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CIRCULAR LETTER 6/2009  
22 January 2009

IHO HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON ANTARCTICA  
8<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 6-8 October 2008

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA-8) took place in Niterói, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 6 to 8 October 2008, and was hosted and organized by the *Diretoria de Hidrografia e Navegação* (DHN). The Minutes of HCA-8 are available on the IHO website ([www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) → Committees & WGs → IRCC → HCA). Fifteen IHO Member States (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Italy, Norway, Peru, Spain, United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay) were represented, as well as three international organizations (IOC, COMNAP and IAATO). Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA, IHB Director, chaired the meeting. Rear Admiral Ian MONCRIEFF (United Kingdom) was elected 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 their current status.
2. The Commission welcomed Japan, Peru and Uruguay as new HCA members, thus bringing the number of HCA members to 21<sup>1</sup>, and was also pleased to hear of Venezuela's intention to sign the HCA Statutes in the near future. The Commission decided to remove the "Pending Confirmation Membership" section from the HCA Membership and Observers List. However, the remaining IHO Member States who are signatories to the Antarctic Treaty, but not members of HCA, i.e. Poland and Ukraine, may wish to consider joining the Commission and actively contribute to its work.
3. The Commission reviewed the status of the actions agreed at the last meeting and noted that almost all actions had been completed. The meeting considered the reports of the international observer organizations as well as from HCA Member States. HCA activities were examined in the light of the IHO Work Programme, mainly relating to the schemes and production of INT Charts and ENC's. The status of INT charts in progress or not published for the region is shown in Annex H to the Minutes. The status of S-55 in Antarctica was also reviewed.
4. The Commission noted with satisfaction the positive outcome of the IHO/HCA Seminar on *the Importance of Hydrographic Activities in Antarctica* that took place during the 31<sup>st</sup> Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting held in June 2008 in Kiev, Ukraine. The Commission felt that it was a worthwhile activity that has improved the visibility of the IHO and hydrography among the various Antarctic bodies, at both national and international levels. It was agreed that events such as this clearly contribute to improving the level of priority given to hydrographic surveys and nautical chart production within National Antarctic programs. The Commission decided to urge its members to make use of ATCM Resolution 5 (2008) *Improving hydrographic surveying and charting to support safety of navigation and environmental protection in the Antarctic region* (see Annex F to the Minutes). Noting the positive result of the above seminar, the Commission agreed to organize a similar seminar on the occasion of the 2009 COMNAP Council that will take place in Punta Arenas, Chile, in August 2009. The content of the seminar and the speakers have been identified (IHB, UK and Chile). COMNAP

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<sup>1</sup> Rep of Korea subsequently signed the HCA Statutes on 7 November 2008; the current number of HCA members is therefore 22.

have included this activity on their Council Agenda and expressed their readiness and willingness to this direct interaction with IHO/HCA.

5. Considering the importance of reinforcing the work of the HCA Hydrographic Survey Program Working Group (HSPWG), and the need to identify the way forward, an ad-hoc meeting of this WG took place during HCA-8, aiming at reviewing the HSPWG terms of reference and recommending any actions to be taken. As a result, revised terms of reference were agreed (see Annex G to the Minutes), allowing the Commission to provide clear guidance to the WG in order to update the Prioritized Hydrographic Survey Plan. The HSPWG is led by UK with the participation of Argentina, Australia, Chile, Germany, Greece, South Africa, Spain and USA. COMNAP and IAATO expressed their willingness to participate as observers.

6. The Commission decided to emphasize in the next IHO/HCA report to ATCM the relation between hydrography and the protection of the marine environment, and also to insist on the importance of considering the concept under SOLAS V, Regulation 9.

7. The 9<sup>th</sup> HCA meeting will take place in Cape Town, South Africa, on 12, 13 and 14 October 2009 following the kind invitation from the South African HO (SANHO).

Any comments would be most welcome.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Hugo Gorziglia', written in a cursive style.

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA  
Director

Annex 1: - Action Items from HCA-8 and Status

ACTION ITEMS FROM THE 8<sup>th</sup> HCA MEETING AND STATUS

Agenda Item	Action	Details	Responsible & Deadline	Status
1	8/1	Provide the Secretary with national reports at least one month in advance of HCA meetings.	HCA Members	TBD
2	8/2	Remove the "Pending Confirmation Membership" section from the HCA Membership and Observers List.	HCA Secretary	Done
5	8/3	Stress the importance of SOLAS V Reg. 9 (requiring contracting governments to arrange for the provision of hydrographic services) for safety of life at sea and protection of the marine environment in Antarctica, in the IHO report to ATCM-32.	HCA Chair	In progress
5	8/4	Write to the Director of DNO, Russia, requesting that, should a replacement of Capt. Fomin be nominated by DNO to represent HCA matters within the IBCSO Editorial Board, the IHB must be informed. DNO shall ensure that its nominated expert will attend HCA meetings.	HCA Chair and Russia	TBD
5	8/5	Update the draft HCA Performance Indicators Table (Annex F to Minutes of HCA-6) considering the outcomes of ISPWG and discussions held at HCA-8. Populate the proposed table and submit it to the 9 <sup>th</sup> HCA meeting.	IHB	TBD
5	8/6	Brief national delegations to ATCM-32 on HCA activities and, based on ATCM-31 Resolution 5, seek for higher priority for hydrographic surveying and production of nautical charts in their national programmes.	HCA Members	In progress?
6.2	8/7	Review and update the existing guidelines to conduct hydrographic surveys using ships of opportunity, i.e. HCA document " <i>Collection and Rendering of Hydrographic Data</i> ", taking Doc. HCA8-INF8 into consideration. Submit new text to the HCA Chair for distribution to COMNAP at the 2009 HCA Seminar.	USA (lead) and UK, in liaison with COMNAP	In progress?
6.6	8/8	Brief national oceanographic committees and delegations to IOC, to support the IBCSO project.	HCA Members	TBD
7.1	8/9	Write a letter to the Director of JHOD, asking for Japan's intention regarding INT charts 9045, 9046 and 9047.	HCA Chair	TBD
7.1	8/10	Look for a solution for the provision of NGA's bathymetric data to Italy, in order for Italy to produce INT chart 9000.	USA-NOAA	In progress?
7.1	8/11	Update the document showing Charts in Progress or not Produced (Doc. HCA8-7.1B), to be annexed to minutes of the 8 <sup>th</sup> HCA meeting.	HCA Secretary	Done (see Annex H to HCA-8 Minutes)

Agenda Item	Action	Details	Responsible & Deadline	Status
7.1	8/12	Review diagram on page 15 of Doc. HCA8-07.1A rev.1, showing two proposed new INT charts based on Brazilian national charts 25119 and 25120, and provide any comments to the IHB before 15 January 2009. Upon approval, IHB to inform Brazil and update INT Chart scheme for Region M.	HCA Members and IHB	In progress?
7.2	8/13	Review the proposed medium scale ENC scheme, as in Doc. HCA8-07.2B, and provide any comments to the IHB before 15 January 2009.	HCA Members	In progress?
7.3	8/14	Delete the agenda item " <i>Bilateral and Regional cooperation agreements, projects and capacity building initiatives in progress</i> " from the agendas of future HCA meetings. This subject shall be considered within national reports.	HCA Secretary	Will be done
7.6	8/15	Consider making available training material related to Antarctic Navigation courses to the IHB. IHB to post this information under the nautical publications section of HCA on the IHO website.	Argentina, Chile and IHB	TBD
8	8/16	Update the prioritized hydrographic survey plan (Annex H to Minutes of HCA-7), taking into consideration information contained in national reports to HCA-8, as well as discussions / outcomes of the ad hoc meeting of HSPWG during HCA-8. Circulate the update plan to HCA members.	HSPWG [UK (lead), AU, CL, AR, ES, GR, DE, US, COMNAP (obs.), IAATO (obs.)]	In progress
9.1	8/17	Organize an HCA Seminar to raise awareness on the importance of hydrographic activities in Antarctica, as part of COMNAP Council in Punta Arenas, Chile, 03 August 2009, taking into consideration discussions held at HCA-8 on common interest to IHO-COMNAP.	HCA Chair (lead), UK and Chile, in liaison with COMNAP	In progress
9.3	8/18	Prepare a paper outlining the need for support for hydrography in Antarctica, to be submitted as a WP by an HCA Member to ATCM-32.	HCA Chair	In progress
10	8/19	Coordinate the dates and organization of the 9th HCA Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, in October 2009.	HCA Chair and South Africa	In progress. Dates agreed (12-14 Oct 09)