

**SECOND MEETING OF THE IHO INTER REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC2
New Orleans, USA, 17 – 18 June 2010**

Report from the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica

Chairman: Captain Hugo Gorziglia, IHB Director
Vice Chairman: Rear Admiral Ian Moncreef, UK National Hydrographer

Since the last IRCC, the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) held its 9th Meeting in Simon's Town, Cape Town, South Africa, 12-14 October 2009. 12 out of the 23 IHO Member States : Australia, Brazil, Chile, France, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom and Venezuela were present, as well as Observers (COMNAP, IAATO, GEBCO, IBCSO, SCAR and the SANAP).

The Commission re-elected Rear Admiral Ian MONCRIEFF (UK) as Vice Chairman of the HCA and proceed to review the status of the actions agreed at the last meeting and confirmed that all actions had been completed. The reports of the international organizations as well as from IHO Member States were commented as well as the reports on the progress made regarding the INT chart scheme, ENC scheme and production and on the C-55 status with regard to the Antarctica. Several actions were identified to progress further the subjects discussed.

The Commission took note with satisfaction of the constant support and contribution made by COMNAP and IAATO. It was agreed to deliver a seminar on the Importance of Hydrography in Antarctica at the next IAATO Annual Meeting that shall take place in Turin, Italy, June 2010 and also to conduct technical visits to IAATO ships before heading to Antarctica to brief Captains on the procedure to collect and render hydrographic data after acting as Ships of Opportunity. Especial discussion took place to identify the main topics to be included in the presentation and discussion that shall take place at the Antarctic Treaty Experts Meeting in December 2009 to discuss about matters related to Tourism in Antarctica.

Another relevant discussion took place following the report of the Chairman of the HCA Hydrographic Survey Prioritization Working Group. As a result of an interesting exchange of views, several actions were identified, all aiming at improving the safety of navigation as quickly as possible, through the exchange and collection of high priority new hydrographic data, needed to produce the INT Charts in the region "M" scheme.

The Commission also agreed on a number of actions to be carried out during the inter-sessional period, with clear identification of the responsibilities and deadlines.

One particular action was to submit a working paper to the next IRCC meeting in relation to the concern expressed by Australia and France on unsatisfactory bathymetric data sharing practice. The aim is to reinforce data exchange among HCA members (possible extension to RHCs members), to improve INT chart compilation and production. The working paper is attached to this document as Annex A.

Following a kind invitation from the UKHO, the Commission decided to have the 10th HCA meeting in Cambridge, UK, 20/22 September 2010.

Hugo Gorziglia
Captain – Chilean Navy
IHB Director
HCA Chairman

WORKING PAPER SUBMITTED BY HCA TO IRCC2**1.- Background.**

At the 9th HCA Meeting (October 2009) the Commission examined the National Reports and concern was expressed on the unsatisfactory bathymetric data sharing practice that has been noticed. This lack of cooperation goes against the IHO spirit and affects INT Charts producer nations in the region M. After discussion it was agreed that this situation should be made known to IRCC2 for consideration through a Working Paper with the final aim to reinforce data exchange among HCA members (with a possible extension to other RHCs if that was the case), to improve INT chart compilation and production.

2.- Existing procedure.

IHO Pub. S-4 (A-104.1) defines INT Charts as a chart which :

- a. is produced with limits and scale in conformity with an internationally agreed scheme of such charts
- b. carries the INT number of that sheet,
- c. conforms to the Chart Specifications of the IHO (S-4 Parts B and C),
- d. conforms to the Regulations of the IHO for International Charts (S-4 Part A).

Also S-4 (A-104.2) refers to the Producer Nation as a Member State of the IHO which undertakes the production of an international chart.

The maintenance of the INT Chart is covered by S-4 (A-401.1) that says: Chart maintenance is the process of examining relevant data as **it is received** and taking appropriate action to ensure that all information required for safe navigation is incorporated in the charts in use.

S-4 (under A-402.1) sets the following:

“ The responsibility for initiating the issue of a replacement New Chart, New Edition, Large Correction or NM Block normally rests with the producer nation. A printer nation receiving data which might give rise to a New Chart, New Edition, Large Correction or NM Block should pass it to the producer nation for action. All other members of the IHO should similarly pass such data to the producer nation for action.”

3.- The Problem.

The present specifications (A-402.1) considers that it is the responsibility of the Producer Nation to receive data from a Printer Nation and all other IHO Members and take appropriate action to incorporate it in the charts.

But there is not a specific reference that encourages all IHO Member State to have a proactive spirit and to consider with high priority the provision of data to any INT Chart Producer Nation, either coming from their assets or from other national institutions. It seems that the existing wording in A-402.1 is not being interpreted as a strong willingness of the IHO to have its MSs providing INT Chart Producer Nations with relevant data to improve the quality of INT Charts, no matter the origin of the data.

4.- Proposal to be considered by IRCC2

It is proposed to amend A-402.1 in S-4 by replacing its last sentence by the following:

“In order to improve INT chart compilation, production and maintenance, all IHO Member States should consider with high priority the provision of relevant data to the INT Chart Producer Nation for action. IHO Member States shall also consider liaising with its national institutions holding relevant data to facilitate its provision to the appropriate INT Chart Producer Nation for action.”