



Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee

## Report of ABLOS to HSSC 6

11-14 November 2014, Viña del Mar, Chile

Presented by Mr. John Brown (ABLOS Vice-Chair)

# Principal activities and achievements

- ✦ The 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of ABLOS was hosted by the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) and the Oman National Hydrographic Office (ONHO)
- ✦ It was followed by a seminar titled 'Harmonization with UNCLOS: Experiences and Observations'
- ✦ All ABLOS members and IHO appointed observers from Australia, Brazil, Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, Denmark, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom were present. They were joined by two RNO observers



# Principal activities and achievements

- ✦ The meeting began preparations for the 8<sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference, which is planned to be held in Monaco in late October 2015.
- ✦ Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - 1982 (TALOS Manual - C-51) - edition 5.0.0 – was approved by IHO Member States and IAG Executive Council in June 2014.



# Principal activities and achievements

- ✦ Two Board members, whose terms are due to end in October 2014, expressed a desire to continue to serve for a further four-year term. The Board unanimously supported the applications, and the IHO has approved the additional terms.
- ✦ Subsequently these second four-year terms were approved by Member States via Circular Letter (IHO CL 62/2013 dated 6 November 2013).



# Principal activities and achievements

- ✦ The ABLOS meeting was followed by a Law of the Sea seminar, which was attended by approximately 90 delegates from across the region, including Kuwait, Qatar and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as representatives from a wide selection of Oman government ministries, RNO and ONHO.



# Major tasks of future work programme

- ✦ Work has commenced on preparations for 8<sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference in Monaco scheduled for late October 2015 under the theme “Law of the Sea and its vital role in the Blue Economy”.
- ✦ Next round of revisions for the TALOS Manual, from sections that were identified as requiring revision during the final stages of review of Edition 5.0.0, has commenced.



# Other Items of Note

- ✦ Due to the special circumstances concerning ABLOS as a working group reporting to two parent bodies, i.e., the IAG as well as the IHO, it is felt that the current wording of paragraph 2.1 of the HSSC ToRs does not reflect this situation. It is proposed that the second sentence be amended to read: “The Chairs of the relevant subordinate bodies of the Committee *or their nominated representatives should attend and report at all Committee Meetings.*”



# Action request of HSSC

- a. Note this report
- b. Endorse the continuation of ABLOS to pursue its work under its Terms of Reference
- c. Review and endorse the work program of Annex B
- d. Consider proposed HSSC ToRs amendment

