



**REPORT OF THE SOUTH WEST ATLANTIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (SWAtHC)  
By the Chairman, RAdm (RS) Andrés Roque DI VINCENZO, ARGENTINE**

**1. Chairman:** RAdm (RS) Andrés Roque Di Vincenzo, Argentina.

**2. Members:** Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay.

**3. Meetings:**

- 1° Meeting Buenos Aires, Argentina, April 10-12, 2007.
- 2° Meeting Río de Janeiro, Brazil, March 18-19, 2008.
- 3° Meeting Montevideo, Uruguay, March 26-27, 2009.

**4. Agenda items:**

- The CBC Representative Report about the Technical Visit to the Hydrographic Offices in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay was presented. On this report the basic elements to produce a regional hydro-cartographic Plan as well as the actions for capacity building were identified.

Continuance of a Planning Working Group composed of technical staff from the three HO's was also recommended to ensure compliance with the agreements to be adopted by the Commission and to facilitate the exchange of experiences and capacities.

Other recommendations were:

- To establish an ENC regional scheme.
  - To define the responsibilities in the production of cells in neighbouring areas.
  - To develop a capacity building plan for the committee.
  - Permanent revision of the IHO Working Programme to identify the activities to be carried out by the Committee.
- The regional representation in the future IHO Council was analysed and it was decided that the Chairman of the Commission would be the Representative of the Committee in the future Council.
  - CBC decisions related to the courses to be made during the period 2009 – 2011 were presented, taking into account that although some of the proposals had been presented by the SWAtHC, the resources might be shared by the three RHC in the Continent: SWAtHC, MACHC and SEPHC. It is important to highlight the permanent CBC support to this region which favors the optimization of the products of the Hydrographic Offices and promotes the advantages of the developing capacities in the region.  
As illustrative information, the activities approved by this Commission represents an amount of € 111,200.00.
  - The report of the Cartographic Planning Working Group was approved and it was turned into a Planning Commission, with the consequent approval of its Terms of Reference and Rules of

Procedure. This Commission will coordinate INT Charts and ENC's production at a regional level in order to achieve their harmonization and to avoid overlapping, in compliance with WEND Principles.

- The SWAtHC Cartographic Plan was presented to the IHB, according to the goals set for the creation of the Cartographic Planning Working Group.
- To promote a permanent and a regional active participation within the Organization different levels, representatives from SWAtHC who would take part in the several OHI Commissions and WG (HSSC,IRCC, CBC, ISPWG) were designated.

Representatives of the SWAtHC in different IHO bodies:

	Permanent	Substitute
CHRIS/HSSC*	SHN	DHN
IRCC*	Chairman SWAtHC	Vice chairman SWAtHC
CBC	DHN	SHN/SOHMA
ISPWG	SOHMA	DHN

\* From January, 2009

- It was revised how to take part in the IEHG and it was decided to forward the question of such representation to the "Comité Intergubernamental de la Hidrovía Paraguay-Paraná (CIH)". Bolivia and Paraguay were also invited to take part in SWAtHC.
- Therefore, Bolivia and Paraguay Hydrographic Offices were invited to attend the SWAtHC future meetings to encourage the states regional participation, integration and regional coordination according to provisions in T1.3 Resolution. The request by these two states to take part in this Commission as Associated Members was accepted and then SWAtHC Statute was delivered to the representatives of the two states in order to start the integration process. Up to now they have not signed the Statute yet.
- The final reports of HCIWWG, ISPWG and MSDIWG for the 4º EHC were approved.
- The need of the treatment and definition of the expression "inland waters" by the HCIWWG was analysed. It was also pointed out the importance of a correct definition in Spanish.
- The members of this Commission agreed that a continuous and rigorous check of their products to achieve the harmonization between the ENC's and Paper Charts is essential.
- SWAtHC Members were recommended to revise S-100 Standard, and the Planning Committee was commissioned to analyze the suitable period of adaptation and application after its approval.
- The Planning Committee was commissioned to revise the possibility of a joint edition of such standardized nautical publication as the Symbols and Abbreviations Terms, List of Lighthouses and Maritime Aids to Navigation and a publication with explanations about different topics related to ENC.
- SWAtHC members are encouraged to attain maximum widespread of "TRANSITIONING FROM PAPER CHART TO ELECTRONIC CHART DISPLAY AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS (ECDIS) NAVIGATION" which appears as an annex to IMO SN. 1/Cir.276.
- An administrative agreement between Brazil through its "Dirección de Hidrografía y Navegación (DHN)" and Argentina through its "Servicio de Hidrografía Naval (SHN)" was approved to be made for the purpose of achievement mutual support for ISM transmission via SafetyNET service, in case the LES comes to standstill.

- According to provisions in IHB Cir 89/2009 on methods used by Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC) to determine the compilation parameters suitable for the ENC's in the region, and the discussion during the 20<sup>th</sup> CHRIS Meeting held in Brazil in November 2008, where Member States and Regional Hydrographic Commission Chairmen were invited to study such experience and taken into account its application within their own regions, the Planning Committee was commissioned by SWAtHC to study the validity of applying the BSHC model in the areas international boundaries into their jurisdiction.

## 5. Conclusions

- The incorporation of Bolivia and Paraguay as SWAtHC Associate Members strengthen regional expectations thus fostering the mutual cooperation, growth and integration among countries and Organizations. By including Bolivia and Paraguay in SWAtHC all country members of the "Hidrovia Paraná Paraguay" will be represented.
- One of the RHC main goals is to create and strengthen capabilities through the CBC. Thus, we may highlight SWAtHC achievement by pointing out the courses, workshops and seminars carried out as well as those scheduled for the near future:
  - Workshop on river hydrographic Survey. Perú, November, 2007.
  - Technical support for regional hidro-cartographic plan development. Uruguay, February, 2008
  - MBES training course. Brasil. November, 2008
  - Workshop on "e-Navigation" and ENC, Brasil, November, 2008 (During CHRIS Meeting).
  - Refresher course in ENC. Brasil – 2009.
  - On the job training on MBES. OMG/UNB, Brasil - 2009.
  - Workshop on hydrographic Surrey in port and shallow Waters. Uruguay, 2010.
  - Workshop on processing and administration of spatial databases. Brasil, 2011.
  - Practical course in processing and dissemination of ISM. Brasil, 2011.
- ENC production developments in the region:

In this sense we may remark the increasing level in ENC production which will enable an adequate regional ENC coverage when the use of ECDIS becomes compulsory.

Quantifying the mentioned effort:

Argentina: 15 ENC's at IC-ENC. Future planned production : 50 units for the next two years.

Brazil: 94 ENC's at IC-ENC, Future planned production: 30 units for the next two years.

Uruguay: 18 ENC's for sale through SHOMA itself. Future planned production: 21 units for the next two years.

Finally, the study for ENC harmonization in bordering zones initiated by the Planning Committee and the comparison between paper charts and ENC represent so much qualitative indicators.