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CIRCULAR LETTER 40/2008  
28 April 2008

SEMINAR

**"Importance of Hydrographic Activities in Antarctica"**  
Kiev, Ukraine, Monday 09 June 2008

Dear Hydrographer,

1 As reported through CL 07/2008, the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) at its last meeting in October 2007, reviewed the programme of an HCA Seminar on Hydrography in Antarctica to be held as part of the 31<sup>st</sup> Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) in Kiev, Ukraine, from 02 to 13 June 2008.

2 The background information as well as the objectives and programme of the Seminar are attached for your information (See Annex A). In following the organization and preparation process, it has become evident for the HCA Members that the Seminar will lead to the adoption by the Representatives of the ATCM of a resolution recommending their Governments to adopt measures to improve the hydrographic surveying and charting status in the Antarctic region.

3 The text of the Resolution that is being proposed to the ATCM has been prepared by the HCA and is part of a Working Paper 38 *"Improving hydrographic surveying and charting to support safety of navigation and environmental protection in the Antarctic region"* submitted jointly by United Kingdom and Australia, as the IHO is not entitled to directly submit Working Papers. All IHO Member States participating in the work of the ATCM are invited to consider providing strong support to this initiative when it will be addressed under the relevant agenda item during ATCM-31. The text of the Proposed Resolution is attached for your information. (See Annex B)

4 In order to guarantee the approval of the Proposed Resolution, we kindly invite you to brief your national authorities that will be representing your country at the ATCM, on the efforts IHO is making to contribute to safety of life at sea, safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment in the Antarctic region. While the Seminar will provide an in depth analysis of the existing situation, the approval by ATCM of the proposed Resolution is considered to be a clear sign of the interest of the Antarctic Treaty Parties to improve hydrographic surveying and charting in the Antarctic region.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hugo Gorziglia', is written over a faint circular stamp.

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA  
Director

**XXXI ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING**  
**Kiev, Ukraine, Monday 09 June 2008**

**SEMINAR**

Importance of Hydrographic Activities in Antarctica  
International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)  
Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA)

**Background**

The Antarctic Treaty System has recognized the traditional role played by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) through its Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica, in contributing to the safety of navigation, the protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems, including scientific purposes.

The international cooperation and coordination between countries which undertake hydrographic surveys and nautical charting of Antarctic waters is absolutely necessary to provide mariners and scientists with data, information, products and services to minimize the risks associated with their activities.

However set against the increasing numbers of people visiting and working in the region for a range of different activities, the progress so far reached by Hydrographic Offices under the umbrella of the IHO/HCA in the production of a reliable and updated set of nautical charts is far from being appropriate. This is in terms of coverage and fidelity to modern survey standards.

In keeping with the Antarctic Treaty no single nation has specific responsibility for charting but all are stakeholders with an international commitment to the safety of life at sea (SOLAS). Accordingly assigning a higher priority to the hydrographic activities, at national levels in each office, monitored and supported by the IHO through the HCA has been identified as one of the most relevant measures that could contribute to improve safety to navigation in Antarctic waters.

The XXXth ATCM accepted the offer of IHO/HCA to organize and deliver a Seminar at the XXXIst ATCM to highlight the important role and contribution hydrography is called play as regard to the objectives of the Antarctic Treaty System.

**Objective:**

To raise awareness at the politico-strategic level on the importance of hydrographic activity in the Antarctica, to achieve a better understanding in the ATCM of the risks presently attached to the mariner with the status of charting in the region and what the same data also contributes to scientific endeavour, and to seek support on ways to improve the situation.

**Programme:**

The Seminar will be delivered on Monday 09 June 2008 for a period of two hours, as part of the Programme of the XXXI ATCM.

The content includes Opening Remarks (5 minutes) and 5 Presentations of 20 minutes each, the details of which are provided in the Annex. There will be a 15 minutes period for questions from the audience.

A CD ROM with all Presentations will be provided to participants and to the AT Secretariat. ATS and IHO might wish to post Presentations in their respective websites to facilitate access by interested parties.

As an outcome of the Seminar it is expected that a concrete proposal/recommendation will be prepared and supported by several AT Member State and submitted to the ATCM XXXI for consideration and approval.

Monaco, 06 February 2008.



Hugo Gorziglia  
Captain - Chilean Navy  
IHB Director & HCA Chairman

**APPENDIX : Presentations**

APPENDIX

PRESENTATIONS

**Opening Remarks**

- Title: Hydrography in the Antarctica.  
Speaker: **Hugo Gorziglia**, Captain Chilean Navy, former Chilean Hydrographer, Director IHB and Chairman HCA  
Content: What is hydrography? Why we need hydrography? What are and why exist the IHO and HCA and what they have been doing. INT Chart Scheme. SOLAS and the Antarctica.

**First Presentation**

- Title: Hydrography in the Antarctica.  
Speaker: **Ian Moncrieff**, Rear Admiral, United Kingdom National Hydrographer, former Commanding Officer of HMS Endurance (the RN Antarctic Patrol Ships) and former Commander of British Forces in the South Atlantic.  
Content: Antarctic Navigation and its risks. Extant of present coverage in and around the peninsula. Present UK approach to charting priorities based on observed routes of IATO vessels and support to BAS. Work done to date and future work plans. Case studies. Liabilities, Paucity of SAR. How hydrography knowledge reduces the risk

**Second Presentation**

- Title: Hydrography and its contribution to the protection of the marine environment in Antarctic waters.  
Speaker: **Manuel Catalan**, Rear Admiral Spanish Navy, Scientist, Technical Secretary of the Spanish Polar Committee and Chairman of SHIPOPS. (Presentation as expert not institutional).  
Content: Role of hydrography in Antarctic operations. Marine accidents and its impact on the marine environment. What is needed to operate with greater safety ness?

**Third Presentation**

- Title: Hydrography and its contribution to Antarctic Sciences.  
Speaker: **Dr. Hans-Werner Schenke**, Alfred Wagener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, Represent Germany, IOC/IHO GEBCO, SCAR at the HCA, Chairman of SCUFN and IBCSO.  
Content: The connection between hydrography and science. Mutual benefit. Scientific projects supported by bathymetric and remote sensing data. Safe access to remote research areas. Data exchange and Data Centers.

**Forth Presentation**

- Title: Hydrographic and Cartographic Status in the Antarctica.  
Speaker: **Yves Guillam**, Ingénieur en chef des études et techniques d'armement, Head of Plans, Policy and External Relations, SHOM.  
Content: The existing situation based mainly on S-55. Provision of conclusions and clear picture of the problem. Characteristics of the data and difficulties in improving chart production.

**Fifth Presentation**

Title: Practical initiatives to improve hydrography and nautical cartography in Antarctica.  
Speaker: **Rod Nairn**, Captain Australian Navy, Australian Hydrographer, Vice Chair of HCA..  
Content: A resume of the problems based on previous presentations and the offer of conclusive measures that could be put in practice by ATCM to improve the situation. The role of ATCM and IHO, to finally offer a sound resolution for consideration and adoption by the XXXI ATCM.

Monaco, 06 February 2008.

**Proposed Resolution**

**Improving hydrographic surveying and charting to support safety of navigation and environmental protection in the Antarctic region**

The Representatives,

*Considering* that reliable hydrographic data and nautical charts are essential to safe maritime operations;

*Noting* the increase in marine traffic, particularly tourist vessels, in the Antarctic region;

*Concerned* about the increased risk of harm to ships, persons and the environment in inadequately charted waters in the region;

*Noting* that the collection of accurate survey data will improve navigational safety and support scientific research;

*Recognising* the role of the International Hydrographic Organization Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) in the coordination of hydrographic charting in the Antarctic region and the value of cooperating with relevant expert bodies;

**Recommend** that their Governments:

1. encourage their national Antarctic programmes to collect hydrographic and bathymetric data on all Antarctic voyages under their control;
2. cooperate with the HCA to improve hydrographic surveying and charting in the Antarctic region;
3. forward any hydrographic and bathymetric data collected to the relevant international chart producer for charting action;
4. consider allocating additional resources towards improving hydrographic surveying and charting in the Antarctic region.