



IHB File No. S3/0128

CIRCULAR LETTER 32/2012
12 March 2012

**IHO HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON ANTARCTICA (HCA)
11TH MEETING, HOBART, AUSTRALIA, 5-7 OCTOBER 2011**

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The 11th Meeting of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA-11) took place in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia from 5 to 7 October 2011. It was hosted by the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) and organized by the Australian Hydrographic Service (AHS). Fifteen IHO Member States (Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, France, Germany, Korea, Rep. of, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, USA, Uruguay and Venezuela) were represented, as well as five international organizations (COMNAP, IAATO, IALA, GEBCO and SCAR) and one expert contributor (Fugro-Pelagos). The minutes of HCA-11 are available on the IHO website (http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/HCA/HCA11/HCA11_Minutes_Final.pdf). Commodore Roderick NAIRN (Australia), Vice Chairman of HCA, chaired the meeting in the absence of Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA, Chairman of HCA and IHB Director, who was unable to attend.

2 Commodore NAIRN 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. 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 October 2011, 65 INT charts – out of the 108 in the scheme – had been produced in the HCA region, as well as 52 ENC's.

4 The Commission produced a paper on Antarctic navigation (Annex F to the minutes), to be used in conjunction with an Annex *Precautions in Using Navigational Charts in Polar Waters* of an IMO Circular on Polar Navigation that was under preparation.

5 The Commission discussed a new strategic approach, involving HCA, ATCM and IMO, for raising awareness on safety of navigation and environmental protection in Antarctica. This resulted in an HCA Strategic Statement and an HCA Strategic Direction (Annex G of the minutes), supporting proposed HCA tasks for inclusion in the IHO Work Programme (Annex H of the minutes).

6 The IHB reported on the progress made in building an Antarctic database and GIS, which will provide metadata on various types of information, such as hydrographic surveys, INT charts, ENC's, tide records and undersea feature names. It is planned to complete this work by end 2012.

7 Revised versions of the HCA Long Term Survey Plan and the HCA Survey Short List, prepared by the HCA Hydrographic Survey Prioritization Working Group, were presented, reflecting new survey requirements arising from IAATO input based on previous season tourist statistics. In connection with these revisions, two new INT charts were proposed for inclusion in the INT chart scheme. With a view to improving the general efficiency of this WG, it was agreed that it would have three meetings per year, one of them being held in conjunction with the annual HCA meeting.

8 The 12th HCA meeting will take place in Montevideo or Punta Del Este, Uruguay, on 10, 11 and 12 October 2012, following the kind invitation from the *Servicio de Oceanografía, Hidrografía y Meteorología de la Armada* (SOHMA) of Uruguay.

Any comments will be welcome.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'H' followed by a smaller 'G' and a final flourish.

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director

Annex A: Action Items from HCA-11

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM THE 11th HCA MEETING AND STATUS

NEW ACTIONS

Agenda Item	Action	Details	Responsible	Status (March 2012)
5. (Action 10/2)	11/1	Develop guidelines for ships of opportunity data collection and Hydrographic Offices' ship visit process and participation schemes. IHB to disseminate such procedures to relevant parties. (see also Routine Action HCA/2)	AR, NZ (lead), UK and IAATO + HCA Chair	In progress
5. (Action 10/18)	11/2	Circulate by HCA Letter the latest draft of the Danish paper " <i>Precautions in Using Navigational Charts in Polar Waters</i> " (Draft IMO SN Circ. on polar safety of navigation) and its Antarctic appendix.	IHB	Done (HCA Let. 04/2012)
5. (Action 10/18)	11/3	Communicate their willingness to co-sponsor the paper referred to under Action 11/2, to Denmark through their IMO representatives.	HCA Members	Not known
5. (Action 10/20)	11/4	Develop a large scale ENC scheme (navigational purposes 4 and 5) and submit to HCA for comments / approval.	IHB	In progress
5. (Action 10/26)	11/5	Identify any HCA-related capacity building initiatives, to be submitted to the CBSC.	AU, AR, ZA (lead)	In progress
6.1	11/6	Send, through the IHB, a short covering letter to ATCM Secretary General (together with the HCA report) explaining that SOLAS obligations (limited to Chap V, Reg. 2, 4, 9, 27) [and environmental protection mechanisms] and related efforts in Antarctica rely on the efforts of the nations that are party to the Antarctic Treaty in meeting those obligations.	HCA Chair	TBD
6.1	11/7	Seek, through the IHB, support from the ATCM for the IMO to encourage voluntary participation in data collection activities to be included into the Polar Code (IMO's mandatory code for ships operating in polar waters), noting that the remote nature and environmental constraints of the Antarctic region coupled with the limited suitable resources available to conduct surveying and charting drives a focus on investigating alternate methods for data gathering.	HCA Chair	TBD
6.4	11/8	Seek IAATO members' agreement to routinely provide ships' track information to the IHB.	IAATO	Not known
7.1	11/9	Produce a pro forma data request form for chart producers to request data to other HCA members (see also Routine Action HCA/6).	UK	In progress
7.2	11/10	Encourage Russia's participation in HCA and inform Russia of Australia's plan to produce in 2012 an "overview" ENC based on INT 902 and 903, both published by Russia in 2000 and 2001, respectively.	UK	Not known
7.4.B	11/11	Review the draft Antarctic GIS (see HCA11-07.4B) and provide comments and updating information, as appropriate.	HCA Members & Observers	No comments received to date

Agenda Item	Action	Details	Responsible	Status (March 2012)
8.	11/12	Provide justification for the proposed two new INT charts, i.e. - Melchior Islands, scale 1:30 000 - NW accesses to English Strait, scale 1:25 000	HSPWG Chair	In progress
8.	11/13	Circulate the proposal for two new INT charts (Action 11/12 refers) to HCA members for comments / approval.	IHB	Will be done when Action 11/12 is complete
8.	11/14	Coordinate quarterly HSPWG meetings to progress survey priorities.	HSPWG Chair	TBD
10.	11/15	Coordinate the organization of the 12th HCA Meeting, to take place in Montevideo or Punta Del Este, Uruguay, on 10-12 October 2012.	Uruguay and HCA Chair	In progress

ROUTINE ACTIONS

Agenda Item	Action	Details	Responsible	Status (March 2012)
5. (Action 10/1)	HCA/1	Encourage IAATO members to provide the IHB with available bathymetric data, to enable improvement of the Antarctic chart coverage.	IAATO	Not known
5. (Action 10/3)	HCA/2	Arrange the visit of hydrographic surveyors to IAATO ships, when calling in ports on her way to Antarctica, or in Antarctica, to advice on the collection and rendering of hydrographic data.	AR, AU, BR, CL, NZ UK, and IAATO	In progress
5. (Action 10/4)	HCA/3	Contact and brief their ATCM national delegate(s) on the importance of improving hydrography and nautical charting for safety of navigation in Antarctica, and to support IHO reports to ATCM meetings (ATCM-35, Hobart, 11-20 June 2012).	HCA Members	Not known
5. (Action 10/29)	HCA/4	Maintain/update the document "Chart Production in Antarctica - Catalogue of National / INTERNATIONAL Charts" on the IHO website from national reports.	IHB	In progress
7.1	HCA/5	Ensure full diligence in data search prior to chart production, including IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB), GEBCO and other HCA members via proforma data request.	HCA members	Ongoing
7.5	HCA/6	Update the list of nautical publications on the IHO website from information in the national reports (HCA11-07.4A).	IHB	In progress