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CIRCULAR LETTER 79/2010  
22 November 2010

IHO HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON ANTARCTICA (HCA)  
10TH MEETING, CAMBRIDGE, UNITED KINGDOM, 20-22 SEPTEMBER 2010

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA10) took place in Cambridge, United Kingdom, from 20 to 22 September 2010. It was hosted by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) and organized by the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO). Sixteen IHO Member States (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom and USA) were represented, as well as five international organizations (COMNAP, IAATO, IALA, GEBCO and IBCSO) and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The Minutes of HCA10 are available on the IHO website (see [www.iho-ohi.net/mtg\\_docs/rhc/HCA/HCA10/HCA10\\_Minutes.pdf](http://www.iho-ohi.net/mtg_docs/rhc/HCA/HCA10/HCA10_Minutes.pdf)). Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA, IHB Director, chaired the meeting.

2 Commodore Roderick NAIRN (Australia) 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 A. Those actions for the IHB are being progressed.

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. As of September 2010, 64 INT charts – out of the 102 in the scheme – had been produced in the HCA region, as well as some 40 ENC's.

4 The Commission noted the positive outcome of the IHO/HCA set of presentations on the *Importance of Hydrographic Activities in Antarctica* that were given during the IAATO 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting held in June 2010 in Turin, Italy. The Commission felt that it was a worthwhile activity that has improved the visibility of the IHO and hydrography among the IAATO participants. Encouraging reports were provided by Argentina, Chile and New Zealand on technical visits conducted by IAATO ships, when calling in ports on her way to Antarctica, to advise Captains on the collection and rendering of hydrographic data. It was agreed to pursue the IAATO ship visit scheme, with further participation from Brazil, Chile and UK.

5 The Commission noted with satisfaction that, following a proposal by Uruguay, the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), at its 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting, adopted ATCM Resolution 2 (2010) *The contribution of the IPY to hydrographic knowledge of Antarctic waters*, in order to encourage and facilitate the transfer of hydrographic data collected during the International Polar Year (2007-08) to Hydrographic Offices.

6 Acknowledging concerns expressed by several HCA members that a number of charts, including ENCs, may be inadequate for navigation, the Commission set up an *Ad Hoc* team tasked to prepare a paper to be submitted to IMO to report on the real ENC coverage of Antarctic waters by 2012 due to poor bathymetric data availability, datum mis-adjustment problems, and other relevant factors.

7. Updated HCA survey plans, now extending to maritime safety routes in mainland Antarctica, were presented by the Chairman of the HCA Hydrographic Survey Prioritization Working Group, Mr. Andy Willett (UK). The Commission invited HCA members and IAATO to review these survey plans in view of refining the survey requirements and the maritime safety routes in Antarctica.

8 The 11<sup>th</sup> HCA meeting will take place in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, on 5, 6 and 7 October 2011, following a kind invitation from the Australian Hydrographic Service.

Any comments would be most welcome.

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

Annex A: - Action Items from HCA10

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM THE 10<sup>th</sup> HCA MEETING

| Agenda Item | Action | Details   | Responsible                             |
|-------------|--------|---|---|
| 5           | 10/1   | Invite IAATO to provide available past bathymetric data available, with a view to improving decision making process with regard to hydrographic survey priority assignment. Data can be provided to the IHB or directly to the HSPWG Chair.   | HCA Chair                               |
| 5           | 10/2   | Develop further complementary future actions to implement ship visits and guidelines on the IAATO ship visit process. IHB to disseminate such procedures to relevant parties.   | AR, NZ(lead), UK and IAATO<br>HCA Chair |
| 5           | 10/3   | Coordinate the visit of hydrographic surveyors from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand and UK through HMS Scott to IAATO ships, when calling in ports on her way to Antarctica, or in Antarctica, to advise on the collection and rendering of hydrographic data, and report experience to HCA11.   | AR, AU, BR, CH, NZ<br>UK, and IAATO     |
| 5           | 10/4   | Contact and brief their ATCM national delegate(s), with a view for the latter(s) to raising the importance of hydrography for safety of navigation in Antarctica at, and support IHO reports to ATCM meetings.  | HCA Members                             |
| 5           | 10/5   | Distribute their ENC's via a RENC. Chair to clarify the case of those HCA members that are not members of any RENC.   | HCA Members<br>HCA Chair                |
| 5           | 10/6   | Represent HCA at the <i>Arctic-Antarctic Seafloor Mapping Meeting 2011</i> , to take place in Stockholm, Sweden, on 3-5 May 2011, and report to HCA11.  | HCA Chair                               |
| 5           | 10/7   | Provide bathymetric data collected in Gerlache Strait to Chile, for production of chart INT 9103 (Proj. 2013).  | UK                                      |
| 5           | 10/8   | Include the newly approved INT 9128, based on Spanish chart no. 7001 <i>Base Juan Carlos I</i> , into the INT Chart Scheme, with Spain as producer.   | HCA Secretary                           |
| 6.4         | 10/9   | Represent HCA at the IAATO 22 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting, to take place in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, on 9-12 May 2011, and report to HCA11.  | HCA Vice Chair                          |
| 7.1         | 10/10  | Circulate to HCA members for comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Ecuador's proposal for a new INT chart at 1:10,000 <i>Fort Williams Point</i>;</li> <li>b) Australia's proposal for two new INT charts at 1:500,000, i.e. <i>Kirby Island to Magnet Bay</i> (AUS 448) and <i>Cape Filchner to Mill Island</i> (AUS 453).</li> <li>c) UK proposal for two new large scale INT charts in the areas of <i>Detaille Island</i> and <i>Snow Hill Island</i>.</li> </ul> | HCA Secretary                           |

| Agenda Item | Action | Details  | Responsible                         |
|-------------|--------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 7.2         | 10/11  | Coordinate no overlap between ENC's to be produced by France (based on INT 901 – not before 2012), Australia (based on INT 74 – planned in 2011) and New Zealand (based on INT 900 – planned in 2011) on the basis that priority is given to the first ENC available for production. Report to IHB any changes to the small scale ENC scheme. IHB to amend this scheme as appropriate. | FR, AU, NZ<br>IHB                   |
| 7.2         | 10/12  | Report on ENC production in Region M, as part of the HCA report to ATCM-34.  | HCA Chair                           |
| 7.4         | 10/13  | Establish links /arrangements with their relevant national scientific institutions for the collection of bathymetric information, and report on the outcome to HCA11.  | HCA Members                         |
| 7.4         | 10/14  | Consider providing Australia with the bathymetric data collected in the Larsman Hills area during the 2009-10 season, when it has been processed, in view of updating INT 9030 under Australia's responsibility.   | India                               |
| 7.4         | 10/15  | Consider providing collected bathymetric data of Antarctic waters (HCA area) to the IHB, for further distribution to IHO INT Chart producers.  | Korea (Rep of)<br>IHB               |
| 7.4         | 10/16  | Provide Argentina with bathymetric data recently collected in the area of Deception Island, in view of updating chart INT 9120 under Argentina's responsibility.   | Spain and UK                        |
|             | 10/17  | Provide Spain with bathymetric data recently collected in the area of Livingston Island, in view of updating chart INT 9121 under Spain's responsibility.  | UK                                  |
| 7.4         | 10/18  | Prepare a paper to be submitted to IMO (MSC/NAV) to report on the real ENC coverage of Antarctic waters by 2012 due to poor bathymetric data availability, datum mis-adjustment problem, and other relevant factors.   | UK (lead), AU, NZ, SA,<br>and IAATO |
| 7.4         | 10/19  | Inform Italy that the requested bathymetric data in support of INT 9000, under Italy's responsibility, is available and can be obtained from US-NGA.   | HCA Chair                           |
| 7.4         | 10/20  | Provide the IHB, as ENC coordinator for Region M, with a list of their large scale national charts that they intend to convert into ENC's – not duplicating existing INT charts, in order for the IHB to develop a large scale ENC scheme (navigational purposes 4 and 5). IHB to develop such scheme and submit it to HCA for comment / approval.                                     | HCA Members<br>IHB                  |
| 7.4         | 10/21  | Include in the HCA report to IRCC3 the main subjects discussed, in particular those that might have an impact on other RHCs, specially ArHC.   | HCA Chair                           |
| 7.4         | 10/22  | Update C-55, based on national reports.  | HCA Secretary                       |
| 7.4         | 10/23  | Review the draft Antarctic GIS and provide comments and updating information, as appropriate   | HCA Members &<br>Observers          |

| <b>Agenda Item</b> | <b>Action</b> | <b>Details</b>   | <b>Responsible</b>               |
|--------------------|---------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 7.5                | 10/24         | Provide the IHB with updates to the list of nautical publications which is on the IHO website ( <a href="http://www.iho-ohi.net/mtg_docs/rhc/HCA/HCA_Misc/Nautical_Publications.htm">http://www.iho-ohi.net/mtg_docs/rhc/HCA/HCA_Misc/Nautical_Publications.htm</a> ). | HCA Members                      |
| 7.6                | 10/25         | Prepare a draft Work Programme 2012-2017, including capacity building matters, and circulate it for comments to HCA members, with a view to have this document approved at HCA11.  | Chair<br>HCA Members             |
| 7.6                | 10/26         | Identify any HCA-related capacity building initiatives, to be submitted to the CBSC before 1 April 2011.   | AU, AR, ZA (lead)                |
| 8                  | 10/27         | Provide the HSPWG Chair with information on Maritime Shipping Routes (MSR) and survey requirements, to be reflected in the HCA survey plans (re: HCA10-08A and 08B).   | HCA Members                      |
| 8                  | 10/28         | Review the HCA survey plans (re: HCA10-08A and 08B) and provide the HSPWG Chair with any comments and update information.  | IAATO                            |
| 9.1                | 10/29         | Post a list of Antarctic national charts on the IHO website by the end of October 2010. Circulate to HCA Members a draft list of Antarctic national charts including coordinates, for review and completion.   | HCA Secretary<br>and HCA Members |
| 9.2                | 10/30         | Continue research to obtain bathymetric data in the HCA area, via Olex or other sources.   | HCA Chair                        |
| 10                 | 10/31         | Coordinate the organization of the 11 <sup>th</sup> HCA Meeting, to take place in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia on 5-7 October 2011.   | HCA Chair and<br>Australia       |