



IHB File No. S3/0128

CIRCULAR LETTER 07/2008
18 January 2008

IHO HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON ANTARCTICA
7th Meeting, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 3-5 October 2007

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The 7th meeting of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) was hosted by the *Servicio de Hidrografía Naval (SHN)* of Argentina and took place at the *Centro Naval* in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 3-5 October 2007. The Minutes of this meeting are available on the IHO website (www.iho.int > Reg Hyd Comm > HCA). Fourteen IHO Member States (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Norway, Peru, UK and USA) were represented, as well as three international organizations (COMNAP, IAATO and SCAR). 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 intersessional period are listed at **Annex 1**, together with an indication of their current status.

2. The Commission welcomed the USA as a new HCA member, thus bringing the current number of HCA members to 18, and was also pleased to hear of Peru's intention to sign the HCA Statutes in the near future. In accordance with the task given to the Chairman by the Commission, the following IHO Member States that are signatories to the Antarctic Treaty, but not members of HCA, are urged to consider joining the Commission and actively contribute to its work: Japan, Rep. of Korea, Poland, Ukraine and Uruguay. Noting the continued increase in sea-borne traffic in the region, the Commission considered various measures to increase awareness of the importance of providing hydrographic services in Antarctica. In particular, the Commission reviewed the programme of an HCA seminar on Hydrography in Antarctica to be held as part of the 31st Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Kiev, Ukraine, in June 2008.

3. The Commission discussed proposed amendments to the HCA Statutes to comply with the new IHO structure. The following two options were considered: 1) HCA Chairperson from a Member State and supported by the IHO Secretariat; and 2) HCA Chairperson from the IHO Secretariat. There was overwhelming support for the second option. The resulting proposed Statutes are included as **Annex F to the Minutes**. The Commission also agreed on a proposed amendment to Article 8(e) of the revised IHO General Regulations to accommodate the particular case of HCA, i.e. no coastal States exist within the region and, while HCA members must be IHO Member States, they must also have acceded to the Antarctic Treaty and contribute resources and/or data to the IHO INT Chart coverage of Region M. The proposed amendment has been submitted to the IHB for further action and the IHB plans to submit a proposal to the 4th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference in June 2009 to formalize the HCA existence within the revised IHO General Regulations.

4. A progress report was given on the development of an HCA Geographic Information System, which will eventually provide metadata on INT chart, ENC and RNC coverage, as well as on past and planned hydrographic surveys (see www.iho.org > Reg Hyd Comm > HCA > Miscellaneous > GIS for Antarctica).

5. A detailed assessment was made of the 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. The status of ENC production in the region is shown in Annex H to the Minutes. Member States are requested to review these annexes and confirm that their charting activities are described accurately therein, and the time-scale for making such charts available. The HCA would also welcome additional volunteer producer nations to accelerate INT chart coverage in the area, in particular for those charts for which there is no producer nation identified or confirmed. Comments / proposals are requested **by 31st March 2008**.

6. Presentation of the national reports also enabled the Commission to review and update its agreed and prioritized survey plan for Antarctica, as shown in Annex I to the Minutes. Any Member State with planned activities in Antarctica which are not reflected in this plan is requested to provide information to the IHB by **31st March 2008**.

7. The 8th HCA meeting will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in early October 2008 following the kind invitation of the Brazilian HO (DNH). These dates have been selected to fit in with the next MACHC meeting scheduled for the same period in Venezuela.

Any comments would be welcome.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'H' followed by a smaller 'G' and a final flourish.

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director

Annex 1: - Action Items from HCA-7 and Status

ACTION ITEMS FROM THE 7th HCA MEETING AND STATUS

Agenda Item	Action	Details	Responsible	Status (Jan. 08)
2	7/1	Invite those MS that are signatories of the Antarctic Treaty, but are not yet HCA members, to consider HCA membership. (In the covering IHO CL distributing the Minutes of the 7 th HCA Meeting).	Chairman	Done (CL 07/2008)
2	7/2	On receipt of Peru's signature of HCA Statutes, update the HCA page of the IHO website, including the HCA Statutes.	IHB	Pending
5	7/3	Prepare a document on SOLAS V Reg. 9 (requiring contracting governments to arrange for the provision of hydrographic services) for presentation at the 31 st ATCM.	Chairman	In progress
5	7/4	Provide Capt. Fomin, DNO, Russia, with guidance on how to represent HCA matters within the IBCSO Editorial Board. Write a letter to the Director of DNO, asking for Capt. Fomin's participation in HCA meetings.	Chairman	TBD
5	7/5	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	In progress
5	7/6	Circulate the proposed amendments to the HCA Statutes, as agreed at HCA-7 (option 2 – Chairman from IHO Secretariat), to all HCA Members. Annex the option 2 document to the minutes of HCA-7.	Chairman / IHB and Vice Chairman	TBD
5	7/7	Submit the proposed amendments to Article 8(e) of the IHO General Regulations, as agreed at HCA-7, to the IHB Directing Committee for further action. Revised Article 8(e) to read: <i>“Full membership is reserved for Member States within the region. In the unique case of the Antarctic region, membership of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) is reserved to Member States whose governments have acceded to the Antarctic Treaty and contribute resources and/or data to IHO INT Chart coverage of Region M.”</i>	Chairman	Done
5	7/8	Use and populate the draft HCA Performance Indicators Table (Annex F to Minutes of HCA-6), for presentation to the 8 th HCA meeting.	IHB	TBD
5	7/9	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	In progress

Agenda Item	Action	Details	Responsible	Status (Jan. 08)
7.1	7/10	Update the document showing Charts in Progress or not Produced (Doc. HCA7-7.1B), to be annexed to minutes of the 7 th HCA meeting. Invite all concerned MS, on a case by case basis, to provide information on their chart production plans. Identify available data and seek volunteering producer nations for those INT charts with no producer yet assigned.	IHB-Chairman	Done (CL 07/2008)
7.1	7/11	Re-consider USA's involvement regarding the production of INT charts 909, 9062 and 9105, now that USA have full HCA membership.	USA	In progress
7.1	7/12	Circulate Brazil's proposal to include two additional charts in the INT Chart Scheme for Region M, as described in Brazil national report to the 7 th HCA Meeting, to HCA Members for comments / approval.	IHB	In progress
7.2	7/13	Refine the draft ENC scheme for medium scales (navigational purpose 3), as shown in Doc. HCA7-7.2B, and circulate it to HCA Members for comments / approval.	IHB	In progress
7.2	7/14	Develop a draft ENC scheme for large scales (navigational purposes 4, 5 and 6) and circulate it to HCA Members for comments / approval.	IHB	TBD
7.2	7/15	Update the ENC production plan (Doc. HCA7-7.2A) from the information gathered at, and in national reports to the 7 th HCA Meeting. Annex it to the minutes of this meeting.	IHB	Done (CL 07/2008)
7.4	7/16	Provide SCAR/SC-AGI with GEBCO Guidelines on Undersea feature naming (IHO-IOC Publication B-6).	IHB	Done
7.4	7/17	Invites the IOC Executive Secretary to provide further support to the IBCSO project, which the HCA recognizes and strongly values the importance.	Chairman	TBD
7.5	7/18	On receipt of Chile's National Decree 361 creating a National Committee for Antarctic Geographic Toponymy, circulate this document to HCA Members and Observers for information.	IHB	Pending
7.5	7/19	Make use of the spreadsheet on hydrographic survey metadata (HCA_Surveys.xls), available from the IHO website, to provide survey updates to the IHB in view of populating the HCA Geographic Information System.	HCA Members	Ongoing
7.5	7/20	Cooperate on HCA GIS matters.	SCAR/SC-AGI and IHB	Ongoing

Agenda Item	Action	Details	Responsible	Status (Jan. 08)
7.5	7/21	Update the Antarctica section of S-55 on the IHO website from the information available at the IHB on hydrographic surveying and nautical charting in Antarctica.	IHB	TBD
7.5	7/22	Refine the list of layers / sub-layers to appear in the HCA GIS, based on the list shown in Doc. HCA7-7.5B, and circulate it to HCA Members and Observers for comments / approval.	IHB	In progress
7.6	7/23	Include a hyperlink to SCAR publications, in the HCA Nautical Publications section on the IHO website.	IHB	Done
7.6	7/24	Provide the IHB with information on Chile's nautical publications pertaining to Antarctica, for inclusion in the HCA Nautical Publications section on the IHO website.	Chile	Pending
8.	7/25	Update the agreed and prioritized hydrographic survey plan (Annex H to Minutes of HCA-6) from information contained in national reports to the 7 th HCA meeting and annex it to the meeting minutes. In the covering IHO CL distributing these minutes, invite all concerned MS to provide information on their survey plans for presentation at the 31 st ATCM.	IHB-Chairman	Done (CL 07/2008)
9.1	7/26	Organize an HCA Seminar to raise awareness on the importance of hydrographic activities in Antarctica, as part of the 31 st ATCM.	Chairman-IHB	In progress
10.	7/27	Coordinate the dates and organization of the 8 th HCA Meeting in Rio de Janeiro, in October 2008, taking into consideration that the next MACHC meeting is planned to take place in Caracas, Venezuela, at this period of the year.	Chairman-IHB and Brazil	In progress