



IHB File No. S3/6000

**CIRCULAR LETTER 02/2010
06 January 2010**

**IHO RESOLUTION ON STATUS OF HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYING AND NAUTICAL
CHARTING WORLD WIDE**

Reference: IHB CL 75/2009 dated 12 November 2009

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The IHB would like to thank the following 47 Member States who have replied to the reference: Argentina; Australia; Bangladesh; Belgium; Brazil; Canada; Chile; Croatia; Cyprus; Denmark; Ecuador; Estonia; Fiji; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Iceland; India; Ireland; Italy; Japan; Korea Rep of; Monaco; Netherlands; New Zealand; Norway; Oman Sultanate of; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Peru; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Romania; Russian Federation; Saudi Arabia; Slovenia; South Africa; Spain; Sri Lanka; Suriname; Sweden; Tunisia; Turkey; Ukraine; and the UK. All forty-seven Member States supported the new resolution A1.22 on the Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting World Wide with six Member States providing comments and these, together with explanatory responses, are included at Annex A. The final text of resolution A1.22 is at Annex B.

2 Resolution A1.22 will be included in the next revision of M-3.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President

Annex A: Comments from Member States

COMMENTS BY MEMBER STATES

Chile:

This Service agrees with the IHB decision to continue providing information on the Status of hydrographic surveys and nautical charting world-wide as shown in publication C-55.

France:

Whilst a number of international institutions and organisations regularly question the knowledge on oceans and seas¹, and whilst the IHO wishes not to limit its range of expertise to only those actions stemming from safety of navigation², France confirms that it would appear desirable to adopt a new resolution by replacing resolution K2.9, deleted at the request of the majority of the Member States, and to insert it in section A of the publication M-3.

The proposal sent via CL 75/2009, therefore received its approval in principle. France, however, believes that it is necessary not to exclude the possibility of having in the long term other measures in publication C-55 whose aim was initially to evaluate the suitability of the SOLAS Convention. Other possibilities could be envisaged with the expertise of the GEBCO Guiding Committee and that of MSDIWG. It is useful to be reminded that the graphic reports on hydrographic surveys, prepared by Spain, are still requested within the MBSHC³.

The draft resolution A1.22 is therefore approved by France subject to the proposed amendments which take into account the existence of resolution K2.36.

A1.22 Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting World Wide

It is resolved that the IHB, based on information provided by Member States and the Regional Hydrographic Commissions, maintains and promulgates the status of hydrographic surveying and nautical charting worldwide, aimed at highlighting those areas where further surveying and charting activity is required in order to satisfy the requirements of international navigation **on one hand (publication C-55) and other hydrographic applications on the other.**

Comment by the IHB: The changes proposed by France are considered to be an improvement on the text and have been included.

Oman Sultanate of:

Suggest add after "charting activity": "and IHO CBSC activities are required"

Comment by the IHB: Whilst Capacity Building activity may be required it will not necessarily be required in all areas where surveying and charting activity is required. The link to Capacity Building is however regarded as important and a reference to the IHO CB resolutions has been included.

Papua New Guinea:

We fully support the approval and also thank those member countries who continually support the World-wide surveying/charting coverage.

¹ To the extent of inviting tenders to constitute a reference group in bathymetry for the EC.

² Even if they are priority.

³ Cf. MBSHC 16 – Decision 7

Saudi Arabia:

Take as sovereignty and jurisdiction of coastal States concerning those waters.

Comment by the IHB: Agreed

Suriname:

The word “further” can be left out of the sentence, because there are areas which need to be re-surveyed.

Comment by the IHB: The word “further” is used here simply to indicate that more surveying activity is required, whether it is to survey initially or re-survey etc.

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See also K4.1, K4.2 and K4.3