

**10th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC10
Goa, India, 4-6 June 2018**

US-CANADA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

report to IRCC10

submitted: May 14, 2018

1. Chair

Chair: Rear Admiral Shepard M. Smith (USA) from March 26, 2018 to current
Dr. Geneviève Bécharde (Canada) from January 2018 to March 26, 2018
Mr. Denis Hains (Canada) from March 20, 2017 to January 2018

Vice-Chair: Dr. Geneviève Bécharde (Canada) from March 26, 2018 to current
Rear Admiral Shepard M. Smith (USA) from March 20, 2017 to March 26, 2018

2. Membership

Members: USA, CANADA

Associate member(s): NONE

Observers: INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION

3. Meetings:

The following USCHC meetings have taken place since IRCC9:
CHS Executive Committee-Admiral Shepard M. Smith Meeting- Ottawa, Canada, January 11, 2018
Chart Adequacy Committee-Conference Call, March 02, 2018;
41st Meeting – Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, March 26, 2018

42nd USCHC is scheduled for March 19, 2019 in Biloxi, Mississippi, USA

A Satellite Derived Bathymetry workshop is scheduled to be held in September in Ottawa, Canada (see Appendix A, IRCC-9 Action 34).

4. Current USCHC Working Groups:

- a) Chart Advisory Committee (CAC) is under consideration for being rescoped to be the proposed “UNITED STATES – CANADA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION HYDROGRAPHIC GEOSPATIAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE (HGSPSC).” The draft TOR of the new proposed committee was submitted by the CAC to USCHC41 and is under review currently. See USCHC41-5Aii.
The Terms of Reference will ensure appropriate recognition and acceptance of Statement of Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management in the work programmes (see A-1 Decision No 22).

5. Status of IRCC actions (relevant for the USCHC, CA or USA):

SEE APPENDIX A

6. Agenda Items (selected):

Organizational and Personnel Update

- Retirement of Denis Hains as Director-General, CHS (January 2018)
- Succession of Dr. Dr. Geneviève Bécharde as Director-General, CHS (January 2018)
- Retirement of Capt Brian Connon, Director, Maritime Safety Office (forthcoming summer 2018)

Selected National Plans relevant to Hydrography (selected) Adopted and Underway

- Ocean Protection Plan of Canada (2016-2023), a major 5-year initiative to provide modern hydrography and charting in key areas across Canada
- NOAA released the National Charting Plan, a strategy to improve NOAA nautical chart coverage, products, and distribution, in November 2017. See: <https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/news/final-national-charting-plan.html>
- CHS Strategic Directions was released in January 2018. See: <http://charts.gc.ca/documents/help-aide/strategicdirections-orientationsstrategiques-eng.pdf>

Chart Advisory Committee Report

- The CAC is considering rescoping its committee to a data-centric model. See USCHC41-5Aii “*HGPSC Terms of Reference Draft.*”

MSDI

- Both CA and US participate actively in the MSDIWG and the UNGGIM Marine Working Group and are supporting the goals and work programs of these groups.

IHO Working Groups

- US and CA discussed its national participants in various Working Groups of the IHO and upcoming meetings of the IRCC, HSSC, and Council.

Capacity Building

- The National Reports of CA and US from USCHC41 summarize relevant hydrographic training opportunities through the COMREN (CA) network and others.
- US (NOAA) is inviting CBSC to consider nominating two candidates from the CBSC program to participate in the summer 2019 Chart Adequacy Workshop in Silver Spring, MD USA. See associated forthcoming paper being submitted to the CBSC-16.
- Calvin Martin (USA) was selected to represent the USCHC at CBSC-16.

Regional ENC Scheming

- US and CA informed of plans underway to reschem their national ENC suites to 6 and 3 scale bands, respectively. NOAA and CHS agreed to study implications of the respective scheme plans in transboundary waters with an initial focus on implications for the Great Lakes. USCHC is committed to developing and implementing a grid-based, non-overlapping ENC scheme in the trans-boundary areas in a manner that will provide clients with a ‘seamless’ experience.

Seabed 2030

- US and CA are considering contributions to Seabed 2030. At USCHC-41 the U.S. introduced its assessment of holding of soundings at the IHO DCDB in light of the goals of the Seabed 2030 initiative. The methodology and results are summarized USCHC41—5Dii “*Gap Analysis for US Seabed 2030 Mapping.*”
- CA is considering its role and contributions to Seabed 2030 at present.

For further details of the completed activities and planned activities of the USCHC, please see the USCHC-41 report and associated action items.

Note: agenda items to include, but not limited to, Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI), Crowd-sourced Bathymetry (CSB), Satellite Derived Bathymetry (SDB), Worldwide ENC Database (WEND) matters, Capacity Building (CB), performance indicators (PI), engagement with stakeholders, use of SDB and risk assessment methodologies in uncharted or poorly charted areas in their respective regions as a way of developing survey priority areas as part of attracting donor funding, response to natural disasters, implementation of mechanisms that encourage the widest possible availability of all hydrographic and particularly bathymetric data, so as to support the sustainable development, management and governance of the marine environment (see A-1 Decision N° 21), identification and recommendations on whatever actions may be required to incorporate the Statement of Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management in the work programmes (see A-1 Decision N° 22), etc.

7. The USCHC cooperation with stakeholders (organizations, industry, etc.):

The USCHC convenes in conjunction with major international annual hydrographic conferences. In 2018, the USCHC took place during the week of the 2018 Joint Canadian Hydrographic and National Surveyors’ Conference (26-29 March 2018).

In 2019, the USCHC meeting will take place the week of US Hydro 2019 conference (March 19-22, 2019) in Biloxi Mississippi. These conferences include hundreds of experts in hydrography and related disciplines from private, public, and academic sectors.

8. Conclusions:

The Commission continues to operate well.

9. Achievements and lessons learned:

The USCHC is pleased with the progress of collaboration. Early and ongoing communication, and sharing of information on a timely basis, has been critical to promoting an understanding of respective national directions, hydrographic priorities and interests, and resulting opportunities for collaboration and mutual assistance.

10. Actions required of IRCC:

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. note this report.

Rear Admiral

Shepard M. Smith

USCHC Chair

Appendix A

**LIST OF ACTIONS: IRCC-9 (2017)
Updated following USCHC-41 (2018)**

N.	Action (Agenda item)	Responsible	Deadline	USCHC Status
2	to engage with Member States in their regions to identify potential instructors to accompany MSI trainings in order to become MSI trainers and report back to IRCC	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	DONE
3	to consider using Trainer for Trainers (TFT) and e-learning methods to support the development of CB Phase 1 for developing coastal States and report back to IRCC	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	Ongoing
4	to encourage the attendance of Member States and Observers at WWNWS-SC meetings, to highlight the use of the Joint Manual on MSI to ensure correct terminology and formats are used in MSI messages, to encourage closer engagement of the National MSI Coordinators of Member States with the relevant NAVAREA Coordinator(s) and report back to IRCC	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	Chris Janus (US) to attend IRCC-10
5	to encourage closer coordination between NAVAREA Coordinators and Regional CB Coordinators in planning and student selection for the CB MSI training courses	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	COMPLETED (Satisfactory status for USCHC)
10	to invite Member States to investigate the possibilities of fund raising and engagement in CB via national organizations and report back to the IRCC	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	USCHC provide summary of relevant training opportunities for 2018 to IHO
14	to encourage the Member States in the region to consider making all ENC data available through the RENCs (7)	RHC Chairs	December 2017	Addressed. See USCHC41 Report
15	to encourage the work of the IHO community to increase existence of ENC schemes at regional level (7)	RHC Chairs	December 2017	Underway. Both countries looking at ENC scale rescheming. Initial investigation of transboundary implications underway focusing on in the Great

				Lakes region See USCHC-41 report.
18	to encourage Member States in the region to nominate RHC MSDI Ambassadors to promote MSDI and to help Member States to prepare the national reports with respect to the status of MSDI (7)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	MSDI (pocs) in CA and US, if HO colleagues wish to contact for information. CA: Chris.Hemmingway@dfo-mpo.gc.ca US: Sebastian.Carisio@nga.mil Patrick.Keown@noaa.gov
19	to consider the OGC proposal and seek for funding and report back to the IRCC (7)	ad-hoc group (Canada, Denmark (Coordinator), USA and IHO Secretariat)	IRCC10	
21	to encourage IHO Member States to release datasets or subsets into the public domain via the IHO DCDB (7)	RHC Chairs	September 2017	See USCHC-41 report action
22	to request IHO Member States to consider reviewing data gathering restrictions within their maritime areas of jurisdiction to enable CSB activities to be undertaken (7)	RHC Chairs	September 2017	On agenda for USCHC-41
23	to encourage IHO Member States to support the CSB initiative with positive actions, such as requiring all research vessels collect bathymetric data for late uploading, when on passage or when it does not interfere with other research activities (7)	RHC Chairs	September 2017	On agenda for USCHC-41
24	to investigate possible ways to encourage Member States to collect and use CSB data and report back to IRCC (7)	CSBWG	IRCC10	Discussed at USCHC-41 agenda item # 6. USCHC notes US Chairs and Canada Vice Chairs CSBWG. Other critical contributors include Peter Willis (CA)
29	to encourage Member States to organize contribution of bathymetric data in shallower coastal areas to GEBCO in order to support the production of higher resolution	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	Possible USCHC statement: <i>“Provision to GEBCO of full resolution bathymetric data is desirable where</i>

	gridded data products and report back to IRCC (7)			<p><i>consistent with national requirements. Where the provision of full-resolution data is not feasible, Member States should contribute composite grids (100m? 500m?) derived from the original data at the highest resolution practicable.</i></p> <p><i>US makes data publically available.</i></p> <p><i>CA is committed to making hydro data publically available. see open.canada.ca"</i></p>
30	to review the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended <i>Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions - RHC</i> and submit to the IRCC (8)	drafting group (Brazil, Canada, USA and IHO Secretariat (Coordinator)	IRCC10	Completed
32	to encourage Member States in the region to consider using satellite derived bathymetry and risk assessment methodologies in uncharted or poorly charted areas in their respective regions as a way of developing survey priority areas as part of attracting donor funding and report back to IRCC (8)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	SDB Workshop planned for Ottawa, September 18-20, 2018.
33	to encourage the use of satellite derived bathymetry and risk assessment methodologies for developing survey priority areas as part of attracting donor funding using the project rationale as presented in doc. IRCC9-08C (8)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	Ongoing.
34	to encourage Member States to participate in the workshop on satellite derived bathymetry sponsored by Canada in March 2018 (8)	RHC Chairs	December 2017	<p>Rescheduled to be held September 18-20, 2018 in Ottawa Canada.</p> <p>POC CA: louis.maltais@dfo-mpo.ca & rene.chenier@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</p> <p>US: John.Nyberg@noaa.gov & shachak.peeri@noaa.gov</p>

35	to invite Member States to provide technical resources to the DQWG and report back to IRCC (9)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	US representatives to DQWG are Sean.legeer@noaa.gov & Joshua.r.clayton@nga.mil
36	to note the list of events organized by other inter- governmental and stakeholders indicated in <i>doc. IRCC9-09B</i> , consider how the IHO might be represented in those events that are considered relevant and liaise with the IHO Secretariat for the appropriate and report back to IRCC (9)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	ONGOING
37	to encourage Member States to support the establishment of the UN-GGIM Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information (WG-MGI) by working with their national representatives to the UN-GGIM to offer interventions in favor of the WG-MGI during the next UN-GGIM meeting (10)	RHC Chairs	June 2017	COMPLETED US poc: John.Nyberg@noaa.gov CA representative: Chris.hemmingway@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
38	to encourage Member States to attend the next UN-GGIM meeting and the UN-GGIM-MGI Side Event (10)	RHC Chairs	July 2017	COMPLETED
39	to promote the UN-GGIM in their regions (10)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	ONGOING US POC: John.Nyberg@noaa.gov CA POC: Chris.hemmingaw@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
43	to consider using the IHO Online Registration System for their meetings and report back to IRCC (11)	RHCs	IRCC10	The Online system works.
44	to invite Member States to review entries related to their region in IHO C-55 and P-5 (Yearbook) at least annually (11)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	US: Reviewed C-55 information on the IHO website and will contact IHO. Data presented is from 2016 submission. P-5 requires revisions- at least websites have changed.

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