

**10th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC10
Goa, India, 30 May -01 June 2018**

EASTERN ATLANTIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

EAtHC report to IRCC10

1. Chair

Chair: Agostinho Ramos da Silva (PT): until November 16, 2012
Bruno Frachon (FR): November 16, 2012 until September 18, 2014
Abdelouahed Dihaji (MA): September 18, 2014 until October 20, 2016
Juan A. Aguilar Cavanillas (SP): October 20, 2016 until present.

Vice-Chair: 12nd meeting: Bruno Frachon (FR)
13rd meeting: Abdelouahed Dihaji (MA)
14th meeting: Juan A. Aguilar Cavanillas (SP)

2. Membership

Members: Cameroon, France, Morocco, Nigeria, Portugal, Spain

Associate members: Benin, Cabo Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo.

Observers: Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, UK, USA.

3. Meetings:

Following CHAtO meetings have taken place:

12nd meeting: Lisbon (PT), 14th – 16th November 2012

13rd meeting: Casablanca (MA), 16th – 18th September 2014

14th meeting: Cádiz (SP), 18th – 20th October 2016

Next meeting: 15th EAtHC will take place 17th – 19th October 2018 in Lagos, Nigeria.

4. Current [RHC] Working Groups:

- a) Capacity Building WG CBWG
- b) Region G International Charting Coordination WG (G-ICCWG)
- c) IHO-EU Network WG (acronym)

5. Status of IRCC actions (relevant for the EAtHC):

IRCC8/37: send to the IHB a copy of their regulations regarding the designation of Member States to occupy the seats on the IHO Council allocated to their Commission

Done (EAtHC Circular Letter 03/2016 on December 12nd).

6. Agenda Items:

NTR

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

NTR

8. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed:

Since the establishment of the Capacity Building Sub Committee, several technical visits have been conducted and training courses have been offered to the EAtHC countries. Despite these successful activities, it is still necessary to strengthen Capacity Building initiatives in the region, identify more efficient strategies that could be shared by the countries themselves and guarantee the commitment and participation of the concerned coastal States.

Some Member States and/or associates (Rep of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Togo, Cabo Verde and Guinea Bissau) do not have a national Hydrographic Service, although some of them have created specific services to address the safety of navigation and committees for hydrographic and navigation security issues.

There exists a big concern about the necessity to know and understand the needs and hydrographic priorities for the Nations as well as to have the right skills and tools to get the message through to all different African governments and try to create a project to integrate all the hydrographic data/information. This issue has been highlighted in all the meetings of the period.

9. Achievements and lessons learned Conclusions:

The collaboration between the National Hydrographic Offices of Spain and Portugal resulting in the bilateral arrangement on the limits of the international sections in the mouth of two rivers considered as boundaries between both countries after the agreement on relevant baselines, as well as the production of new charts covering the area of the estuary of the Guadiana River. Besides, Spain and Portugal will establish a common LAT (Lowest Astronomical Tide) reference for the whole Iberian Peninsula. Both countries are carrying out joint surveys in common areas or areas of mutual interest, including support of countries in the Gulf of Guinea.

As a conclusion I should mention that this Hydrographic commission is not only focused on capacity building, but also encourages the collaboration among other Hydrographic Offices.

10. Actions required of IRCC:

The IRCC is invited to take note of this report.

Juan Antonio Aguilar Cavanillas
EAtHC Chair