutes and membership and tasked the Chairman to include in this Circular Letter an invitation to all IHO MS that are signatories to the Antarctic Treaty, but not members of HCA, to consider accession and active contribution to its work. Noting the continued increase in sea-borne traffic in the region, the Committee also considered several other measures to increase awareness of the importance of the provision of hydrographic services in Antarctica. These include the continued input of advice to ATCM, in collaboration with the participating observer organizations, and discussion with IMO of issues of safe navigation in remote areas.

The Committee examined the reports submitted by MS and international observer organizations, and reviewed the development of S-55, and of the GIS replacement for S-59. The NAVAREA Co-ordinators confirmed that GMDSS coverage is in place throughout the region. A detailed assessment was made of progress with expanded coverage of INT charts and ENCs. The status of INT charts in progress or not published for the region is shown in **Annex G to the Minutes** of the meeting. MS are requested to review this annex and confirm that their activities are described accurately in this document, and the planning for making such charts available. The HCA would also welcome additional volunteer producer nations to accelerate coverage in the area, in particular for those charts for which there is no producer nation identified, e.g. INT charts 909, 9062 and 9105. Responses are requested **by 15 April 2007**.

The national reports also enabled the HCA to review its agreed and prioritized survey plan for Antarctica, a copy of which is included as **Annex H to the Minutes** of the meeting. Any MS with planned activities in Antarctica which are not reflected in this plan are requested to provide information to the HCA Chairman as soon as possible and **no later than 15 March 2007**. The plan will then be submitted to the co-ordinating board for the International Polar Year (2007-2008). In an effort to maximise survey effort, the HCA has also tasked the Chairman to prepare a submission to the IHOCBC for resources to assist the deployment of personnel from IHO MS in surveying ships,

research ships or ships of opportunity. Any IHO MS that can supplement these resources through bilateral arrangements or contribution to the CB Fund are urged to do so.

The 7<sup>th</sup> HCA Meeting will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 3-5 October 2007 following the kind invitation of the Argentinean HO (SHN). These dates have been selected to fit in with the MACHC conference scheduled for 8-10 October in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Any comments will be welcome.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'H. Gorziglia', written over a light yellow rectangular background.

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA  
Director

Annex A: – Action List from HCA/6 and Status

ACTION ITEMS FROM THE 6<sup>th</sup> HCA MEETING AND STATUS

Agenda Item	Action	Details	Person Responsible & Deadline	Status (Feb. 07)
2	6/1	Invite those MS that are signatories to the Antarctic Treaty, but are not yet HCA members, to consider HCA membership. (In the covering IHO CL distributing the Minutes of the 6 <sup>th</sup> HCA Meeting).	Chairman JAN07	Done. See CL 15/2007
5	6/2	Check with relevant authorities (IMO & ATCM) how SOLAS V Reg. 9, requiring contracting governments to arrange for the provision of hydrographic services, can be applied in the Antarctic Treaty area. In particular, to raise this issue at IMO when safety of navigation in "remote areas" is discussed.	Chairman JAN 07	
5	6/3	Draft and circulate for comments an ENC draft 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). Then prepare Final version for decision at HCA7.	IHB Draft MAR07 Comments MAY07 Final AUG07	Draft done. See HCA Letter 1/2007
5	6/4	Invite RAdm Boris FRIDMAN (HDNO, Russia) to represent HCA matters within the IBCSO Editorial Board.	Chairman DEC06	Done 2FEB07
5	6/5	Approach the two co-chairs of the IPY Coordinating Committee, with a view to obtaining a response / feedback following the submission to them of the short list of surveys.	UK MAR07	
5	6/6	Re-draft Doc. HCA6-5B "Proposed amendments to the HCA Statutes", in the light of discussions held at the 6 <sup>th</sup> HCA meeting and the outcomes of the 17 <sup>th</sup> IHC.	Australia AUG07	
5	6/7	Develop and improve the draft HCA Performance Indicators Table (see relevant Annex to Minutes), to then be circulated to HCA Members for comments. Final document to be submitted to the 7 <sup>th</sup> HCA meeting.	Task Group, Australia, Italy, UK(leader) AUG07	
6.1	6/8	Brief national delegations to ATCM on HCA activities and the importance of hydrography in Antarctica, in order to assign higher priority to hydrography in their national programmes.	HCA Members MAR/APR07	
6.2	6/9	Ensure that information on IMO discussion regarding safe navigation in "remote areas" is made available to the 7 <sup>th</sup> HCA meeting (in the absence of IMO report).	IHB AUG07	
6.4	6/10	Obtain the questionnaire that COMNAP sent to all their national members and make it available to HCA Members, in connection with the use of ships of opportunity for hydrographic surveys.	IHB JAN07	Done 21JAN07

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Person Responsible &amp; Deadline</b>	<b>Status (Feb. 07)</b>
6.4	6/11	Support COMNAP in the preparation of an Information Paper on the importance of hydrography in Antarctica, to be submitted to the 30 <sup>th</sup> ATCM meeting by COMNAP.	Chairman, UK, IAATO 30JAN07 (1st draft); 28FEB07 (2 <sup>nd</sup> draft).	In progress
7.1.1	6/12	Prepare a document showing Charts in Progress or not Produced, to be annexed to minutes of the 6 <sup>th</sup> HCA meeting. HCA Chair to invite all concerned MS, on a case by case basis, to provide information on their chart production plans. IHB to identify volunteering producer nations for those INT charts with no producer, and assign responsibilities accordingly.	IHB-Chairman JAN07	Done: Annex G to HCA minutes
7.2	6/13	Prepare a submission to the next CBC meeting for resources to assist the deployment of survey personnel from IHO MS in surveying ships, research vessels or ships of opportunity.	Chairman, UK APR07	
7.2	6/14	Prepare a questionnaire / format on hydrographic survey metadata, to then be sent to HCA Members in view of populating the HCA Geographic Information System.	IHB UK JAN07	Done FEB07
7.2	6/15	Develop a list of layers / sub-layers to appear in the HCA GIS, to then be circulated to HCA Members for comments / approval.	IHB FEB07	In progress
7.2	6/16	Ensure that the best existing Antarctic coastline is used in the HCA GIS, e.g. GEBCO Digital Atlas, British Antarctic Survey (ADD), or US World Vector Shoreline, and advise HCA Members accordingly.	IHB DEC06	Done: BAS coastline is used.
7.3	6/17	Request GEBCO, IBCSO and SCAR (via Dr. HW SCHENKE) to ensure that bathymetric data collected by scientific institutions in Antarctic waters is made available to HCA Members for charting purpose, and that minimum associated metadata be also provided, based on a modified version of the existing form for "Collection and Rendering of Hydrographic Data".	Chairman NOV06	Done 21NOV06
7.5.2	6/18	Issue an IHO CL (with additional guidance on criteria) urging all IHO MS with activities in the HCA/INT Chart Region M to respond to HCA Letter 3/05 by 31 Mar 07 and to provide annual update thereafter.	Chairman DEC06	Done FEB07
8	6/19	Update the agreed and prioritized hydrographic survey plan from information contained in national reports to the 6 <sup>th</sup> HCA meeting and annex it to the meeting minutes. In the covering IHO CL distributing these minutes, HCA Chair to invite all concerned MS to provide information on their survey plans with emphasis on the IPY period (2007-2008).	IHB-Chairman JAN07	Done: Annex H to HCA6 minutes

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Person Responsible &amp; Deadline</b>	<b>Status (Feb. 07)</b>
8	6/20	Sustain the efforts to contribute work for the coordinated survey plan during the IPY 2007-08.	HCA Members (permanent)	
8	6/21	Produce a document highlighting the surveying plans and charting expectations of the HCA member states for 2007/08, to then be submitted to the IPY coordination board after approval by HCA.	HSPWG [Australia, Chile, Germany, Greece, South Africa, UK, COMNAP, IAATO] Submission to IPY MAR07	
8	6/22	Prepare an in-depth paper with supporting facts and statistics stressing the need for accurate charting and modern survey coverage to ensure reliable and confident navigation for existing and future vessel movements.	HSPWG [Australia, Chile, Germany, Greece, South Africa, UK, COMNAP, IAATO] MAR07	
10	6/23	Coordinate the dates and organization of the 7th HCA Meeting in Buenos Aires, 1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of October 2007, taking into consideration that the next MACHC meeting is planned to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, at this period of the year.	IHB, Argentina NOV06	Done 16NOV06. Meeting will be 3-5 October 2007, Buenos Aires, Argentina