**FIRST MEETING OF THE IHO INTER REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE**
**IHO-IRCC1**
Auditorium Rainier III, Monaco, 05 June 2009

# The Meso American and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) Chairman's Report

## 1. Introduction

The Meso American and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission exists since 1997 and, from that year promoted nine official meetings and one extraordinary meeting.

MACHC Region has thirty seven countries / territories. From these, twelve are MACHC Full Members (Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, France, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, The Netherlands, Suriname, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Venezuela), ten Associate Members (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, El Salvador, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Santa Lucia, and St. Kitts and Nevis), and others participants such as Dominican Republic and Belize, as well as industry observers like Caris, Jeppesen and ESRI. Trinidad and Tobago situation is pendant on communication with its Maritime Authority representative.

MACHC's works are organized in three committees: the International Chart Committee (ICC) the Electronic Chart Committee (ECC) and the Capacity Building Committee (CBC). Capacity building activities are managed by the MACHC-Chairman.

The current situation of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) may be showed from the following:[1]

- Local Warnings Information (LWI):
  - 51 % countries / territories produce
  - 8 % do not produce
  - 41 % do not inform

Current chart availability:

- INT Chart availability:
  - Small scale: 75 % of the area covered
  - Medium scale: 76 % of the area covered
  - Large scale: 72 % of the area covered
- ENC availability:
  - Small scale: 19 % of the area covered
  - Medium scale: 31 % of the area covered
  - Large scale: 21 % of the area covered

Detailed information may be found in the Annex.

MACHC current main challenges are:

- to involve all countries / territories in the Region in its works
- to promote MSI capacity building, which includes hydrography and cartographic production
- to promote solutions for hindrances on chart production

[1] Data source: S-55 data on Apr10th 2009, except those informed specifically informed by the Hydrographic Services to this report.

## 2.Current activities

2.1. International Charts

a) UK and US collaborating with Cuba in order to produce Charts nb 4154, 4158, 4166, 4170, and 4149.
b) The elaboration of an INT Chart production Plan.
c) UK, Cuba and US investigating the possibility of alternative solution for interim coverage of charts 4017 and 4021.
d) MACHC accept UK proposal to be responsible of INT Chart 4176.
e) MACHC accept the US proposal to have its national charts 4015, 4016, 4145, 4146, 4147, and 4148, serve as interim products until the INT Chart version can be produced.

2.2. Meso American Capacity Building Pilot Project

The project is focused on the Gulf of Honduras and involves basically three countries: Belize, Honduras, and Guatemala.

Meso-American Capacity Building Pilot Project's goal is to improve hydrographic capacity in the region by conducting a pilot project that demonstrates the importance of hydrographic information for safe navigation, protection of the marine environment, and sustainable economic growth. Its focus has been to put efforts on developing a Hydrographic Activity Implementation Plan for "Component 3: Enhancing Navigational Safety in Shipping Lanes" of a trinational project called "Environmental Protection and Maritime Transport Pollution Control in the Gulf of Honduras." This project involves the countries of Belize, Guatemala and Honduras, is administered by the InterAmerican Development Bank (IADB), and is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The Gulf of Honduras is a unique tri-national body of water that includes portions of the exclusive economic zones of Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras, and is home to the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System (MBRS)—the second largest barrier reef system in the world. Maritime transport plays a critical role in the region's overall economy, but the unregulated expansion of this sector places highly valued environmental resources in the Gulf, like the MBRS, at risk. In 2003, the five major ports in the Gulf accommodated nearly 4,000 ships and handled more than 12 million metric tons of cargo, and the volume of maritime traffic and goods shipped is only expected to increase. With an increase in port traffic and cargo loads comes an increase in the possibility of accidents and threats to human safety, property, and the environment—events that carry the potential to negatively affect the region's economy.

In 2000, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, the Central American Maritime Transport Commission (COCATRAM), and the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) officially approached the IADB with a request to finance the preparation of a tri-national project that would provide marine environmental protection along with sustainable economic development in the Gulf of Honduras. The project partners recognized the need to focus on marine transport issues as a way to protect marine ecosystems and related maritime-based economies in the Gulf, and, as such—with support from the IADB and the GEF—the project partners developed the *Environmental Protection and Maritime Transport Pollution Control in the Gulf of Honduras* Project.

The last activities were:

a) Discuss the side scan specifications with RESON to determine if they can meet IHO specifications and if so, possible restrictions.

b) Countries to provide existing tide gauge and geodetic network information directly to the NOAA or Navy hydrographers; UK and NOAA also to provide any related information they have.
c) Countries should produce and provide a list of navigation hazards to be proved or disproved in the surveys to the respective NOAA/Navy hydrographer as part of the survey planning.

2.3. Electronic Navigational Charts

a) Revise the Regional Priority List of Ports and Routes Plan that was prepared in previous MACHC meetings, it will be upload in MACHC website by mid November 2008, UKHO will update its data and ECC will make the complete list available. All Countries will revise and validate their data in the list by the end of November, if a MS don't send a revised list of ports and routes it will be considered updated. The final list will be available at MACHC website in January 1st. 2009.
b) To use the IMO definition of "adequate ENC coverage" (current paper chart catalogues) in making the MACHC ENC Regional Scheme and use this as the reference for ENC monitoring of developments.
c) The ENCs:
   c.1) The UKHO will discuss with Cuba, Venezuela, Colombia and Mexico the 4011 ENC in order to re-define its boundaries based on existing ENC data in the same Usage Band.
   c.2) The UKHO will discuss 4017 ENC with Cuba and US to consider if an existing ENC cell can be adopted instead, redefining its boundaries accordingly.
   c.3) Other 1:1 000 000 ENCs in the expanded MACHC region, will be identified based on the INT Paper Chart scheme and its boundaries proposed by the ECC to MACHC Member States. These additional ENCs should be reflected at the MACHC web site.
   c.4) UKHO will look at existing ENC coverage to be used in the interim.
d) To coordinate the overlap of cells between involved Member States, listing the existing cases and come up with a plan and report progress to the next MACHC meeting.

2.4. Capacity Building

MACHC developed in the past recently years, with the support of the IHO Capacity Building Fund:

| Event | Amount (€) |
|---|---|
| 1) Basic Hydrographic Training for Honduras, Guatemala, and Belize, in 2008 (the above mentioned Gulf of Honduras Project); | 9,267.00 |
| 2) Basic Hydrographic and Cartographic Training, to be held in Venezuela in 2008; | 16,000.00 |
| 3) Workshop on multibeam to be held in Brazil in 2008; | 12,000.00 |
| 4) Seminar on ENC and e-Navigation, to be held in Brazil in 2008; | 7,200.00 |

For 2009 – 2011 are planned the following activities, also with the support of the IHO Capacity Building Fund:

| Event | Amount (€) |
|---|---|
| 1) Cartographic update course, to be held in Brazil in 2009; | 20,000.00 |
| 2) Multibeam course, to be held in Brazil in 2009; | 30,000.00 |
| 3) Workshop on the hydrography of shallow waters, to be held in Brazil in 2010; | 9,000.00 |
| 4) Workshop on geospatial data processing and management, to be held in Brazil in 2011. | 17,000.00 |

Some of these activities are being conducted in conjunction with the South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (SWAtHC) and the resources may be applied to the three RHC in the Continent: the MACHC, the SWAtHC, and the SEPHC.

**3.Main experiences**

MACHC is composed by Hydrographic Services with a very heterogeneous level of action and development. This fact affects the Commission activities and effectiveness and, in the case of ENC production, without active participation of Member States with developed ENC capability, there is a risk to provision of "adequate coverage" until 2010. The special publication S55 can be of great help for monitoring the status of hydrographic and charting developments in the MACHC-area but because of the very heterogeneous level the present content is not representative for the reality. Because of this limitation there is no schematic overview along the lines of S55, but MACHC has the ambition to achieve this in the near future.

Regarding capacity building (CB), some important points must be considered:

- Until now, capacity building is focusing just on technical capacity. However, management capacity (including planning, to get resources, partnership, etc.) is also as important for hydrographic development as the technical.
- Language is a critical point for some activities, especially for those very much technical. To achieve plenty effectiveness, technical trainings, must be done in the main language of the trainer. This fact restricts activities and participations.
- MACHC and SWAtHC joint effort promoting CB activities demonstrate a very useful way to use financial and human resources.
- Participation of industry has been demonstrated very useful for both side, Hydrographic Offices and Companies. At the next meeting (November 2009), the Commission will promote an activity to be conducted by the industry participants.

**4.Proposals to the 1st IRCC**

Based on the above written, MACHC supports IRCC to provide strategic direction and to encourage the flow of information between both IRCC and its members, as well as the active participation by IRCC members, both in the annual meeting themselves, and in inter-sessional discussions.

Finally,MACHC proposes the IRCC:

a) To recommend neighbor Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) to identify common needs of interest and promote joint activities(eg the CPRNW MSI training course, which has been delivered in region, to several RHCs, including MACHC, using the same tutors each time. The result is a well proven course, delivered consistently and efficiently).
b) To address the Capacity Building Sub-Committee to approve the support to activities which promotes management capacity development.

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

Annex:
Detailed information about LWI and Chart production in MACHC Region.

Detailed information about LWI and Chart production in MACHC Region.
(Information updated on April 10th, 2009)

| | Country | Producer | Local Warning | INT-S | INT-M | INT-L | ENC-S | ENC-M | ENC-L |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Antigua & Barbuda | | - | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 50 | 25 |
| 2 | Bahamas | | - | 100 | 100 | 100 | 70 | 0 | 15 |
| 3 | Barbados | | - | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| 4 | Belize | | Yes | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 75 | 0 |
| 5 | Brazil | | Yes | 70 | 95 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Colombia | | Yes | 100 | 80 | 41 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Costa Rica | | No | | | | | | |
| 8 | Cuba | | Yes | 100 | 97 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Dominica | | - | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 50 |
| 10 | Dominican Republic | | No | | | | | | |
| 11 | El Salvador | | Yes | 10 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | France-French Guyana | | Yes | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 20 |
| 13 | France-Guadelupe & Martinica | | Yes | 100 | 100 | 86 | 100 | 100 | 71 |
| 14 | Grenada | | Yes | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| 15 | Guatemala | | - | | | | | | |
| 16 | Guyana | | - | 100 | 100 | 100 | | | |
| 17 | Haiti | | - | | | | | | |
| 18 | Honduras | | Yes | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | Jamaica | | - | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 20 | Mexico | | Yes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 40 | 50 | 0 |
| 21 | Netherlands-Antilles & Aruba (Leeward) | | Yes | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 95 |
| 22 | Netherlands-Antilles (Windward) | | Yes | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 50 | 40 |
| 23 | Nicaragua | | - | | | | | | |
| 24 | Panama | | - | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25 | St. Kitts & Nevis | | - | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| 26 | St. Lucia | | - | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 27 | St. Vincent & Grenadines | | Yes | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| 28 | Suriname | | Yes | 100 | 60 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 29 | Trinidad & Tobago | | - | 100 | 75 | 100 | 0 | 50 | 75 |
| 30 | UK-Anguilla | | Yes | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 31 | UK-British Virgin | | Yes | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 32 | UK-Cayman | | - | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 33 | UK-Monserrat | | No | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 100 |
| 34 | UK-Turks & Caicos | | Yes | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| 35 | USA-Navassa | | Yes | 100 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 36 | USA-Puerto Rico & US Virgin | | Yes | 0 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 90 |
| 37 | Venezuela | | - | | | | | | |