



IHB File No. S3/0128

CIRCULAR LETTER 22/2010
02 March 2010

IHO HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON ANTARCTICA (HCA)
9TH MEETING, SIMON'S TOWN, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, 12-14 OCTOBER 2009

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The 9th Meeting of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA9) took place in Simon's Town, Cape Town, South Africa, from 12 to 14 October 2009, and was hosted and organized by the South African Navy Hydrographic Office (SANHO). The Minutes of HCA9 are available on the IHO website (see www.iho-ohi.net/mtg_docs/rhc/HCA/HCA9/HCA9_Minutes.pdf). Twelve IHO Member States (Australia, Brazil, Chile, France, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom and Venezuela) were represented, as well as five international organizations (COMNAP, IAATO, GEBCO, IBCSO and SCAR) and the South African SANAP. Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA, IHB Director, chaired the meeting.

2 The Commission welcomed the Republic of Korea and Venezuela as new HCA members, thus bringing the number of HCA members to 23. Rear Admiral Ian MONCRIEFF (United Kingdom) was re-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 A, together with their current status.

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 ENCs.

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 21st Meeting of COMNAP held in August 2009 in Punta Arenas, Chile. The Commission felt that it was a worthwhile activity that has improved the visibility of the IHO and hydrography among the operational people at COMNAP. Noting the positive result of the above seminar, the Commission agreed to organize a similar seminar on the occasion of the next IAATO Annual Meeting that will take place in Turin, Italy, in June 2010. It was also agreed to conduct technical visits to IAATO ships, acting as Ships of Opportunity, before they head to Antarctica in order to brief Captains on the procedures to be followed for collecting and rendering hydrographic data. The Commission felt that the presence of representatives of ATCM and IMO would be desirable at HCA meetings to enrich the discussions.

5 The Commission identified the main hydrography-related topics to be included in the presentations and discussions that was to take place at the Antarctic Treaty Experts Meeting in Wellington, New Zealand, in December 2009, where matters related to Tourism in Antarctica were addressed.

6 Following a report of the HCA Hydrographic Survey Prioritization Working Group, given by its Chairman, Mr. Andy Willett (UK), the Commission agreed a number of actions aiming at improving the safety of navigation in Antarctica as quickly as possible. This should occur through the exchange and collection of high priority new hydrographic data, needed to complete the production of INT Charts and ENCs in Region 'M'.

7 The 10th HCA meeting will take place in Cambridge, United Kingdom, on 20, 21 and 22 September 2010, following a kind invitation from the UKHO.

Any comments would be most welcome.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'H. Gorziglia', written on a light yellow background.

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director

Annex A: - Action Items from HCA9 and Status

ACTION ITEMS FROM THE 9th HCA MEETING AND STATUS

Agenda Item	Action	Details	Responsible	Status
5	9/1	Coordinate the visit of hydrographic surveyors from Argentina, Chile and New Zealand to at least one IAATO ship, when calling in ports on her way to Antarctica, to advice on the collection and rendering of hydrographic data, and report experience at HCA10.	HCA Chair, Argentina, Chile, New Zealand, with cooperation from IAATO	Done (IHB e-mail of 24 Oct 09 to AR, CL and NZ)
5	9/2	Post on the IHO website all presentations given at the HCA seminars which took place during ATCM31 and COMNAP21.	HCA Secretary	Done
5	9/3	Represent HCA at the IBCSO and report back to HCA10;	Dr. Schenke (Germany)	TBD
6.1	9/4	Modify the layout and content of HCA reports to ATCM so as to address environmental and scientific issues in addition to safety of navigation issues. Avoid specific references to SOLAS responsibilities for the time being.	HCA Chair	Done
6.1 & 9.2	9/5	Liaise to ensure the delivery of complementary presentations at the ATME in Wellington, NZ, December 2009.	HCA Chair, New Zealand	Done
6.2 & 9.1	9/6	Send a letter of thanks to COMNAP for their constant support to HCA activities.	HCA Chair	Done (IHB letter of 24 Oct 09 to COMNAP Chair)
6.4	9/7	Send a letter of thanks to IAATO for their constant support to HCA activities. Coordinate with IAATO and presenters, the delivery of a presentation at the next IAATO annual meeting, Turin, Italy, June 2010.	HCA Chair	Done (IHB letter of 24 Oct 09 to IAATO Executive Director)
6.4	9/8	Invite HCA members with no hydrographic platform to take advantage of IAATO offer to make use of their ships to conduct surveys in Antarctica. Detail coordination to embark hydrographic surveyors and equipment shall be made by interested HCA members directly with IAATO.	HCA Chair, HCA Members, with cooperation from IAATO	Done (HCA Letter 03/2009 of 25 Oct 09 – Para. 1)
7.1	9/9	Clarify with USA: a) the need for INT 9062 (Scale 1:200 000, SE Weddell Sea) and, if confirmed, how its production can be progressed. b) their intentions regarding INT 9105 (Scale 1:25 000, Palmer Station and approaches), noting that HCA considers this chart as very appropriate.	HCA Chair	Done (HCA Letter 03/2009 of 25 Oct 09 – Para. 2)
7.1	9/10	Reconsider the production plan for INT 9114 (Plans in Antarctic Sound).	UK, in liaison with Chile	STATUS NOT KNOWN
7.1 & 7.2	9/11	Reinforce that, in accordance with the WEND Principles, INT chart producers for INT Region M are assumed to also be the producers of the corresponding ENCs and that those ENCs should be distributed through RENCs. Include this matter as an agenda item for HCA10.	HCA Chair, HCA Secretary	Done (HCA Letter 03/2009 of 25 Oct 09 – Para. 3)
7.3	9/12	Invite IHO Members, the marine scientific community and any relevant national and international body to provide bathymetric data to IBCSO.	HCA Chair, with cooperation from IBCSO Chair	Input from IBCSO Chair awaited.
7.4	9/13	Submit a working paper to the next IRCC meeting in relation to the concern expressed by Australia and France on unsatisfactory bathymetric data sharing practice. The aim is to reinforce data exchange among HCA members (possible extension to RHCs members), to improve INT chart compilation and production.	HCA Chair	TBD in time for IRCC2

Agenda Item	Action	Details	Responsible	Status
7.4	9/14	Provide bathymetric data collected in Gerlache Strait to Chile, for production of charts INT 9103 (Proj. 2013) and INT 9104 (Proj. 2011).	UK	Done for INT 9104; pending for INT 9103.
7.4	9/15	Circulate to HCA members for comments, Spain's request for change of limits for INT 9121.	HCA Secretary	Done (HCA Letter 01/2010 of 26 Feb 10)
8	9/16	Continue to progress its mandate and the preparation of graphics reflecting the status of hydrographic surveys assets, in the short list priority areas and related INT Charts. Provide these graphics to the HCA Secretary for their uploading to the HCA web page. Consequently, HCA Chair to coordinate filling the gaps with HCA members.	HSPWG [UK (lead), COMNAP (obs.), IAATO (obs.)], HCA Secretary, HCA Chair	Work in progress but STATUS NOT KNOWN
8	9/17	Send a letter to all HCA members reminding the objective of INT Charts and the role of INT Chart Producer. Invite HCA Members to avoid the production of different national charts covering the same area and to reinforce the provision of the most reliable and updated INT Chart of such area. Highlight that duplication of charts of the same area confuses the mariner.	HCA Chair	Done (HCA Letter 03/2009 of 25 Oct 09 – Para. 4)
8	9/18	Seek future survey intentions, sounding data holdings and ship track data outside the Antarctic Peninsula region from HCA members and other agencies (such as COMNAP and IAATO), to determine a prioritized list of survey requirements.	HSPWG [UK (lead), COMNAP (obs.), IAATO (obs.)]	STATUS NOT KNOWN
8	9/19	Ask the current HSPWG members, i.e. AU, CL, AR, ES, GR, DE, US, to confirm their continued participation. Ask all remaining HCA members if they wish to participate.	HSPWG Chair	STATUS NOT KNOWN
10	9/20	Coordinate the dates and organization of the 10th HCA Meeting in UK in Sept / Oct 2010.	HCA Chair, UK	Dates were coordinated; organization In progress