

**10th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC-10**

GOA, INDIA, 4-6 JUNE 2018

MESO-AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

HC REPORT TO IRCC-10

CHAIR

Rear Admiral Enrique Flores Morado (Mexico) from March 2017

VICE-CHAIR

MRS. Kathryn Ries (United States) from March 2017

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERS: Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, France, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

MEETINGS:

Last meeting: 18th Conference Varadero, Cuba November 2017

Next meeting: 19th Conference Cartagena, Colombia November 2018

CAPACITY BUILDINGS

A three-year plan for CB activity in the MACHC region was approved by the membership in December 2016. This plan covers the period 2018-2020 and is reviewed annually (during MACHC meetings) to ensure it meets regional requirements. The plan is based on assessing the phase of development of each of the coastal states within the MACHC region (as determined by the IHO's three phases of CB) and arranging training activity to build the necessary capability to meet SOLAS treaty obligations. There is a great deal of 'SOLAS awareness' required in this region.

➤ **Activities completed.**

- Technical Implementation Visits were undertaken to Dominican Republic (January 2018) and El Salvador (December 2017)
- An MSI Training Course was delivered in St Michael, Barbados, in June 2017 for the following coastal states:
Barbados (5), British Virgin Islands, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras and Nicaragua.

- A two-day Hydrographic Awareness Seminar was organized to precede the main MACHC meeting in Varadero, Cuba in November 2017. The following coastal states were funded to attend this Seminar:
Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Cuba (2), Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Panama, St Kitts & Nevis, St Vincent & The Grenadines and Suriname.
- Data Management Workshop with SWAtHC in Montevideo, Uruguay, November 2017.
Mexico participated.
- Digital Photogrammetry with Satellite Images training course with SWAtHC in Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 2017.
Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Venezuela participated.

➤ **Activities planned for 2018**

- Technical Visit to Guatemala
- Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography
- MBES Processing
- Tides & Water Level Workshop for Spanish Speakers

➤ **MARINE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (MEIP)**

The MEIP is working to create a geospatial framework as a foundation to enable sustainable economic growth through greater understanding of the ocean, coastal ecosystems and changing environment within the region, using hydrographic data as a planning and management tool.

➤ **MACHC INTEGRATED CHARTING COMMITTEE (MICC)**

- Currently MACHC has available 842 ENC'S of which 12 are band 1, 34 band 2, 106 band 3, 239 band 4, 406 band 5 and 45 band 6.
- Cruise ship analysis identified 43 ports lacking large scale coverage.
 - ✦ 14 of these 43 ports have ENC coverage planned.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED AND CHALLENGES YET TO BE ADDRESSED

1. Communication is the fundamental basis in international relations; if there is not understanding or dialogue between the parties it is difficult to reach agreements. The MACHC is a region where several languages are spoken, the most common being the Spanish with 05 member countries and 06 associated and the English with 04 member countries and 07 associated, followed by the Dutch with 02 member countries and the French with 01 member country and 01 associated as well as Portuguese with the 01 member country; therefore, efforts have been made to promote the Spanish language, there is still a need for more courses in Spanish, as well as the translation of IHO publications in that language.

2. Low budget allocated to hydrography which hinders the carrying out of hydrographic surveys, acquisition of equipment to carry out these works, production of nautical cartography by the States of the MACHC, training and even participation in the different forums of the OHI or MACHC.

3. Although most of the member countries are in phase 3 of the hydrographic capacity development strategy of the IHO, many of the countries in the region have a limited hydrographic development, including some that have not reached stage 1 of the aforementioned strategy, a strategy is needed to take effective actions to progressively increase those capacities that the IHO considers essential for a Hydrographic Service.

ACHIEVEMENTS/OUTPUTS/CONCLUSIONS

1. Coverage of nautical charts in the region has not been reached, however it has been possible to identify areas of cartographic interest through of cruise ship analysis through AIS information, there is also a great interest in the development of a methodology for the hydrographic risk assessment of the region by the different countries.

2. Some countries in the region have contributed funding to strengthen the hydrographic capacities in the Region. A greater contribution from the States is still needed to support these initiatives, as is the case of the FOCAHIMECA Project carried out by Mexico through the Mexican Agency for cooperation and the Mexican Navy.

3. There is also a renewed interest in MSDI with the involvement of some of the countries of the region in the working group on marine spatial information of UN-GGIM