#### 9<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

#### 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: Niels Andersen, Denmark (IAG Member)

Vice-Chair: Izabel King Jeck, Brazil (IHO Member)

Secretary: David Wyatt, IHO

Members IHO: Brazil, Japan, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom

Members IAG: Canada, Chile, Denmark, France

Ex Officio: UN DOALOS and IHO

Observers: Australia, Bangladesh, India, Japan, United Kingdom

see Annex A for full details

#### **Meetings Held During Reporting Period**

ABLOS 23 26 – 28 October 2016 Seoul, Republic of Korea

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

**Future Meetings** 

ABLOS 25 22 - 25 October 2018 Doha, Qatar

#### **Work Program**

The 23rd Business Meeting of ABLOS was held at the Ramada Hotel in Seoul on 26 and 27 October. It was followed by a seminar titled 'Roles of the Law of the Sea and the Hydrography in Asian Region' on 28 October.

ABLOS members and IHO appointed observers from Australia, Canada, Denmark, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom were present, as well as two invited observers from Qatar. The Chair, Mr John Brown (IHO – UK), welcomed all Board members and observers to the meeting.

The meeting continued its preparations for the 9th ABLOS Conference, which is planned to be held in Monaco on 10 and 11 October 2017. Detailed information for the Conference will be announced by IHO Circular Letter and on the ABLOS page of the IHO web site when available.

The meeting discussed the revisions of Chapter 3 to Edition 5.0.0 of IHO publication C-51. The Editorial Board, under the leadership of Mr Chris Carleton, will review the draft revision in preparation for submission to the 9th

meeting of the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee in November 2017 for its endorsement and subsequent IHO and IAG approval.

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 of the Board, as a catalyst for in depth discussions on the future of ABLOS and its role. The status of current Board members was reviewed, it was noted that the current terms of three IAG appointed members would all end in July 2019; it was agreed that a search for new members should be started early to avoid having unfilled vacancies.

The ABLOS meeting was followed by a Law of the Sea Seminar, which was hosted by the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency (KHOA) and the Hydrographic Society of Korea. The Seminar was opened by Mr Jae-Hyung Ryoo, Director General of KHOA and was attended by approximately 45 delegates from across the region, including China and Japan as well as representatives from France and Qatar and a wide selection of Korean government ministries, technical authorities and universities.

The Seminar covered presentations on: What is ABLOS, Application of Marine Seismic Survey to UNCLOS Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf and Naming of Undersea Features, Maritime Jurisdiction and Electronic Charting including S-121, Accuracy Assessment of Some Potential GNSS Positioning Techniques for Ellipsoidally Referenced Hydrographic Surveys, Characteristics of Marine Shallow Gas in the Korean Seas, Disappeared Sea Naming Issues with Special Reference to Korea Strait, Maritime Boundary Delimitation between South Korea and China, National Oceanographic Forecasting System: Now and Future, China's Policy and Perspective on Unsettled Territorial and Boundary Disputes, Historic Trends of Global Maritime Delimitation, and The Impact of Sea Level Rise on Maritime Boundary Delimitation. The presentations were followed by question and answer sessions for the participants.

The 24th Business Meeting of ABLOS was held at the IHO Secretariat in Monaco on 9th and 12th October 2017. The 9th ABLOS Conference, titled 'UNCLOS: Pushing the Limits of UNCLOS' took place 10-11 October 2017 and also was held at the IHO Secretariat.

All ABLOS members and observers from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, France, India, Japan, Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom (UK) were present; representatives from Qatar and the UK Hydrographic Office also attended both events. The Chair, Mr John Brown (IHO – UK), welcomed all Board members and observers to the business meeting.

The first session of the business meeting completed final preparations for the 9th ABLOS Conference.

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.

During the second session of the business meeting the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the ABLOS were reviewed, a number of amendments were proposed, which once finalised, will be presented to the 10th session of the HSSC and the IAG Executive Council for consideration. The ABLOS noted that two IHO appointed members were due to end their terms in October 2018 and three AIG appointed members in July 2019. All were requested to advise whether they would be available for re-nomination by their respective host organizations or whether they were aware of suitable candidates to fill the forth coming vacancies.

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 2018 for consideration by the 10th meeting of the Hydrographic Standards and Services Committee. Japan agreed to provide the revised chapter 3 text for review by the Editorial Board. In addition the French and Chilean members of the ABLOS agreed to progress the completion

of the French and Spanish translations of Edition 6.0.0, so that all three language versions would be in the same Edition state.

The focus of the regional seminar in Qatar, which will be held immediately following the next Business Meeting, was discussed and agreed with the host organization. The meeting then considered the theme, title and keynote speaker for the next Conference, the 10th ABLOS Conference, which will be held in Monaco in 2019. It was agreed that there was a need to maintain the momentum generated at the 9th Conference and therefore dates, the title, keynote speaker and advertising needed to start at least 18 months ahead of the proposed dates. A Conference organizing committee was form to undertake these tasks.

The 9th ABLOS Conference was attended by approximately 68 delegates. 24 different IHO Member States were represented, namely Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Japan, Malaysia, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, , Switzerland, United Kingdom and USA. The Conference included 20 presentations covering a wide variety of topics and issues in relation with the theme "UNCLOS: Pushing the Limits of UNCLOS". IHO Secretary-General, Dr Mathias Jonas, welcomed the delegates on behalf of the IHO. The opening key note address was given by Mrs Kristina Maria Gjerde, Senior High Seas Policy Advisor to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Global Marine and Polar Programme. The general theme of the conference was the impact of new technologies and techniques, and the implementation of UNCLOS into the Area Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). 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.

On completion of the ABLOS Conference, Dr Niels Andersen (Denmark) assumed the role of Chair and Mrs Izabel King-Jeck (Brazil) was elected as Vice-Chair. It was agreed that the next Business Meeting would take place in Doha, Qatar, 22-25 October 2018 and the next ABLOS Conference would take place in Monaco on 8 - 9 October 2019.

#### **Progress on HSSC Action Items**

#### HSSC8/6.1:

Review of terms included in the TALOS Manual (C-51) and then a comparison with relevant terms in the Hydrographic Dictionary (S-32) has been initiated. Once completed discussions will be held with the Chair of the HDWG on the most appropriate next actions.

India has been invited to submit draft proposals for consideration for inclusion into the TALOS Manual.

### **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**

ABLOS have engaged with the S-121 Project team by being represented by the Chair at the initial Project Team meeting hosted by DOALOS in New York, and by participating in the teleconference meetings subject to that initial meeting. ABLOS are the Subject Matter Experts in Technical Aspects of the Law of the Sea, and stand ready to provide advice and guidance on those matters.

The S-121 team will undoubtedly be making their report through the appropriate channels to give a clear update as to status, but it is clear that a significant amount of work has been achieved on the detailed technical infrastructure, and ABLOS will continue to participate in the workings of the group in accordance with their article 1.1 of the ABLOS TOR.

#### **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





### Joint IAG-IHO Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea

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# 12. ABLOS WORK PLAN 2018-19

# 12.1 ABLOS Tasks

Α	Organise the 10 <sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference in 2019 (IHO Task 2.12.2)
В	Maintain IHO Publication C-51 "Technical Aspects of the Law of the Sea (TALOS) Manual" (IHO Task 2.12.3)
С	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 2018 and 2019 (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
A1	Organise 10th ABLOS	Н	Begin advertising	2017	2019	0	All members of ABLOS	N/A	
	Conference		Identify key note speaker	2017	2019	С	through Clive Schofield*		
			Attract presentation abstracts	2017	2019	0			
B1	Prepare draft 6th Edition of C-51 (TALOS	М		2013	2016	Р	Chris Carleton*	IHO Publication	
	Manual) for adoption by Member States	H	Generate draft new structure for chapter 3	2014	2016 2017 2018	0		C-51	
		Н	Review contents of chapters and identify areas requiring revision	2014	<del>2016</del> <del>2017</del> 2018	0			
		М	Review initial French translation and propose amendments	2018	2019	Р	Marie-Françoise Lequentrec- Lalancette*/Sunil Bisnath		
		М	Review French translations of animations	2018	2019	Р	Clive Schofield*/ Marie- Françoise Lequentrec- Lalancette		

Task		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	Н		2011	Continuous	0	John Brown*		Workshops planned in 2018 in the CBSC Work Plan.
D1	Provide advice and guidance on the technical aspect of the Law of the Sea	Н		Continuous		0	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 7th 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 8th ABLOS Conference
26 - 28 October 2016	Seoul, Korea	ABLOS 23
9 - 12 October 2017	IHO, Monaco	ABLOS 24 and 9th ABLOS Conference
22 - 25 October 2018	Qatar	ABLOS 25
7 - 10 October 2019	IHO, Monaco	ABLOS 26 and 10th ABLOS Conference

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