

PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE IHO RESOLUTION 2/1997

Submitted by:	IHO Secretariat
Executive Summary:	This paper proposes amendments to the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended, as a response to Decision C2-20.
Related Documents:	Doc. IRCC10-06.2, Draft revised IHO Resolution 2/1997 (BRA, CAN, USA, Sec.) Doc. C2-4.2, Report of the IRCC to C-2, Annex-B Decision A1/5/o – Review of IHO Resolution 2/1997 Decision C2/20, IHO Resolution 2/1997
Related Projects:	N/A

Introduction and Background

1. IRCC was tasked by the Assembly at its first session (A-1) to review the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended *Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions - RHC* in accordance with Decision A-1/5 on Pro-9 (item o).

IRCC10 endorsed the draft IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended (original with small amendments (Doc. IRCC10-06.2) and Chair submitted the IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended, to the Council (Doc. C2-4.2, Report of the IRCC to C-2, Annex-B). Following the endorsement of the IHO Resolution 2/1997, Member States also approved the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended (IHO CL 08/2019).

Decision C2/20 of the Council tasked the IRCC to prepare more substantive changes to IHO Resolution 2/1997 and to submit the consolidated amendments to the IHO Resolution 2/1997 at C-3 for subsequent approval at A-2.

Analysis and Discussion

2. The draft revised IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended, proposes more substantive changes, **and** consolidated amendments and updates the framework under which the IHO and the RHCs cooperate and aligns this relationship with the IHO General Regulations as amended.

Conclusions and Recommendations

3. 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 and Decision C2/20. The IRCC is invited to endorse the draft revised IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended-*Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions – RHC*.

Justification and Impacts

4. 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 (item o) and Decision C2/20 in order to better reflect the cooperation between the IHO and the RHCs.

Action Required of the IRCC

5. The IRCC is invited to:
- a) endorse the amendments to the IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended (Annex-A),
 - b) take any other action as it may be 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/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 are to pursue, on an intergovernmental basis, their cooperation on hydrographic activities on a regional basis.

2 IHO Member States 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 within a region to progress the work of the IHO and extract the highest societal value of Member States effort for the benefit of the nation, region and wider global marine geospatial community.

3 The IHO has established an Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) with the aim to establish, coordinate and enhance cooperation in hydrographic activities amongst States on a regional basis, and between regions, especially on matters associated with Capacity Building; the World-Wide Navigational Warning System; General Bathymetry and Ocean Mapping; Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures; Education and Training and the implementation of the WEND suitable for the need of international shipping. The IRCC is the IHO Committee tasked to coordinate and engage directly with RHCs on regional activities.

ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS

4 It is resolved that the IHO Secretariat and the relevant IHO Bodies 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. Recognized by the Assembly, the RHC shall complement the work of the Organization, establish common regional approach's, and balance regional issues with global and supra-national geospatial needs.

5 RHCs should 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, capacity building (CB) projects and Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure projects, related to the work of the IHO. RHCs, led by IHO Member States, should enable the exchange of information and consultation among the hydrographic services of all coastal States concerned in the region. 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. RHCs should be aware of the technical maturity level and fiscal challenges that may influence state involvement. The processes and management of the RHC meetings should be designed to accomodate the broad participation of nations within the region.

6 RHCs should 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.

7 RHCs should be properly constituted, follow standard processes where possible, and have activities in line with the objectives of the IHO as described in Article II of the Convention on the IHO, and Article 8 of the General Regulations. Regional activities should align with and support the intent and objectives of the approved IHO Work Programme. RHCs should take into account the actions, recommendations and outcomes of the IRCC.

8 Geographical areas of the RHCs 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.

9 The working languages used by the RHCs should 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.

10 The IHO Secretariat shall be invited to attend the meetings of RHCs as Permanent Observer.

MEMBERSHIP

11 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 or navigational warnings, marine spatial data infrastructure (MSDI) and related fields in the region concerned. The roles of full members, associated members and observers should be defined by each RHC, in line with the IHO Basic Documents. The invitation procedures for membership should be established by each RHC, following approaches that are open, inclusive and supportive of a regional coordination role.

12 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 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, Non-Governmental Organizations, Industry and Academia stakeholders, active in the region concerned may be invited by the RHC to participate as Observer or Subject Matter Expert.

LEADERSHIP

13 Leadership of the RHC should be documented within the Commission Statutes, and establish the position of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary, with associated selection process, and term of duties. Duties of the Commission Leadership are encouraged to be in line with this Resolution and the IRCC document titled *Roles and Responsibilities of Regional Hydrographic Commission Chairs*.

PROVISION OF HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES

14 RHCs are recognized by the IHO to coordinate the breadth of regional activities needed to fulfill the provisioning of hydrographic services for international treaty or other regulatory requirements, and general marine geospatial information needs. RHCs will identify and assess INT Charts and ENC coverage within the region, highlighting those areas of significant navigational risk to the producer nations, and work to resolve the issues in a timely manner. As new marine geospatial products and services are developed within the S-100 Universal Hydrographic Data Model, RHCs should engage with data owners, product and service providers, and other stakeholders as appropriate to ensure a coordinated and cohesive regional approach is considered.

CAPACITY BUILDING

15 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 CB procedures and practices developed by the Capacity Building Sub Committee (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 Offices (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.

16 The CB Coordinators should be nominated having in mind the importance of continuity; should 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 CB Coordinator should be a CBSC member with access to RHC meetings. However, RHCs may nominate a CBSC member different from the CB Coordinator.

REPORTING

17 Chairs of RHCs shall report to the IHO Assembly on RHC activities, the findings of the assessments made in accordance with paragraph 6, 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 the 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.

18 The Chair of the RHC 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.

19 The following structure is recommended for National Reports made to RHCs. These reports are intended to streamline information to be considered by the RHC Conferences and 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 or the online system.
Use separate sections if more than one national HO works within region for a single Member State. |
| 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 | MSI | Existing infrastructure for MSI dissemination
Statistics on work of the National Coordinator
New infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan
Challenges and achievements
Note: use the WNWWS template for this section |
| 6 | C-55 | Latest update
Note: use the available template to update C-55 or the online system. |
| 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 proposals and requests to the IHO CBSC
8	Oceanographic activities	General GEBCO/IBC's activities, GEBCO Seabed 2030 activities Tide gauge network New equipment Challenges and achievements
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 meetings 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	
20		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.

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5 RHCs should 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, training, technical cooperation, hydrographic capacity building (CB) projects and Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure projects, related to the work of the IHO. They (RHCs), led by IHO Member States, should enable the exchange of information and consultation among the hydrographic services of all regional coastal States concerned in the region. 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. RHCs should be aware of the technical maturity level and fiscal challenges that may influence state involvement. The processes and management of the RHC meetings should be designed to accommodate the broad participation of nations within the region.

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10 The IHO Secretariat shall be invited to attend **the** meetings of RHCs **as Permanent Observer**. (former paragraph 6)

MEMBERSHIP

11 RHC membership may include full **Members and Associate Members** 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 **should** be defined by each RHC, **in line with the IHO Basic Documents**. The invitation procedures for membership **should** be established by each RHC, **following approaches that are open, inclusive and supportive of a regional coordination role**. (former paragraph 4)

12 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** being signatories of the statutes of the RHC. **Other States and International Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Industry and Academia stakeholders**, active in the region concerned may be invited by the RHC to participate as **Observer or Subject Matter Expert**. **The invitation procedures should be established by each RHC**. (Note: former paragraph 4)

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

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ENC distribution method
RNCs
INT charts
National paper charts
Other charts, e.g. for pleasure craft
Problems encountered Challenges and achievements |
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Updated publications
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