



IHB File No. S3/0302/ABLOS

**CIRCULAR LETTER 78/2011
05 December 2011**

18th ABLOS BUSINESS MEETING

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The 18th ABLOS Business Meeting was held at the offices of the Servicio Hidrográfico y Oceanográfico de la Armada de Chile (SHOA) on 9 and 10 November 2011. The WG preparing the draft 5th Edition of the TALOS Manual (C-51) met on the 8 November and a Law of the Sea seminar was held on 11 November. The Chairman welcomed Dr. Neils Andersen (Denmark) and Dr. Sobar Sutisna (Indonesia) who will become IAG members of ABLOS on 1 January 2012 as successors to Prof. Lars Sjöberg (Sweden) and Prof. Chris Rizos (Australia) who were stepping down after long service to ABLOS. Additionally members from the UK, Canada, and Japan, the secretary and nine observers from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Indonesia and Japan were present.

2 The meeting reviewed ABLOS's ToR and concluded that no amendments were necessary. The report to HSSC3, which was taking place in Monaco concurrently with ABLOS 18 was reviewed and the process for preparing the report to HSSC4 agreed.

3 The meeting received a report from the Chairman on the Law of the Sea Capacity Building Training Course which the UK, on behalf of ABLOS, had delivered to the East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC) in November 2010. The meeting noted that the Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC) had included two further courses in its CB plan for 2012.

4 Initial planning for the 7th ABLOS Conference which will be held in Monaco in 2012 took place and an organising committee was established. The title chosen for the conference is:

“UNCLOS in a changing world”

The IHB have been asked to communicate with the Government of Monaco regarding the possibility of holding the Conference in the Salle des Variétés in order to accommodate the increasing demand for places. Following discussions with the GEBCO Guiding Committee it was also agreed that it would be beneficial to link the ABLOS Conference with the GEBCO meetings and GEBCO Science Day which are scheduled to be held in Monaco during the week of 2 - 5 October 2012. This will be dependent on the availability of the Salle des Variétés. A further CL with logistical information regarding this conference will be issued when information is available. The 19th ABLOS Business Meeting will be held in Monaco in conjunction with the 7th Conference.

5 In the years when there is no ABLOS Conference ABLOS has traditionally held its Business Meeting away from Monaco and if possible likes to do this in conjunction with a locally organised LoS seminar. Recent meetings have been held in: Chile 2011, Indonesia 2009, Croatia 2007, Australia 2004 and Japan 2002. Any Member State that would be interested in hosting the 20th ABLOS Business Meeting and organising a seminar in October 2013 are requested to inform the secretary pah@ihb.mc.

6 Finally ABLOS noted its deep appreciation to both Lars Sjöberg and Chris Rizos who were both standing down after lengthy service to ABLOS. Particular thanks were expressed to Chris Rizos who had been a founding member in 1994 and had served two terms as Chairman. Both had indicated to the Chairman that they hoped to attend the 7th ABLOS Conference in 2012. The full report of the 18th Business Meeting will be available from the ABLOS section of the IHO web site.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. Maratos', written over a light blue background. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'A' and a long horizontal stroke.

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President