

**FIRST MEETING OF THE IHO INTER REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC1**

Auditorium Rainier III, Monaco, 05 June 2009

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1.- Background.

The XVIIIth IH Conference in 2007, following the Report of the IHO SPWGV 2005-2006, approved the establishment of the IHO Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) and its "Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure (ToR and RoP)". The IRCC was established as part of the re-structuring process of the IHO Committees and other Groups. The Conference approved the date of 1st January 2009, at the latest, for the entry into force of the re-structuring approved.

The Chairman of the Capacity Building Committee (CBC) was tasked by the Conference to assume the chairmanship of the IRCC starting 01 January 2009 till the first meeting of the Committee, where a new Chair should be elected.

The Conference requested the CBC Chairman to harmonize the ToR and RoP with the Chairman of CHRIS who was tasked to chair initially the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSCC) in cooperation with the IHB.

Finally, the Conference requested the IHB to take the appropriate actions for the implementation of the re-structuring in consultation with the Chairman of CHRIS and CBC, no later than 1st January 2009.

(Ref. XVII IHC Decisions 8, 9, 10 and 11).

2.- Work conducted before 01 January 2009.

The Chairmen of CHRIS and CBC in cooperation with the IHB harmonized the texts of the ToR and RoP of HSCC and IRCC. In doing so, it was taken into account the different scope and objectives of both committees as well as the comments provided by Member States during the XVII IHC. The harmonized texts were provided to IHO Member States annexed to CL 84/2007 dated 24 September.

Member States provided comments, the majority of which were considered in improving the texts. Nevertheless some other could not be incorporated for different reasons explained in CL 115/2007 dated 10 December. At that time, the IHB indicated that in the absence of any additional, substantive comments from Member States, this text will form the ToRs and RoPs for the HSCC and IRCC and their subordinate bodies, when they come into being on 1 January 2009.

On the 29th April 2008, the CBC Chairman in his capacity of future IRCC Chairperson issued IRCC Circular Letter 01/2008 proposing a few actions to the Members of the future Committee:

- .1 to agree that during 2009 a meeting shall take place to organize the IRCC work and to nominate its Chairman and Vice Chair,*
- .2 to agree that this meeting which will probably last one day, shall take place immediately after the 4th EIHC in June 2009 taking advantage of this event, unless a better venue and date is proposed,*
- .3 to agree that the attached draft agenda (Annex B), be considered as a starting point for the organization of the first IRCC meeting. Its content shall be improved with comments to be provided by the addressees of this letter.*

All replies received in June/July 2008 were in favour of having a meeting in 2009 back to back with the 4th EIHC, following the agenda proposed. With this support the CBC Chairman requested the IHB to consider allocating this meeting within the general program of the 4th EIHC. The result was that it was considered that IRCC could well meet on Friday 05, ideally in the morning, in order to allow the celebration of the World Hydrography Day, in the afternoon. This was informed to MSs through Conference Circular Letter 2 dated 17 September 2008.

Again, through CL 94/2008 dated 18 November, the IHB reminded MSs that the new IHO structure would enter in force as planned on the 1st of January 2009. (See attached diagram).

3.- Work conducted after 01 January 2009.

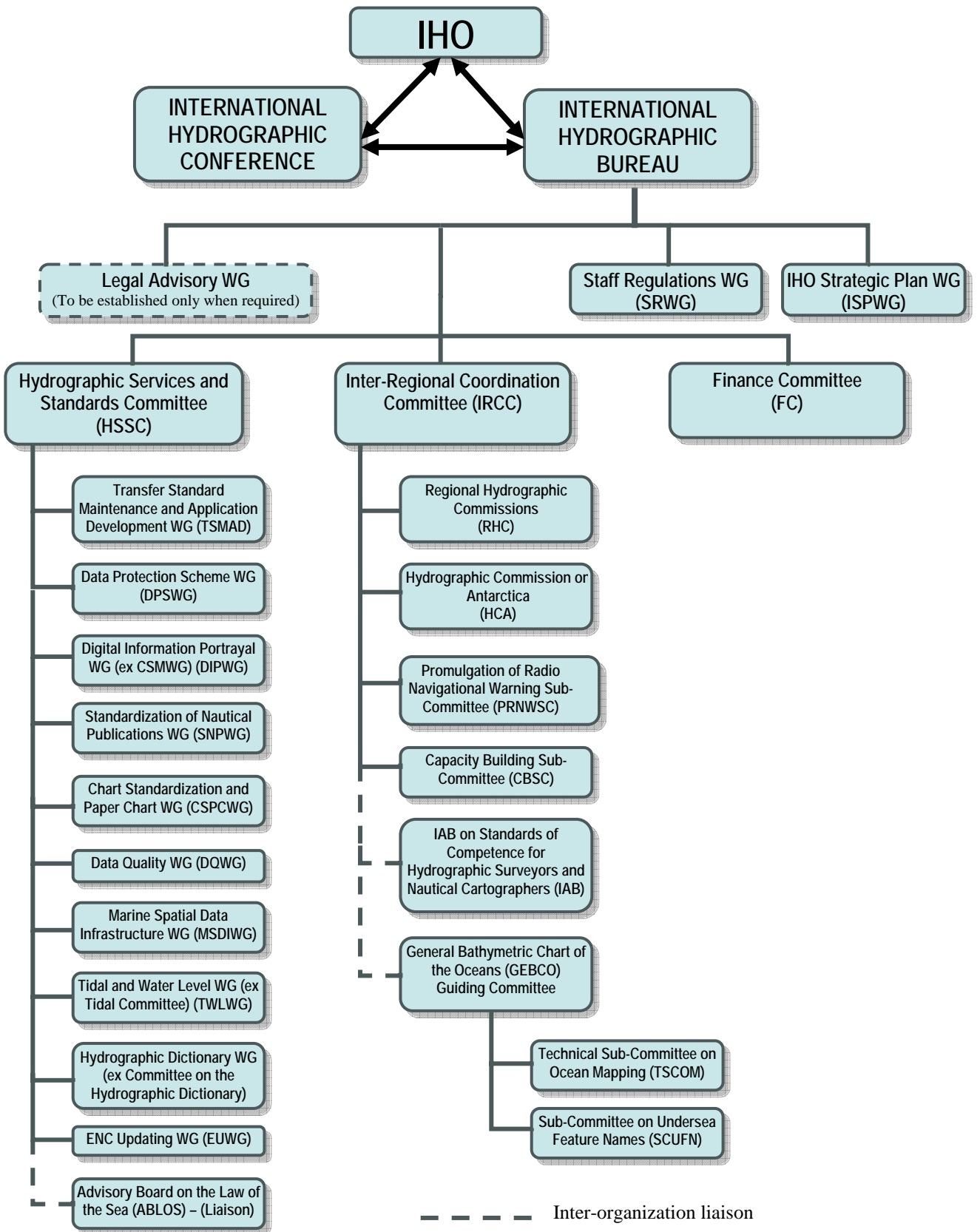
As previously indicated, on 01 January 2009, the IRCC was officially established.

The IHB updated the IHO web site and included the new structure. The IRCC section can be found under Committees and WG >>>> Inter-Regional Coordination Committee with access to the Committee's page and Committee's components.

Finally it can be reported that the IRCC Chairman started the preparation of the first IRCC meeting and issued IRCC Circular Letter 01/2009 dated 09 March providing some information and documents related to the event.

The Chairman continues to prepare Doc. IRCC1-07 Annex A "Proposed IRCC Standing Agenda and Structure of its meetings" and IRCC1-10 "Draft 2010 IRCC Work Program" both intended to contribute to the discussion as working documents.

===== THE END =====



IHO STRUCTURE STARTING 01 JANUARY 2009