

**1<sup>st</sup> IHO-HSSC Meeting**  
**The Regent Hotel, Singapore, 22-24 October 2009**

**Report of the Advisory Board on Law of the Sea (ABLOS)**

ABLOS is a joint board established by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)  
and the International Association of Geodesy (IAG)

<b>Submitted by:</b>	Chairman, ABLOS
<b>Related Documents:</b>	None
<b>Related Projects:</b>	None
<b>Chair:</b>	Chris Rizos, Australia (IAG Member)
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Chris Carleton, UK (IHO Member)
<b>Secretary:</b>	Steve Shipman, IHB
<b>Members IHO:</b>	Croatia, Japan, Pakistan, and United Kingdom
<b>Members IAG:</b>	Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Sweden
<b>Ex Officio:</b>	UN DOALOS and IHB
<b>Observers:</b>	Brazil, Canada, India, Japan and UK
<i>see Annex A for full details</i>	

**Meetings Held During Reporting Period**

ABLOS 16      4-5 August 2009 Business Meeting, Bali Indonesia.

**Next Meeting**

ABLOS 17 and 6<sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference      October 2010, Monaco

**Work Program**

A draft work program has been prepared and is attached at Annex B.

The ABLOS Conference is a biennial event and the IHO Work Programme 2008-2012 envisaged the conferences being held in 2009 and 2011. The 5<sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference, originally scheduled for October 2007, was delayed until October 2008 due to a lack of resources amongst ABLOS members. The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Conferences have therefore been re-scheduled for 2010 and 2012 respectively.

**Progress on HSSC Action Items**

N/A

**Problems Encountered**

N/A

**Any Other Items of Note**

ABLOS at its 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Business Meetings reviewed its ToR, as approved by the IHO and IAG, and prepared the consequential amendments necessary to reflect the changed IHO committee structure. A draft is attached at Annex C for HSSC endorsement. The Chairman of ABLOS will present these to the IAG Executive Committee on 29 August and the decision of IAG will be communicated to HSSC1.

**Conclusions and Recommended Actions**

N/A

**Justification and Impacts**

N/A

**Action Required of HSSC**

The HSSC is invited to:

- a. note this report
- b. review and endorse the work program at Annex B
- c. endorse the revised ToR and RoP set out in Annex C

## MEMBERS OF ABLOS

### IHO representatives:

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**ABLOS appointed Observer**

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## 1.1. ABLOS Work Plan

### 1.1 ABLOS Tasks

- A Organise the 6<sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference in 2010 (IHO Task 3.6.1)
- B Maintain IHO Publication C-51 (formerly S-51) "Technical Aspects of the Law of the Sea (TALOS) Manual" (IHO Task 3.6.2)
- C Prepare a standard training program on the hydrographic aspects of maritime delimitation. (IHO Task 3.6.3)
- D Organise the 7<sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference in 2012 (IHO Task 3.6.1)
- E Provide advice and guidance on the technical aspect of the Law of the Sea to relevant organizations, bodies and Member States. (IHO Task 3.1.16)

Task	Work item	Priority H-high M-medium L-low	Milestones	Start Date	End Date	Status P-planned O-ongoing C-completed	Contact Person(s) * indicates leader	Related Pubs/Standard
A1	Organise 6 <sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference	H		2009	2010	O	Chris Rizos, Ron Macnab, Chris Carleton, John Brown, Sunil Bisnath, Steve Shipman	N/A
B1	Review C-51 4 <sup>th</sup> Edition for any necessary updating.	H		2009	2011	P	Chris Rizos, Shin Tani, Ron Macnab, Graeme Blick, Sunil Bisnath and Steve Shipman	IHO Publication C-51

Task	Work item	Priority H-high M-medium L-low	Milestones	Start Date	End Date	Status P-planned O-ongoing C-completed	Contact Person(s) * indicates leader	Related Pubs/Standard
C1	Prepare standard training programme for the CBSC	H		2009	2010	O	Chris Carleton* John Brown Muhammad Bashir, Shin Tani, Ron Macnab, Steve Shipman	
D1	Organise the 7 <sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference	H		2011	2012	P	Decision at ABLOS 18	
E1	Provide advice and guidance on the technical aspect of the Law of the Sea	H		Continuous		O	All members of ABLOS through the Chairman	

## 1.2 ABLOS Meetings (IHO Tasks 3.1.16 and 3.6.1 refer)

Date	Location	Activity
4-5 August 2009	Bali, Indonesia	16 <sup>th</sup> Meeting
October 2010	IHB, Monaco	17 <sup>th</sup> Business Meeting and 6 <sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference
2011	Tbd (Possibly Chile)	18 <sup>th</sup> Business Meeting
2012	IHB, Monaco	19 <sup>th</sup> Business Meeting and 7 <sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference

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**TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
**For the Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea (ABLOS)**  
**of the**  
**International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and**  
**the International Association of Geodesy (IAG)**  
**(as amended ~~11 December 2006~~ 24 October 2009)**

**OBJECTIVE:**

To provide advice on technical aspects of the Law of the Sea.

**1. Terms of Reference**

- 1.1. To provide advice, guidance and, where applicable, offer expert interpretation of the technical aspects of the Law of the Sea to the parent Organizations, their Member States or to other organizations on request.
- 1.2. To review State practice and jurisprudence on Law of the Sea matters which are relevant to the work of ABLOS so as to be in a position to provide expert advice when needed.
- 1.3. To study, promote and encourage the development of appropriate techniques in the application of the technical provisions contained within the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- 1.4. To review and update IHO Special Publication SC-51 "A Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations' Convention on the Law of the Sea - 1982" (TALOS Manual).
- 1.5. To prepare, review and update other ABLOS publications as required by the parent organizations.

**2. Rules of Procedure**

- 2.1. ABLOS shall be composed of eight full members, preferably chosen with wide geographic representation. Each parent Organization shall appoint four members. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the UN Office of Legal Affairs (DOALOS), and the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) ("the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB)" to be replaced by "the IHO Secretariat" when the Secretariat is established)~~as the Secretariat~~ shall have representatives in an ex-officio capacity without voting rights.
- 2.2. ABLOS should normally take decisions by consensus. Should a vote be necessary then a simple majority of those present and voting is required, subject to a minimum of 4 voting members being present. In the case of a tied vote the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- 2.3. The Member States of the IHO, the IAG and ABLOS through its Chairman may nominate additional observers to ABLOS. Observers may participate in correspondence and attend meetings but may not vote.



- 2.4. The term of office of a full member is four years, after which he/she may be re-appointed or replaced by his/her parent organization. Members are expected to attend every meeting of ABLOS. Where a member fails to attend two consecutive meetings the Chairman should raise the matter with the Parent Organization with a view to rectifying the situation.
- 2.5. Whilst members of ABLOS are appointed by their parent Organizations, to whom they are accountable, members are expected to serve as individual experts in their own right. No statements or publications may be issued in the name of ABLOS without ABLOS's prior approval.
- 2.6. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected by ABLOS and should normally come from different parent Organizations on a rotational basis. They will serve for a two-year period, after which the Vice-Chairman becomes Chairman and a new Vice-Chairman is elected. If the Chairman is not present or available, the Vice-Chairman shall act in this capacity until the next meeting. Should the Vice-Chairman not be available to take office as Chairman when required, a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman should be elected.
- 2.7. ABLOS may establish Working Groups to carry out specific tasks.
- 2.8. ABLOS will have its permanent Secretariat at the ~~IHB~~International Hydrographic Bureau (~~"the IHB"~~ "the IHO Secretariat" when the Secretariat is established), Monaco. The Secretariat will publish the documents and publications produced by the Board as required.
- 2.9. Members of ABLOS are expected to be supported by their own organizations for travel expenses and work.
- 2.10. ABLOS will normally meet once a year at a venue and time that minimizes cost and conduct business by correspondence between meetings.
- 2.11. ABLOS may organise conferences and seminars. A biennial technical conference will normally be held in Monaco in conjunction with an ABLOS Meeting. ABLOS may operate a fund to cover the receipts and expenses of running such a conference. Guidelines for the operation of this fund are appended to these terms of reference.
- 2.12. The Chair shall report on the activities of the Board to the annual meeting of the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) for further report and to each ordinary session of the International Hydrographic Conference ("each ordinary session of the International Hydrographic Conference" to be replaced by "each ordinary session of the Assembly through the Council" when the Council and Assembly are established).The Chairman shall also provide an annual report on ABLOS's activities to the ~~IHO and~~ IAG and a report covering the inter-sessional period to the ~~Conferences/~~General Assemblies of the ~~parent Organizations~~ IAG.
- 2.13. These TOR should be reviewed by ABLOS as required and not less frequently than every 4 years. Amendments, recommended by ABLOS, are to be submitted to the parent Organizations for approval.

## ABLOS CONFERENCE FUND GUIDELINES

(As amended 15 October 2008)

### 1. Introduction

1.1 The Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea (ABLOS) is formed by four representatives from each of the following bodies: The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the International Association of Geodesy (IAG). Secretarial support for ABLOS is provided by the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) (*“the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB)”* to be replaced by *“the IHO Secretariat”* when the Secretariat is established). The parent organizations approve the Terms of Reference (TOR) for ABLOS. The UN Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS) and the IHB (*“the IHB”* to be replaced by *“the IHO Secretariat”* when the Secretariat is established) attend ABLOS meetings in an ex-Officio capacity.

### 2. Biennial Conference

2.1 The TOR invite ABLOS to organise seminars and technical conferences and permit the operation of a fund to support such activities.

### 3. Income

3.1 The primary source of income for the fund will be from the registration fees of delegates attending such seminars / conferences. ABLOS should set the level of registrations fees in order to provide a modest excess of income over expenditure given an estimated attendance.

### 4. Expenditure

4.1 The primary expenditure for the fund will be to cover the costs of running the seminars / conferences. Expenditure may include but is not limited to: assistance to speakers / tutorial leaders, conference equipment, documentation, proceedings, staff overtime, reception and tea breaks.

4.2 ABLOS may use any funds in excess of 3000 Euros remaining after all expenses for a seminar / conference have been settled, to fund other activities conducted by ABLOS. Support for travel / subsistence in connection with production of a new edition of [CS-51](#) 'A Manual on Technical Aspects of the Law of the Sea' might be considered such an activity. Such expenditure must be approved by a simple majority of the ABLOS Membership.

4.3 Routine expenditure in support of a seminar / conference may be transacted by the IHB (*“the IHB”* to be replaced by *“the IHO Secretariat”* when the Secretariat is established) and reported in the fund accounts.

### 5. Operation

5.1 The fund will be operated by the IHB (*“the IHB”* to be replaced by *“the IHO Secretariat”* when the Secretariat is established) on behalf of ABLOS. A copy of the fund accounts will be provided to the Annual Business Meeting of ABLOS and immediately after finalising the accounts following a seminar / conference.

### 6. Review

6.1 This guidance should be reviewed, and amended as necessary, by ABLOS at intervals not exceeding 4 years.