

TITLE	Reference	Last amendment (CL or IHC/A)	1 st Edition Reference
ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS (RHC)	2/1997 as amended	xx/201x	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 Coastal States (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

43 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 (RHC) to cooperate in the undertaking of surveys and other projects. As part of IHO, the RHC shall complement the work of the Bureau Organization, establish common regional approach's, and balance regional issues with global and supra-national geospatial needs.

24 RHCs are intended to shall provide, in pursuance of the resolutions and recommendations of the IHO, regional co-ordination with regard to nautical information, hydrographic surveys, production of nautical charts and documents, training, technical cooperation and hydrographic capacity building (CB) projects and Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure projects, related to the work of the IHO. They (RHCs), led by IHO MSs, should enable the exchange of information and consultation between 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.

2-bis Where Capacity Building is required in a region, RHCs are recommended to establish an internal body to deal with CB matters and to designate a focal point to ensure continuity in the CB process. This part-time allocation to assist RHCs should come primarily and ideally from an 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.

These regional contact points, the responsibilities of which should be given directly and in detail by the RHC concerned, shall have the support of the RHCs; shall be nominated having in mind the importance of continuity; shall be in permanent contact with the corresponding RHC Chairman as well as with the CBC Chairman. Ideally should be a CBC member with access to RHC meetings.

In the absence of any other viable alternative and despite its limited human resources availability a request of support could be requested to the IHB. (Note: moved to paragraph 13)

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.

36 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 in accordance with to contribute to the approved IHO Work Programme.

Commented [JL1]: Use of Shall should be maintained

Commented [JL2]: This statement is part of the existing Resolution. A decision is needed regarding modification.

Commented [JL3]: Recommend keeping shall in this case.

Commented [JL4]: Recommend keeping, the RHCs are intended to do these activities.

Commented [JL5]: This references the original language, in this section. Decision needed regarding a change.

Commented [JL6]: Can consider the expansion to include "where possible"

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 special provisions for Region M (Antarctica) because of its special status.

~~4 _____ RHC membership may include full members, associate members, and observers, all willing to contribute to the safety of navigation in the fields of hydrography, nautical charting, nautical information or navigational warnings in the region concerned. The roles of full members, associated members and observers will be defined by each RHC.~~

~~Full membership is reserved for IHO Member States within the region who sign the statutes of the RHC. Associate membership is available to other IHO Members States or States of the region who are non-IHO members, both being signatories of the statutes of the RHC. Other States and International Organizations active in the region concerned may be invited by the RHC to participate as observers.~~

~~The invitation procedures should be established by each RHC. (moved to paragraph 11)~~

58 _____ 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 ~~at least~~ one of the official languages of the IHO. For correspondence with the ~~Bureau~~ IHO Secretariat, one of the official languages ~~of the IHO~~ shall be used.

69 _____ A representative of the ~~Bureau~~ The IHO Secretariat shall be invited to attend meetings of RHCs as Permanent Observers. (former paragraph 6)

MEMBERSHIP

410 _____ RHC membership may include full ~~Members~~ members, and ~~Associate M~~ associate members, and ~~observers~~, all willing to contribute to the ~~safety of navigation~~ objectives of the IHO in the fields of hydrography, nautical charting, nautical information or navigational warnings, marine spatial data infrastructure (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 open approaches that are open, inclusive and supportive of a regional coordination role.

Commented [JL7]: Should? But really this needs to be done.

Commented [JL8]: Again, this needs to be done.

11 _____ Full membership is reserved for IHO Member States within the region who sign the statutes of the RHC. Associate membership is available to other IHO Members States or ~~States of the region~~ other nations who are non-IHO members, with active hydrographic concerns in the region, and both being signatories of the statutes of the RHC. ~~Other States and 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 Expert. ~~The invitation procedures should be established by each RHC. (Note: former paragraph 4)~~

Commented [JL9]: Modified language in line with General Regulations.

LEADERSHIP

12 _____ Leadership of the RHC ~~should~~ 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 are encouraged to shall be in line with this Resolution and the IRCC document titled *Roles and Responsibilities of Regional Hydrographic Commission Chairman*.

CAPACITY BUILDING

2-bis 13 _____ Where Capacity Building CB is required ~~in a region~~, 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 and to designate a focal point to ensure continuity in the CB process. This part-time allocation to assist RHCs should come primarily and ideally from an 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. (note: former paragraph 2 bis)

14 _____ ~~These regional contact points, the responsibilities of which should be given directly and in detail by the RHC concerned, shall have the support of the RHCs; CB Coordinators shall be nominated having in mind the importance of continuity; shall be in permanent regular contact with the corresponding RHC Chairman as well as with the CBSC Chairman, the IHO Secretariat and the relevant NAVAREA Coordinators. Ideally should be a~~

~~CBS~~C member with access to RHC meetings. ~~However, RHCs may nominate a CBS~~C member different of the ~~CB~~ Coordinator. ~~In the absence of any other viable alternative and despite its limited human resources availability a request of support could be requested to the IHB (note: previously paragraph 2 bis):~~

~~5~~ ~~—————~~ 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 at least one of the official languages of the IHO. For correspondence with the Bureau, one of the official languages of the IHO shall be used.

~~6~~ ~~—————~~ A representative of the Bureau shall be invited to attend meetings of RHCs. (Moved to paragraph 9)

~~6bis~~ ~~—————~~ RHCs shall assess regularly the hydrographic capacity and requirements within their region.

REPORTING

~~7~~15 Chairs of RHCs shall report to the ~~I.H. Conference~~IHO Assembly on RHC activities, ~~the findings of the assessments made in accordance with paragraph 3 hydrographic capacity and requirements within their region,~~ future plans and the agreed key targets that support RHC tasks detailed in the IHO Work Programme. The Chairs of RHC's shall also submit ~~an annual~~ reports to the ~~IHB-IRCC meetings and an annual report to the IHO Secretariat~~ indicating progress made against the agreed key targets in the IHO Work Programme ~~for general dissemination~~. Between sessions of the ~~HCIHO 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 ~~Bureau-IHO Secretariat~~ for general dissemination.

Commented [JL10]: This is language from the original document.

~~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

~~8~~17 The following structure is to be used for National Reports made to those RHCs ~~that wish to receive such reports~~. These reports are also intended to streamline information to the 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. <u>Note: use the available template for updates to the Yearbook</u> <u>Use separate sections if more than one national HO works within region for a single MS.</u>
2	Surveys:	Coverage of new surveys. New technologies and /or equipment New ships Problems encountered <u>Crowdsourced and satellite-derived bathymetry – national policy</u> <u>Challenges and achievements</u>
3	New charts & updates:	ENCs <u>coverage, gaps and overlaps</u> ENC Distribution method RNCs INT charts National paper charts Other charts, e.g. for pleasure craft Problems encountered <u>Challenges and achievements</u>
4	New publications & updates:	New Publications Updated publications Means of delivery, e.g. paper, digital

		Challenges and achievements Problems encountered
5	MSI	Existing infrastructure for transmission Statistics on work of the Nacional Coordinator New infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan Challenges and achievements Problems encountered Note: use the available template for the self-assessment
		Note : Use the WWNWS template for this section
6	C-55	Latest update (Tables) 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_CBS ₂ C
8	Oceanographic activities	General GEBCO/IBC's activities, <u>GEBCO Seabed 2030 activities</u> Tide gauge network New equipment Challenges and achievements Problems encountered
9	Spatial data infrastructures	Status of MSDI <u>Relationship with the NSDI</u> <u>Involvement in regional or global MSDI efforts</u> <u>National implementation of the Shared Data Principles – including any national data policy and impact on marine data.</u> <u>MSDI national portal</u> <u>Best practices and lessons learned</u> <u>Challenges and achievements</u>
10	Innovation	<u>Use of new technologies</u> <u>Risk assessment</u> <u>Policy matters</u>
11	Other activities	Participation in IHO Working Groups Meteorological data collection Geospatial studies Preparation for responses to disasters prevention Environmental protection Astronomical observations <u>Engagement with the Maritime Administration</u> <u>Aids to Navigation matters</u> Magnetic and Gravity surveys MSDI Progress International <u>engagements</u> Etc.
12	Conclusions	
15		<u>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.</u>

Commented [JL11]: Duplicate, remove one.