



IHB File No. CBC-1

CIRCULAR LETTER 69/2008
04 September 2008

**“PROVISION OF REGIONAL STAFF OFFICERS FOR CAPACITY BUILDING EFFORT”
INSERTION OF A PARAGRAPH 2BIS UNDER A.R. T1.3**

Reference: IHB CL 51/2008 dated 18 June

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The IHB thanks the following 51 Member States for having replied to the above-referenced Circular Letter: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, India, I.R. of Iran, Italy, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, UK, USA, Uruguay and Venezuela. All, except Canada, France and Monaco, support the proposal to insert a new paragraph (2 bis) under A.R. T1.3 “Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC)”.

2. The comments received are provided in the Annex.

3. In view of the strong support received and in accordance with approval procedures, the insertion of a new paragraph, 2bis, under Administrative Resolution (A) T 1.3 – Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) has been approved. IHO Publication M-3 will be amended by inserting the following new paragraph :

2 bis.- Where Capacity Building is required in a region, RHCs are recommended to establish an internal body to deal with CB matters and to designate a focal point to ensure continuity in the CB process. This part-time allocation to assist RHCs should come primarily and ideally from an HO within the region. If that is not possible then the RHC might agree to request support from another RHC or an HO that might wish to take that responsibility.

These regional contact points, the responsibilities of which should be given directly and in detail by the RHC concerned, shall have the support of the RHCs; shall be nominated having in mind the importance of continuity; shall be in permanent contact with the corresponding RHC Chairman as well as with the CBC Chairman. Ideally should be a CBC member with access to RHC meetings.

In the absence of any other viable alternative and despite its limited human resources availability a request of support could be requested to the IHB.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director

Annex: Member States' Comments.

**MEMBER STATES' COMMENTS
IN REPLY TO CL 51/2008**

ALGERIA

The SHFN supports all initiatives aimed at facilitating the role of RHC Chairmen. Consequently, the SHFN fully approves this proposal.

AUSTRALIA

Considers that the revised wording as proposed in CL 51/2008 adequately and appropriately reflects all previous comments received, and particularly those relating to provision of assistance to those RHCs where capacity building is a key issue.

BANGLADESH

We consider this proposal will in the long run meet the concerned RHC capacity building requirements as well as accelerate the regional bondage and technical know-how. The insertion of the proposed paragraph i.e. 2bis under A.R. T1.3 may be a timely incorporation.

CANADA

In many countries Capacity Building is the responsibility of other departments or agencies that often deal bilaterally and directly with the countries supported. The resolution as drafted places possibly unrealistic responsibility on the hydrographic offices.

CHILE

Approves the inclusion of the paragraph without any comment. The Chilean delegate participated in the development of this proposal taking into account the interest and reality of the South East Pacific region, points that were explained at the VIII SEPHC meeting.

CROATIA

Taking into account the fact that successful realization of the Work Program of the Organization directly depends on the work of the RHCs and its MS, it is crucial to have some kind of Capacity Building support body in RHCs where Capacity Building is required.

ECUADOR

Approves and suggests an alternative text.

IHB Comment

The proposed alternative text does not differ in the concept but in the form and, at this stage, it does not seem appropriate to make changes to a text which has been approved by a very high majority of Member States.

FRANCE

France considers that the existing sub-paragraph 1.3 of Technical Resolution K 2.36 concerning the Capacity Building Committee provides the flexibility to handle requirements on a case by case basis, and that there is no need to make Resolution T 1.3 any more complicated.

GERMANY

The insertion is supported by Germany in principle. Within NSHC and BSHC Germany sees no need for Capacity Building via the CBC so that no focal point or internal body has to be installed in these RHCs. Both RHCs are engaged within CBC through several members.

MEXICO

It is necessary to define the role of the staff officers within the RHCs and the CBC. Their work must not have an effect on the IHO/CBC budget. It is necessary to establish the period of time the staff officer will serve.

MOZAMBIQUE

We support the establishment of this body within the region.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea is struggling to get its capacity building. The industry is still hiring hydrographic surveyors from Australia and would invite the PNG local survey firms to attend the coming regional workshop.

PERU

Following the agreement adopted at the SEPHC a staff officer has been nominated to deal with capacity building in the region aiming at giving priority to the most sensitive regional related matters.

PORTUGAL

The IHPT fully supports that the Capacity Building process be formalized within AR T1.3 as well as all the continuous efforts to promote capacity building.

ROMANIA

Fully supports this initiative.

UNITED KINGDOM

As the originator of PRO 18 (XVIIth Decision No 17) , UK fully supports the insertion of new paragraph 2bis under Administrative Resolution (AR) T 1.3 - Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC).

The wording proposed, as developed and agreed by the 6th CBC, is fully endorsed by UK, as it provides the necessary flexibility to address the diverse circumstances presented by each RHC.
