

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

Paper for Consideration by IRCC10

Revision of the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended

Submitted by:	Brazil, Canada, USA and IHO Secretariat
Executive Summary:	This paper proposes amendments to the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended, according to Action IRCC9/30, including the establishment of an IRCC document on the Roles and Responsibilities of Regional Hydrographic Commission Chairs.
Related Documents:	IHO Publication P-6 (A-1 Proceedings)
Related Projects:	xxx

1. Introduction / Background

Action IRCC9/30 established a drafting group composed of representatives from Brazil, Canada, USA and IHO Secretariat *to review the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions - RHC and submit to the IRCC at its 10th meeting.* This action respond to Decision A-1/5 on Pro-9.

2. Analysis/Discussion

The draft revised IHO Resolution 2/1997 (Annex A) updates the framework under which the IHO and the RHCs *bring together CSs within a region to progress the work of the IHO and extract the highest societal value of MS effort for the benefit of the nation, region and wider global marine geospatial community.*

Annex B proposes an IRCC document on the *Roles and Responsibilities of Regional Hydrographic Commission Chairs* as a consequence of the revised text of Annex A.

3. Conclusions

This proposal brings the IHO Resolution 2/1997 to date and align it with Article 8 of the IHO General Regulations as directed by Decision A-1/5.

4. Recommendations

IRCC is invited to consider this revised text of the IHO Resolution 2/1997 and to approve the draft IRCC document *Roles and Responsibilities of Regional Hydrographic Commission Chairs.*

5. Justification and Impacts

This revised text aligns the framework to achieve the objectives of the IHO and the companion document *Roles and Responsibilities of Regional Hydrographic Commission Chairs.*

6. Action Required of IRCC

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. endorse this revised text of the IHO Resolution 2/1997 (Annex A);
- b. approve the IRCC document *Roles and Responsibilities of Regional Hydrographic Commission Chairs*; and
- c. take any other action considered appropriate.

TITLE	Reference	Last amendment(CL or IHC/A)	1 st Edition Reference
ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS (RHC)	2/1997 as amended	xx/2018	T1.3

GENERAL

1 The mission of the IHO is to create a global environment in which States provide adequate and timely hydrographic data, products and services and ensure their widest possible use. To accomplish this mission, Member States (MSs) are to pursue, on an intergovernmental basis, their cooperation on hydrographic activities on a regional basis.

2 IHO MSs have established regional coordination as an essential factor to support enhancements in the exchange of information and foster training and technical assistance between all nations. To effectively implement this, Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) are recognized by the Assembly as the primary organs to bring together CSs within a region to progress the work of the IHO and extract the highest societal value of MS effort for the benefit of the nation, region and wider global marine geospatial community.

ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS

3 It is resolved that the IHO Secretariat shall encourage Member States having common regional interests in data collecting or nautical charting to form Regional Hydrographic Commissions to cooperate in the undertaking of surveys and other projects. As part of IHO, the RHCs shall complement the work of the Organization, establish common regional approach's, and balance regional issues with global and supra-national geospatial needs.

4 RHCs shall provide, in pursuance of the resolutions and recommendations of the IHO, regional coordination with regard to nautical information, hydrographic surveys, production of nautical charts and documents, technical cooperation and capacity building (CB) projects and Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure projects, related to the work of the IHO. RHCs, led by IHO MSs, should enable the exchange of information and consultation among the hydrographic services of all regional Coastal States concerned. Geographically adjacent RHCs should liaise with each other to coordinate the provision of hydrographic services. Cooperation among all RHCs, including among those not adjacent, is encouraged and expected.

5 RHCs shall assess regularly the status of nautical information, navigational warnings, hydrographic surveying, nautical charting, hydrographic capacity and requirements within their region and provide reports to the work of the relevant IHO subordinated bodies and inputs to relevant IHO publications.

6 As part of the IHO, RHCs shall be properly constituted, follow standard processes, and have activities in line with the objectives of the IHO as described in Article II of the Convention on the IHO, and to contribute to the approved IHO Work Programme.

7 Geographical areas of the RHC will normally coincide with INT chart regions, modified as appropriate to meet regional requirements and special circumstances. There are provisions for Region M (Antarctica) because of its special status.

8 The working languages used by the RHC shall be agreed upon by their members and designated to ensure the best communication between participants. The reports and IHO documents relating to RHC activities shall be in one of the official languages of the IHO. For correspondence with the IHO Secretariat, one of the official languages shall be used.

9 The IHO Secretariat shall be invited to attend meetings of RHCs as Permanent Observers.

MEMBERSHIP

10 RHC membership may include full Members and Associate Members, willing to contribute to the objectives of the IHO in the fields of hydrography, nautical charting, nautical information, navigational warnings, marine spatial data infrastructures (MSDI) and related fields in the region concerned. The roles of full members, associated members and observers will be defined by each RHC, in line with the IHO Basic Documents. The invitation procedures for membership will be established by each RHC, following common approaches that are open, inclusive and supportive of a regional coordination role.

11 Full membership will be granted to IHO Member States within the region who sign the statutes of the RHC. Associate membership is available to other IHO Member States or other nations who are non-IHO members, with active hydrographic concerns in the region, and being signatories of the statutes of the RHC. International Organizations, Industry and Academia, active in the region concerned, may request to participate, or may be invited by the RHC to participate as Observers or Subject Matter Experts.

LEADERSHIP

12 Leadership of the RHC will be documented within the Commission Statutes, and establish the position of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary, with associated selection process, and term of duties. Duties of the Commission Leadership shall be in line with this Resolution and the IRCC document titled *Roles and Responsibilities of Regional Hydrographic Commission Chairman*.

CAPACITY BUILDING

13 Where CB is required, RHCs are recommended to establish an internal body to deal with CB matters. All RHCs are encouraged to appoint a CB Coordinator to ensure that regional capacity building activities are aligned and coordinated in accordance with the IHO CB Strategy and with procedures and practices developed by the CBSC. Such appointment should be reflected in the RHC Statutes to define the role of the CB Coordinator. This part-time allocation to assist RHCs should come primarily and ideally from a Hydrographic Office (HO) within the region. If that is not possible then the RHC might agree to request support from another RHC or an HO that might wish to take that responsibility.

14 The CB Coordinators shall be nominated having in mind the importance of continuity; shall be in regular contact with the corresponding RHC Chair as well as with the CBSC Chair, the IHO Secretariat and the relevant NAVAREA Coordinators. Ideally should be a CBSC member with access to RHC meetings. However, RHCs may nominate a CBSC member different of the CB Coordinator.

REPORTING

15 Chairs of RHCs shall report to the IHO Assembly on RHC activities, the findings of the assessments made in accordance with paragraph 3, future plans and the agreed key targets that support RHC tasks detailed in the IHO Work Programme. The Chairs of RHCs shall also submit reports to IRCC meetings and an annual report to the IHO Secretariat indicating progress made against the agreed key targets in the IHO Work Programme. Between sessions of the IHO Assembly, reports of studies or other activities, which may be considered of general interest to all IHO Member States, shall be sent by Chairs of RHCs to the IHO Secretariat for general dissemination.

16 The Chair will provide the secretariat support for the RHC meetings and the intersessional coordination within the region. The IRCC shall maintain a list of responsibilities of the Chairs to ensure the work of the RHCs.

17 The following structure is to be used for National Reports made to those RHCs. These reports are also intended to streamline information to be used by the IHO Secretariat to update the Country Information System (CIS):

Structure for National Reports to Regional Hydrographic Commissions

Executive summary

1. Hydrographic Office / Service: General, including updates for the IHO Yearbook e.g. reorganization
Note: use the available template for updates to the Yearbook
Use separate sections if more than one national HO works within region for a single MS.
2. Surveys: Coverage of new surveys.
New technologies and /or equipment
New ships
Crowdsourced and satellite-derived bathymetry – national policy
Challenges and achievements
3. New charts & updates: ENC coverage, gaps and overlaps
ENC distribution method
RNCs
INT charts
National paper charts
Other charts, e.g. for pleasure craft
Challenges and achievements
4. New publications & updates: New Publications
Updated publications
Means of delivery, e.g. paper, digital
Challenges and achievements
5. Maritime Safety Information (MSI) Existing infrastructure for transmission
Statistics on work of the Nacional Coordinator
New infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan
Challenges and achievements
Note: use the available template for the self-assessment
6. C-55 Latest updates
Note: use the available template to update C-55
7. Capacity Building Offer of and/or demand for Capacity Building
Training received, needed, offered
Status of national, bilateral, multilateral or regional development projects with hydrographic component. (In progress, planned, under evaluation or study)
Definition of bids to IHO CBSC
8. Oceanographic activities General
GEBCO/IBC's activities, GEBCO 2030 activities
Tide gauge network New equipment Problems encountered
9. Spatial data infrastructures Status of MSDI
Relationship with the NSDI
Involvement in regional or global MSDI efforts
National implementation of the Shared Data Principles – including any national data policy and impact on marine data.
MSDI national portal
Best practices and lessons learned
Challenges and achievements
10. Innovation Use of new technologies
Risk assessment
Policy matters
11. Other activities Participation in IHO Working Groups
Meteorological data collection
Geospatial studies
Preparation for responses to disasters

Environmental protection
Engagement with the Maritime Administration
Aids to Navigation matters
Magnetic and gravity surveys
International engagements
Etc.

12. Conclusions

15 The IHO Secretariat will keep templates for the National Reports and its presentations to RHC meetings. The templates will be in a format compatible with the IHO databases.

IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE (IRCC)

Roles and Responsibilities of Regional Hydrographic Commission Chairs

In accordance with IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended, Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) have been established to better coordinate the activities of IHO Member States on a regional basis. Each RHC elects or nominates a Chair and a Vice-Chair for a period to lead the activities within the respective region in accordance with their own statutes.

This document articulates the roles and responsibilities of these officers during their terms of office for the administration of the periodic RHC meetings and the intersessional periods. The list is not exhaustive and may vary depending on the location and capacity of the member States and the region as a whole.

RHC meetings:

Pre-meeting activities:

- i. Published meeting invitation letter, normally 4 months prior to the meeting dates;
- ii. Liaise with the hosts for the logistics and invitation letters for visa;
- iii. Provide logistic information for participants;
- iv. Circulate a draft agenda and call for additional items;
- v. Create a meeting programme; and
- vi. Provide copies of submitted reports and documents to the designated IHO Secretariat for uploading to the RHC website.

During meeting:

- i. Chair and manage the RHC meeting;
- ii. Provide the secretariat support for the meeting;
- iii. Encourage participation by all delegates;
- iv. Cause meeting notes to be made; and
- v. Cause actions/decisions to be recorded.
- vi. Coordinate the dates of the next meeting

Post meeting:

- i. Circulate draft meeting report within agreed time period from the end of the meeting;
- ii. Circulate draft list of actions/decisions within agreed time period from the end of the meeting;
- iii. Publish final meeting report, including final list of actions/decisions, within agreed time period from the end of the meeting;
- iv. Monitor progress on actions; and
- v. Ensure timely handover of responsibilities to incoming Chair.

Intersessional activities:

- i. Lead and coordinate regional responses to natural disasters in accordance with IHO Resolution 1/2005, as amended.
- ii. Encourage regional cooperation and coordination of nautical information, hydrographic surveys, production of nautical information, training, technical assistance and advice;
- iii. Oversee the work and activities of the regional INT Chart and ENC coordinator(s);
- iv. Oversee the work and activities of the regional CB coordinator and the development of the regional CB plan for submission to the CBSC;
- v. Encourage the expansion of individual Member States' capabilities and capacity to meet their SOLAS obligations;
- vi. Generate and present the annual report to IRCC; and
- vii. Liaise with adjacent RHCs on items, issues and topics of mutual interest and benefit.