

**8TH MEETING OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE
IHB, Monaco, 14-18 November 2016**

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)

Submitted by:	Chair, ABLOS
Related Documents:	C-51
Related Projects:	None

Chair:	John Brown, United Kingdom (IHO Member)
Vice-Chair:	Niels Andersen, Denmark (IAG Member)
Secretary:	David Wyatt, IHB
Members IHO:	Brazil, Japan, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom
Members IAG:	Canada, Chile, Denmark, Indonesia
Ex Officio:	UN DOALOS and IHB
Observers:	Australia, Bangladesh, India, Japan, United Kingdom
<i>see Annex A for full details</i>	

Meetings Held During Reporting Period

ABLOS 22	19 & 23 October 2015	IHB, Monaco
ABLOS 8 Conference	20 – 22 October 2015	IHB, Monaco
ABLOS 23	26 – 28 October 2016	Seoul, Republic of Korea

Future Meetings

ABLOS 24	9 & 12 October 2017	IHB, Monaco
ABLOS 9 Conference	10 – 11 October 2017	IHB, Monaco

Work Program

The 22nd Business Meeting of ABLOS was held at the International Hydrographic Bureau in Monaco on 19th and 22nd October 2015. The 8th ABLOS Conference, titled '*UNCLOS: Advances in Managing the Blue World*' took place 20-22 October 2015 and was held at the Novotel, Monaco.

All ABLOS members and observers from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom were present; a representative from Suriname also attended both events. The Chair, Professor Sunil Bisnath (IAG – Canada), welcomed all Board members and observers to the business meeting.

The first session of the business meeting completed final preparations for the 8th ABLOS Conference. The revisions identified for chapter 3 of Edition 5.0.0 of the Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - 1982 (TALOS Manual - C-51) were discussed. The revision time frame and process were decided with a target completion in 2016 for consideration by the 8th meeting of the Hydrographic

Standards and Services Committee. Japan agreed to provide the revised chapter 3 text for review by the Editorial Board, under the leadership of Mr Chris Carleton, to progress this work.

ABLOS members and observers discussed notable topics from the various conferences, seminars and workshops that they had attended and undertaken since the previous business meeting. The meeting also discussed the material for the ABLOS capacity building training course and reviewed ways to develop it further.

The meeting reviewed the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the ABLOS, noting there was no requirement for amendments at present. They agreed that the future of ABLOS and its work should be considered by all members before the next business meeting. It was noted that the Terms of Reference should be used as the basis for a review of the tasks set and the work undertaken. Participants were asked to consider whether some tasks had been completed and whether there were any activities which were not addressed in the Terms of Reference. The status of current Board members was reviewed. Dr Niels Andersen, IAG representative due to complete his term in January 2016, expressed a desire to serve for a further 4 years. Dr Sobar Sutisna (IAG representative) indicated that he would be standing down in 2017 and Professor Sunil Bisnath (IAG representative) would complete his second term in 2017. The Board unanimously supported the reappointment of Dr Andersen and Professor Bisnath. The Chair was directed to request the IAG Executive to consider reappointing Dr Andersen and Professor Bisnath and to identify a suitable replacement for Dr Sutisna. In addition the ABLOS requested the Chair to investigate with the IAG Executive the appointment of an IAG Observer to ABLOS for the development of potential future IAG members to ABLOS.

The 8th ABLOS Conference was attended by approximately 60 delegates. 25 different IHO Member States were represented, namely Algeria, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Japan, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Suriname, Thailand, United Kingdom and USA. The Conference included 28 presentations covering a wide variety of topics and issues in relation with the theme "UNCLOS: Advances in Governing the Blue World". President Robert Ward welcomed the delegates on behalf of the IHO. The opening key note address was given by Rear Admiral Nick Lambert, former National Hydrographer of the United Kingdom, and the closing presentation was given by Professor David Freestone, The George Washington University, USA. The general theme of the conference was. An overview of the contributions of the IHO and the IAG to the implementation of UNCLOS were provided by Director Gilles Bessero and Professor Sunil Bisnath respectively. The presentations on various aspects of the Law of the Sea generated numerous questions and comments in plenary and much discussion in the margins during the breaks.

A presentation was given at the 8th ABLOS Conference by DOALOS, which highlighted the effectiveness of S-121 (Marine Limits and Boundaries) as a medium for maritime limits and boundaries data. It was strongly recommended that States Parties consider using this format for lodging information to which they desire the UN to give due publicity.

On completion of the ABLOS Conference, Mr John Brown (UK) assumed the role of Chair and Dr Niels Andersen (Denmark) was elected as Vice-Chair. It was agreed that the next Business Meeting would take place in Seoul, Republic of Korea, 26-28 October 2016 and the next ABLOS Conference would take place in Monaco on 10 and 11 October 2017 under the title '*Pushing the limits of UNCLOS*', partly in recognition of the need to consider regulation of activities in the sea Area Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ).

Progress on HSSC Action Items

HSSC7/29 – submission by India is waited.

HSSC7/30 and 7/31 – ABLOS stands ready to provide assistance and expertise to support the development of S-121 - Maritime Limits and Boundaries - product specification in liaison with the S-100WG.

Problems Encountered

It is noted that 4 of the 8 ABLOS members are now serving their second term; it is of concern that, whilst there are 4 IHO observers, there are no IAG observers gaining experience potentially to progress as IAG appointed members. IAG members have been requested to seek suitable individuals.

Any Other Items of Note

N/A

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. Endorse the continuation of ABLOS to pursue its work under its Terms of Reference
- c. Review and endorse the work program at Annex B

MEMBERS OF ABLOS

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12. ABLOS WORK PLAN 2017-18**12.1 ABLOS Tasks**

A	Organise the 9 th ABLOS Conference in 2017 (IHO Task 2.12.2)
B	Maintain IHO Publication C-51 "Technical Aspects of the Law of the Sea (TALOS) Manual" (IHO Task 2.12.3)
C	Deliver a standard training program on the hydrographic aspects of maritime delimitation (IHO Task 3.5.2)
D	Provide advice and guidance on the technical aspect of the Law of the Sea to relevant organizations, bodies and Member States (IHO Task 2.12.3)
E	Organize and prepare ABLOS business meetings in 2016 and 2017 (IHO Task 2.12.1)

Task	Work item	Priority H-high M-medium L-low	Next milestone	Start Date	End Date	Status P-planned O-ongoing C-completed	Contact Person(s) * indicates leader	Related Pubs / Standard	Remarks
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A1	Organise 9 th ABLOS Conference	H	Begin advertising Identify key note speaker Attract presentation abstracts	2015 2015 2015	2017 2016 2017	O O O	All members of ABLOS through Niels Andersen*	N/A	
B1	Prepare draft 6 th Edition of C-51 (TALOS Manual) for adoption by Member States	M H H	Generate draft new structure for chapter 3 Review contents of chapters and identify areas requiring revision	2013 2014 2014	2016 2017 2016 2016 2017	P O O	Chris Carleton*	IHO Publication C-51	

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Task	Work item	Priority H-high M-medium L-low	Next milestone	Start Date	End Date	Status P-planned O-ongoing C-completed	Contact Person(s) * indicates leader	Related Pubs / Standard	Remarks
C1	Deliver standard training programmes for the CBSC	H		2011	Continuous	O	John Brown*		Workshops planned in 2017 in the CBSC Work Plan.

Task	Work item	Priority H-high M-medium L-low	Next milestone	Start Date	End Date	Status P-planned O-ongoing C-completed	Contact Person(s) * indicates leader	Related Pubs / Standard	Remarks
D1	Provide advice and guidance on the technical aspect of the Law of the Sea	H		Continuous		O	All members of ABLOS through the Chair		

12.2 ABLOS Meetings (Tasks A & E)

Date Location Activity

1 - 6 October 2012	IHB, Monaco	ABLOS 19 and 7 th ABLOS Conference
28 - 29 October 2013	Muscat, Oman	ABLOS 20
21 - 22 October 2014	Copenhagen, Denmark	ABLOS 21
19 - 23 October 2015	IHB, Monaco	ABLOS 22 and 8 th ABLOS Conference
26 - 28 October 2016	Seoul, Korea	ABLOS 23
9 - 12 October 2017	IHB, Monaco	ABLOS 24 and 9 th ABLOS Conference

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