



IHB File No. S3/0128

CIRCULAR LETTER 24/2013/Rev.1  
15 March 2013

**IHO HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON ANTARCTICA (HCA)  
12<sup>th</sup> Conference, Montevideo, Uruguay, 10-12 October 2012**

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The *Servicio de Oceanografía, Hidrografía y Meteorología de la Armada* (SOHMA) in Uruguay hosted the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) in Montevideo from 10-12 October 2012. Ten IHO Member States (Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, New Zealand, Peru, Spain, United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay) were represented, as well as two Observer organizations (COMNAP and IAATO) and one expert contributor (Fugro-Pelagos). The minutes of HCA12 are available on the IHO website ([http://www.iho.int/mtg\\_docs/rhc/HCA/HCA12/HCA12\\_Minutes.pdf](http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/HCA/HCA12/HCA12_Minutes.pdf)).

2. The Conference was chaired by IHO President Robert WARD. Mr. John J. HAUTMANN Jr. (USA) was elected as Vice-Chair.

3. The Commission reviewed progress since the previous conference and received reports from COMNAP and IAATO, as well as from the IHO Member States in the Commission. As of October 2012, 69 of an anticipated 108 INT charts in the INT scheme had been published in the HCA region. A further 27 charts were programmed for production over the next three years. Also, 70 ENCs have been published of the 170 ENCs that will be required to correspond to the IHO INT paper chart scheme.

4. Discussion at the Conference centred on the need to increase surveying activity in the region noting that over 95% of the waters surrounding Antarctica are unsurveyed. To this end, better coordination of surveys is required as well as the introduction of programmes using *ships of opportunity*. The UKHO reported that it had successfully conducted trials on cruise ships fitted with relatively inexpensive equipment that automatically records depth soundings during voyages. Plans are now underway to extend this programme and to find ways to ensure that the data from the ships is quickly reflected in charts available to mariners.

5. The Conference agreed that continuing the campaign to raise awareness at the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) was important. It was also agreed that establishing a liaison protocol with COMNAP would be beneficial, since COMNAP is an implementing body of the ATCM. In this way, the IHO could act as the competent authority to ATCM for hydrography and nautical charting; this would be a similar arrangement to the agreement already in place between the IHO and the UN and the IMO.

6. The Commission decided to task the coordination of the INT paper chart scheme and ENC scheming to its Hydrography Priorities Working Group (HPWG), chaired by the UK. The HPWG was tasked to develop a schema for ENC production at the larger scales and for a maritime shipping route scheme for the South Orkney Islands. Inclusion of two new INT charts in the scheme, in the Antarctic Peninsula, was also agreed following a proposal by UK.

7. An Antarctic GIS database, now under development by the IHO Secretariat in Monaco, was demonstrated. It was agreed that information from HCA Members on their planned surveys in Antarctic waters should be included in this database, together with details of existing surveys and planned and completed chart coverage.
8. The actions agreed at HCA12 are listed in Annex A together with their current status.
9. The 13<sup>th</sup> HCA Conference will be hosted by the Spanish *Instituto Hidrográfico de la Marina* from **3-5 December 2013** in Cadiz, Spain.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,



Robert WARD  
President

Annex A: Action Items from HCA12

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM THE 12<sup>th</sup> HCA CONFERENCE AND STATUSNEW ACTIONS

Agenda Item	Action	Details	Status (Mar 2013)
2.	HCA12/1	<b>IHB</b> , as HCA Secretariat, to finalize editorial amendments, such as, references to Resolution T1.3 at Appendix A, in the revised HCA Statutes adopted at HCA12 and promulgate an updated version of the Statutes on the HCA page of the IHO website. Deadline: Nov 2012.	Done. See <a href="#">HCA13-INF1</a>
5.	HCA12/2	<b>NZ</b> to circulate an initial draft to the Ships of Opportunity Guidelines WG by end October, for consideration and comments; then complete and circulate a first draft to all HCA members and observers by end December 2012 for comment. Final draft to be considered at HCA13. Deadline: end Dec 2012.	Done. See <a href="#">HCA13-05B</a>
5.	HCA12/3	<b>HCA Chair</b> to circulate an initial draft text that may be used by HCA members to maintain as strong a relationship as possible with their IMO national delegates in order to raise the level of awareness of the need for improved hydrographic surveying and charting in Antarctica. Deadline: end Dec 2012.	Done. IHB paper to ATCM-36 (Action HCA12/5) was circulated to all HCA members.
5.	HCA12/4	<b>HPWG</b> , as INT chart and ENC coordinator for Region M, to develop a large scale ENC scheme (navigational purposes 4 and 5) and review the existing smaller scale schemes, and submit to HCA by correspondence for comments / approval. Deadline: mid Mar 2013.	In progress
5.	HCA12/5	Subject to it being feasible, <b>UK</b> to prepare, in liaison with HCA Chair, an IHO/HCA submission to ATCM-36 raising awareness of the need for improved hydrographic surveying and charting in Antarctica; paper to be co-sponsored by HCA members through their ATCM delegates. Deadline: end Nov 2012.	Done. IHB paper on behalf of HCA and IHO submitted to ATCM-36 at end of March 2013.
6.1	HCA12/6	<b>HCA Chair</b> to forward the proposed consolidated ATCM Recommendation concerning Hydrography in Antarctica to Ms. Rogan-Finnemore - leader of the review group established at ATCM-XXXV. Deadline: end Nov 2012.	Done. See Annex I to <a href="#">HCA12 Minutes</a>
6.2	HCA12/7	<b>HCA Chair</b> to investigate options to establish liaison protocol between HCA and COMNAP. Deadline: end Dec 2012.	In progress

Agenda Item	Action	Details	Status (Mar 2013)
7.1	HCA12/8	<p><b>IHB</b> to include two new INT charts in the INT chart scheme for Region M, as follows (limits as amended during HCA12):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Melchior Islands, scale 1:30 000, UK producer, post 2015</li> <li>- NW accesses to English Strait, scale 1:25 000, unallocated producer</li> </ul> <p>Deadline: end Dec 2012.</p>	Done. See <a href="#">S-11</a> Region M on the IHO website.
7.1	HCA12/9	<p><b>IHB</b> to invite India, Russia, China and Australia to comment on a proposal to include in the INT chart scheme for Region M, a new chart at medium scale, e.g. 1:150,000, in the area of Larsemann Hills, with approximate limits 68°S to 69°30'S and 75°E to 77°E.</p> <p>Deadline: end Dec 2012.</p>	Done. See <a href="#">HCA13-07.1D</a>
7.1	HCA12/10	<p><b>UK</b>, in cooperation with <b>IHB</b>, to investigate external funding opportunities to accelerate the Antarctic survey and charting programmes, including supporting scientific and environmental benefits.</p> <p>(IHB and UK to discuss in Monaco in early Dec 2012)</p>	Meeting done. Further work in progress.
7.2	HCA12/11	<p><b>HCA members</b> to report ENC new editions as part of their future national reports.</p>	To be included in national reports HCA13-07.4A
7.2	HCA12/12	<p><b>HPWG</b> to analyse existing ENC coverage and to respond to WEND-WG letter dated 18 September 2012 (HCA12-07.2B) concerning overlaps, gaps and large scale (major port/points of entry) coverage.</p> <p>Deadline: end Jan 2013.</p>	In progress
7.4 A	HCA12/13	<p><b>HCA12 participants</b> to send a selection of high resolution images depicting nautical charting and surveying activities to the IHB for PR purposes.</p> <p>Deadline: end Dec 2012.</p>	No images received at the IHB by March 2013
7.4 B	HCA12/14	<p><b>IHB</b> to progress the HCA GIS database to an operational status by mid 2013, seeking contract support if required and appropriate.</p> <p>Deadline: mid-2013</p>	In progress
8.	HCA12/15	<p><b>IHB</b> to request HCA Members to provide details of their planned surveys for 2013 to the HPWG Chair as soon as possible; required parameters to be based on those indicated in Australian Hydroscheme format.</p> <p>Deadline: mid Nov 2012.</p>	Postponed to the 2013-14 season
8.	HCA12/16	<p><b>IHB</b> to provide access to the information on HCA Members' planned surveys for 2013, to IAATO and other relevant entities.</p> <p>Deadline: end Nov 2012.</p>	Postponed to the 2013-14 season
8.	HCA12/17	<p><b>IHB</b> to include a layer of information concerning national survey programmes in Antarctica on the IHO Antarctic GIS. Deadline: Jul 2013.</p>	In progress
8.	HCA12/18	<p><b>HPWG</b> to develop a Maritime Shipping Route (MSR) scheme for the South Orkney Islands.</p> <p>Deadline: end Jan 2013.</p>	In progress

## ROUTINE ACTIONS

<b>Action</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Comments</b>
HCA/1	<b>IAATO</b> to encourage IAATO Members to provide the IHB with available bathymetric data, to enable improvement of the Antarctic chart coverage.	
HCA/2	<b>HOs</b> (AR, AU, BR, CL, NZ, UK, ...), in liaison with IAATO, to arrange the visit of hydrographic surveyors to IAATO ships, when calling in ports on their way to Antarctica, or in Antarctica, to advise on the collection and rendering of hydrographic data.	
HCA/3	<b>HCA Members</b> to 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.	
HCA/4	<b>IHB</b> to maintain the page on the IHO website listing the links to national chart catalogues of HCA Members publishing charts in Region M.	Done. See <a href="#">links to chart catalogues</a>
HCA/5	<b>HCA Members</b> to 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/6	<b>IHB</b> to maintain the page on the IHO website listing the links to national catalogues of nautical publications, for HCA Members publishing nautical publications in Region M.	Done. See <a href="#">links to catalogues of nautical publications</a>