

**FIRST MEETING OF THE IHO INTER REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE  
IHO-IRCC  
Auditorium Rainier III, Monaco, 05 June 2009**

**REPORT FROM THE HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON ANTARCTICA**

1. **Chairman:** Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA (IHB Director)  
**Vice Chairman:** Commodore Rod NAIRN (Australia)  
**Secretary :** Ing en Chef Michel HUET (IHB)
  
2. **Membership:** Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Uruguay, United Kingdom, USA, Venezuela.  
**Observers:** Antarctic Treaty Secretariat (ATS), Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes (COMNAP), Standing Committee on Antarctic Logistics and Operations (SCALOP), International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO), Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), International Maritime Organization (IMO), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO), International Bathymetric Chart of the Southern Ocean (IBCSO), IHO Data Center for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB), Australian Antarctic Division, Antarctica New Zealand
  
3. **Statutes:** HCA Statutes were adopted at the 3rd HCA Meeting (2003). They were further revised at the 7th HCA Meeting (2007) and Signature Pages are updated to 6 February 2009.
  
4. **Last Meeting:** The 8<sup>th</sup> HCA Meeting was held in Niterói, Brazil, 06-08, October 2008
  
5. **Main Items under consideration are:**
  - *INT chart and ENC schemes.* Keeping updated the schemes of INT Charts in paper format and defining the ENC coverage, including responsibilities in production and maintenance of such charts.
  - *INT Chart Production plans.* Till December 2009, 65 INT Charts will have been published, leaving 35 in the pending list. Special attention shall be given to the modest expectation on future production, as it is indicated bellow:
    - a) 3 charts are planned to be produced in 2010
    - b) 1 chart is planned for 2011
    - c) 4 charts are planned for 2012
    - d) 1 chart is planned for 2013
    - e) 0 chart is planned for 2014
    - f) 5 charts are planned for “ no earlier than 2015”
    - g) 21 charts have not yet been considered in the planning.

It is evident that if there is no change in the priority assigned by Governments to hydrographic surveying and nautical chart production, it is likely that the existing INT Chart scheme will not be completed before year 2025. The IHO/HCA is extremely concerned about this situation.

- *Hydrographic Surveying Plan.* Updating the prioritized hydrographic survey plan taking into consideration information contained in national reports to HCA-8, as well as discussions / outcomes of the *ad hoc* meeting of HSPWG during HCA-8. Document to serve as a reference for hydrographic surveying planning, avoiding unnecessary duplication, improving effectiveness and availability of source data for chart production.
- *Ships of Opportunity:* Review and update the existing guidelines to conduct hydrographic surveys using ships of opportunity, i.e. HCA document “*Collection and Rendering of Hydrographic Data*”, aiming at offering volunteer ships the necessary tools to collect data that could support nautical cartography.
- *Provision of hydrographic services in Antarctica.* While the Commission recognized that Regulation 9 of SOLAS V is not directly applicable as such to Antarctic waters, it was agreed that there was a need to insist the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting - ATCM signatories-, to provide hydrographic services.
- *Raising awareness.* In liaison with COMNAP to organize an HCA Seminar to raise awareness on the importance of hydrographic activities in Antarctica, as part of COMNAP Council in Punta Arenas, Chile, 03 August 2009, taking into consideration discussions held at HCA-8 on common interest to IHO-COMNAP.
- *IBCSO project.* It has been agreed on the importance to brief national oceanographic committees and delegations to IOC, to support the IBCSO project that aims at collecting disperse bathymetric data of waters surrounding Antarctica.

## 6- Conclusions

1.- The IHO/HCA, supported by several international organizations and projects continues to facilitate the coordination and cooperation in hydrographic surveying and nautical chart production of Antarctic waters, therefore contributing to safety to navigation and protection of the marine environment.

2.- Despite the efforts made to raise awareness of the importance of assigning a higher priority to hydrography, the IHO/HCA is concerned by the extremely low progress achieved in terms of nautical chart production. This has two causes, one is the very few hydrographic surveys conducted and the second is the low priority assigned to the cartographic processes.

## 7. Venue and date of next meeting

The 9th HCA meeting shall take place in Cape Town, South Africa, 12/14 October 2009.