

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC
ORGANIZATION

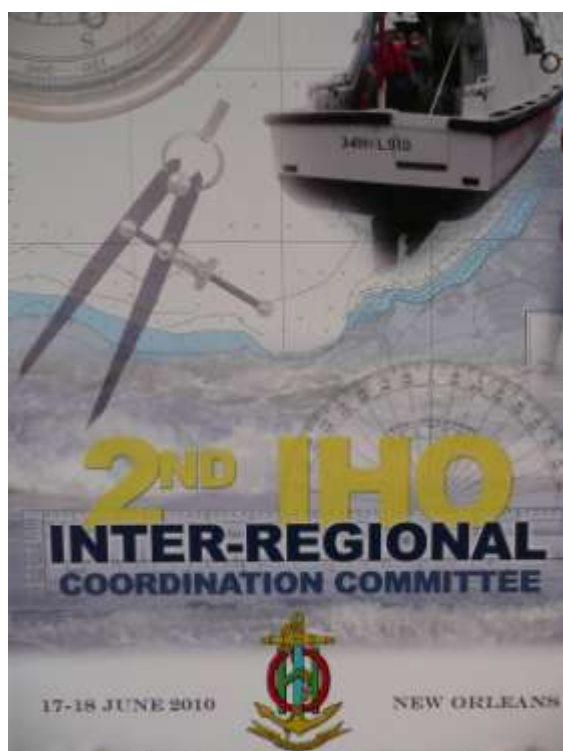


ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

IRCC3-02.1

Inter-Regional Coordination Committee
Comité de coordination inter-régional

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Contents

0. Introduction	3
1. Co-operation with Member States (Element 3.1)	3
2. Co-operation with non Member States (Element 3.2)	7
3. Capacity building management (Element 3.3)	7
4. Capacity building assessment (Element 3.4)	8
5. Capacity Building Provision (Element 3.5)	8
6. Maritime Safety Information (Element 3.6)	9
7. Ocean Mapping Programme (Element 3.7)	9
Annex - IRCC2 Action List	11

0. Introduction

The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) established the Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) in 2009 within the new structure of the organization to promote and coordinate those activities that might benefit from a regional approach.

In general terms the principal objectives of the IRCC are to:

- establish, coordinate and enhance cooperation in hydrographic activities amongst States on a regional basis, and between regions;
- establish co-operation to enhance the delivery of capacity building programs;
- monitor the work of specified IHO Inter-Organizational Bodies engaged in activities that require inter-regional cooperation and coordination;
- promote co-operation between pertinent regional organizations and review and implement the IHO Capacity Building Strategy, promoting Capacity Building initiatives.

This report provides an overview of IRCC related activities as mandated by Programme 3 of the IHO Work Programme 2010 (ref. CL 82/2009). The following sections are organized according to the elements of the Programme.

1. Co-operation with Member States (Element 3.1)

1.1. Regional Hydrographic Commissions (Tasks 3.1.1 to 3.1.14)

Ten out of the eleven plenary meetings of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions planned in the Programme took place:

- Nordic Hydrographic Commission (NHC): 54th Meeting - Reykjavík, Iceland (13-15 April 2010)

The commission discussed various matters such as print-on-demand, validation of multibeam data and organization of surveying. A workshop on nautical publications and a meeting of the Nordic Chart production Expert Working Group were held later in the year.

- North Sea Hydrographic Commission (NSHC): 29th Meeting - Brest, France (28-29 September 2010)

The commission reviewed the status of INT chart and ENC production and discussed a number of issues such as the use of remote updating services for ENCs, methods for cleaning survey depth data, methodology for assessing and displaying survey status, reference surfaces for the North Sea area, re-survey strategies, and HO finance models. The commission tasked its working group on European Union (EU) Marine and Maritime policies to continue as focal point on the development of EU activities and agreed to open it for participation by all EU HOs. It decided to establish an ENC Harmonization Working Group in order to promote increased consistency, common encoding standards and an improved level of ENC quality in the region.

- US /Canada Hydrographic Commission (USCHC): 33rd Meeting - Ottawa (CHS), Canada (17-18 May 2010)

The main topics of discussion were the development of consistent ENCs for the trans-boundary areas between Canada and the United States and the formation of the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC).

- Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC): 15th Meeting - Gdynia, Poland (21-23 September 2010)

The commission discussed such items as the current and future use of S-100 within BSHC member states, the status of leisure craft charts and the methodology for assessing and displaying survey status. A number of BSHC working groups (Chart Datum WG, Re-Survey Monitoring WG, Bathymetry Database WG, Baltic Sea Hydrographic Depth Information Harmonization WG) were tasked to continue their activities while the remaining work from the Baltic Sea ENC Harmonization WG was transferred to the Baltic

Sea INT Chart Committee WG. An additional working group was established to initiate a study of Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure in the Baltic.

- Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (EAthC): 11th Meeting - Accra, Ghana (24-26 November 2010)

Besides the review of the status of INT chart and ENC production in the region, the discussions centred mainly on capacity building issues, increasing participation in IHO activities and improving the provision of Maritime Safety Information.

- South East Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SEPHC): 9th Meeting - Cartagena, Colombia (15-17 November 2010)

The commission discussed INT chart and ENC schemes, reviewed the status of the 2008-2012 capacity building programme and sketched the next phase (2013-2017).

- South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC): 10th Meeting - Honiara, Solomon Islands (9-10 November 2010)

The commission reviewed the status of INT chart and ENC production in the region and the relations with other regional organizations; it discussed the development of regional initiatives to support States with limited hydrographic capabilities.

- Meso American and Caribbean Hydrographic Commission (MACHC): 11th Meeting Paramaribo, Suriname (8-12 November 2010)

The commission centred its discussions on INT chart and ENC issues and capacity building.

- North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC): 10th Meeting - Dhaka, Bangladesh (23-24 February 2010)

The commission discussed INT chart status, ENC coverage, C-55 update, disaster response and capacity building requirements.

- South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (SWAtHC): 4th Meeting - Buenos Aires, Argentina (25-26 March 2010)

The Commission reviewed the terms of reference of its planning committee and discussed ways and means to improve ENC harmonization on River Plate (Rio de la Plata).

The meeting reports or the lists of conclusions and actions are available on the IHO web site except for USCHC and SWPHC.

The 4th meeting of the ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission (RSAHC) was postponed: it is due to be held in Muscat, Oman on 21-23 March 2011.

Following informal discussions in June 2009 at the 4th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference in Monaco, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Russian Federation and United States agreed to set up a new RHC for the Arctic Ocean Region. The new Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC) held its first meeting in Ottawa, Canada from 4 to 6 October 2010 where the Statutes of the Commission were signed (ref. CL 63/2010).

Two working groups of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC) held meetings in 2010. The MBSHC International Charting Coordination Working Group met in Paris, France (16-17 February 2010) to progress technical discussions on the INT chart scheme covering the Aegean Sea. The 10th meeting of the MBSHC Working Group on Safety of Navigation in the Black and Azov Seas (BASWG-10) took place in Istanbul, Turkey (27-28 May 2010) to discuss hydrographic, cartographic and Maritime Safety Information (MSI) dissemination issues and cooperation among the Black Sea countries in order to fulfill SOLAS requirements and IHO recommendations throughout the region.

The East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC) held its 4th coordinating meeting in Bangkok, Thailand (21-22 January 2010). Its ENC Task Group met three times (Bangkok, Thailand, 20 January 2010; Hong Kong, China, 17-19 March 2010; Pattaya, Thailand, 19-21 July 2010) to address ENC overlaps, gaps and data harmonization in the Region.

1.2. Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (Task 3.1.15)

The 10th Meeting of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA10) took place in Cambridge, United Kingdom, from 20 to 22 September 2010. The commission reviewed the status of survey and charting plans in the region and discussed ways and means to improve the visibility of related issues, in relation with the appropriate organizations. The minutes of the meeting are available on the IHO web site (ref. CL 79/2010).

1.3. Second IRCC meeting (Task 3.1.16)

The second IRCC meeting (IRCC2) was held in New Orleans (United States) on 17-18 June 2010, as arranged by the US NAVOCEANO and NOAA (ref. CL 25/2010). The meeting was attended by the Chairs or Representatives from all Regional Hydrographic Commissions, except RSAHC, relevant Committees, except GEBCO, Sub Committees and other bodies as well as delegates from individual IHO Member States and NGIOs accredited to the IHO.

The final minutes of IRCC2, together with all documents referred to at the meeting, are available on the IHO web site (ref. CL 50/2010). The most significant points discussed at the meeting are summarized below.

(i) Regional Hydrographic Commissions

The Committee reviewed the recent IHO Circular Letters relevant to RHC activities and discussed the progress of the establishment of an Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission. RHCs were invited to report at the next meeting on methodologies in use for displaying information on survey status, on the implementation guidance for preparing and maintaining INT Charts and on experiences in dealing with handling marine disasters. On the recommendation of the Committee chart specification A402.1 in Publication S-4 was amended to facilitate the access of INT chart producers to new data (ref. CL 69/2010).

The Committee considered a US proposal related with the clarification of the status of RHCs and agreed that no further action was required.

(ii) Activities of other IRCC Bodies

RHCs were invited to use the template agreed by the IHO Sub-Committee on the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service (WWNWS) in the Marine Safety Information (MSI) section when establishing National Reports. Section 8 of IHO Resolution 2/1997 was amended accordingly (ref. CL 69/2010). RHCs were also invited to take action on the lack of follow-up reports from countries receiving support from the Capacity Building Fund.

The Committee adopted the Work Programme of the WEND Working Group (see § 2.4).

(iii) Relations with other Bodies

The Committee encouraged the continuation of the valuable collaboration amongst IHO, IALA, WMO, IOC and IMO to optimize resources in capacity-building programmes and noted the progress made in consolidating the cooperation with regional organizations such as the Association of Caribbean States and the European Commission.

(iv) Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure

The Committee identified some editorial changes required to be made to its ToR and RoP adopted in 2007 in order to make them consistent with the latest texts adopted by IHO Member

States. The revised edition is posted on the IHO web site.

(v) Other topics

The committee was informed by the US delegates on the hard work that all the US institutions involved in the response to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico were carrying out. Their presentations stressed the importance of an adequate hydrographic background in emergency situations.

The action list agreed at IRCC2 is attached in Annex with an update on the status as of 31 December 2010.

1.4. WEND Working Group and ENC coverage (Tasks 3.1.17 to 3.1.19)

The terms of reference of the WEND Working Group (WEND-WG) had been agreed at the first IRCC meeting (IRCC1) in 2009. The tasks of the WG had been defined as:

1. Monitor the development of adequate ENC coverage to meet any carriage requirements for ECDIS;
 2. Develop proposals for speeding up ENC production and ensuring uniform ENC quality and consistency, and for making data available worldwide, including SENC distribution, taking advantage of any offers for production assistance, or other ways of mutual assistance and co-operation;
 3. Advise MS, where appropriate, on the need, as well as on methods and tools for validating the data, and on any assistance which could be offered by the RENCs;
 4. Monitor the implementation of the WEND, in response to Decision 21 of the XVIIth IHC, and advise IRCC of appropriate measures for speeding-up the implementation process;
 5. Assist in harmonizing the policies of regional ENC Coordinating Centres (RENC) with respect to matters related to administration, legality, finances, technical processes, et cetera.
- As agreed at IRCC1, the composition of the WG was prepared by correspondence and the proposals were presented at IRCC2. The Committee confirmed the chair (United Kingdom) and designated a vice chair (Brazil). The Committee also approved the following work plan:
- a. Monitor progress in providing ENC coverage and identify and propose solutions to issues of concern such as gaps and overlaps.
 - b. Investigate and report on the significance of other areas of concern:
 - variation in licensing terms and conditions,
 - reports of ENC quality and updating issues.
 - c. Keep RHC Chairs informed of ENC issues identified within their regions.
 - d. Provide support to IHB in preparation of reports to IMO NAV Sub-Committee.
 - e. Prepare a report for IRCC3.

The following table presented by the IHB at the 56th meeting of the IMO NAV Sub-Committee (ref. NAV56/8/7) indicates the progress in providing ENC coverage:

Comparison of ENCs with corresponding paper charts for international voyages			
	May 2008	May 2009	May 2010
Small scale ENCs (planning charts)	>90%	~100%	~100%
Medium scale ENCs (coastal charts)	60%	77%	84%
Large scale ENCs (top 800 ports)	65%	84%	91%

Although ENC availability is constantly increasing, only a minority of RHCs can claim to have full ENC coverage at this point and therefore a significant amount of work is still required to identify and resolve the remaining gaps and overlap issues. HCA members also expressed

concerns about the inadequate ENC coverage of Antarctic waters due to poor bathymetric data availability, datum mis-adjustment problems, and other relevant factors and the Commission agreed that this situation should be reported to IMO.

1.5. Relations with the hydrographic industrial sector (Task 3.1.20)

Representatives of the hydrographic industrial sector participated in most RHC meetings which allowed useful feedback between HOs and industry.

As agreed at IRCC2, the IRCC chair submitted a paper to the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) to consider the way forward for the ECDIS Stakeholders' Forum.

2. Co-operation with non Member States (Element 3.2)

There has been little progress in increasing participation of Non-member States in IHO activities. Both the EAHC and SWPHC meetings took place in Non-member States. However the participation of Non-member States in the meetings of the RHCs listed in element 3.2 was disappointing:

- EAHC: 5/18 (5 Non-member States out of 18 in the Region),
- SWPHC: 3/8,
- MACHC: 6/14,
- NIOHC: 0/8.

Two countries which have applied for IHO membership (Haiti and Montenegro) have not yet obtained the required number of approvals from Member States. Four countries whose application for membership has been approved (Bulgaria, Cameroon, Mauritania, Sierra Leone) have not yet deposited their Instrument of Accession.

Based on an IHO proposal co-sponsored by Brazil, France and Norway, the IMO Maritime Safety Committee approved at its 87th meeting MSC.1/Circ.1373 on IHO membership, encouraging IMO Member States not already members of the IHO to give favourable consideration to becoming a member (ref. CL 34/2010). The support of the IMO was reiterated at the 105th session of the IMO Council (ref. C105/D, § 14.2).

In conjunction with the 11th MACHC Meeting, held in Paramaribo, Suriname, between 8 and 12 November, the Commission promoted a special event, requested by Haiti authorities, called "Haiti Donor's Meeting", with the specific purpose to produce a plan to support Haiti in the establishment of the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of Haiti (SHOH). Details of the meeting and the outcomes may be found in annex A to the minutes of the MACHC Meeting available on the IHO website.

3. Capacity building management (Element 3.3)

The Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC) held its 8th meeting in New Orleans, USA, from 14 to 16 June 2010, just before IRCC2. All the CBSC tasks in Element 3.3 (tasks 3.3.2 to 3.3.6) were addressed. The report of the meeting is available on the IHO web site. At the initiative of the IHB, CB coordination meetings have continued to take place with the CB officers of IMO, WMO, and IALA.

The FIG-IHO-ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for hydrographic surveyors and nautical cartographers (IBSC) held its 33rd meeting in Port of Spain, Trinidad, from 1 to 5 March 2010 (task 3.3.7). The report of the meeting is available on the IHO web site. The Board

reviewed the status of 10 courses and granted recognition or re-recognition to 7. The Board agreed two significant changes for introduction into the Standards, concerning the recognition of schemes that provide monitoring of an individual's competence and a fee for the review of submissions and recognition of courses. As a consequence amended Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedures were submitted to the approval of IHO Member States (ref. CL 72/2010).

The management of hydrographic and nautical cartographic training (task 3.3.8) did not require any specific action in 2010 (see § 5.3 for the list of courses organized in 2010).

4. Capacity building assessment (Element 3.4)

4.1. Technical and advisory visits (Task 3.4.1)

The following technical and advisory visits were planned in 2010:

- MBSHC: Syria, Libya, Israel, Georgia
- EAtHC: Gabon, Cameroon, Guinea Bissau
- EAHC: Cambodia, Vietnam
- MACHC: El Salvador
- SWPHC: Cook Islands

Only two visits were conducted: El Salvador in September and Georgia in December. Both visit reports are available. For various reasons the other visits had to be postponed in 2011.

4.2. Publication C-55: status of hydrographic surveying and nautical charting worldwide (Task 3.4.2)

The efforts to complete C-55 and to keep data updated were continued. The following Member States have updated their data in 2010: Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Japan, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, UK and Venezuela. The publication is available on the IHO web site.

4.3. Assessment procedures (Task 3.4.3)

The CBSC has agreed to revise the "Procedures for Submission of Projects" in order to make them less complicated and easier to use. This task has been assigned to a Drafting Group comprising Australia, Germany, Norway and USA.

5. Capacity Building Provision (Element 3.5)

5.1. Raise awareness on the importance of hydrography (Task 3.5.1)

Nothing to report.

5.2. Technical workshops, seminars, short courses (Task 3.5.2)

The following activities were conducted in 2010:

- EAHC: workshop on marine cartography and ENC production and QA; workshop on technical aspects of maritime boundaries, baselines and the extended continental shelf;
- EAtHC : MSI subregional workshop in Dakar on NAVTEX issues;
- MACHC: hydrographic survey capacity building training, in collaboration with the Gulf of Honduras Project; regional training course on basic ENC and ENC production;
- MACHC-SEPHC-SWAtHC: workshop on port and shallow water surveys;
- SAIHC: MSI regional workshop; survey attachment on the job training;
- SWPHC: MSI regional workshop; short course on introduction to hydrographic surveying and chart production.

5.3. Hydrographic and Nautical Cartography Courses (Task 3.5.3)

The following courses were organized in 2010:

- 7th Nippon Foundation/GEBCO one-year Training Project course, University of New Hampshire, USA which began on 24 August 2010 (CL 20/2010);
- 2nd Course in Hydrographic Data Processing and Marine Cartography, including specialism in Electronic Navigational Chart, UKHO, Taunton, UK, 6 September - 17 December 2010, as part of the Japan Capacity Building Project (ref. CL 15/2010 and 30/2010).

5.4. On the job training (Task 3.5.4)

A study is conducted by CBSC to identify “on the job training opportunities” and propose the adoption of an IHO Resolution on the subject.

5.5. Marine/Maritime projects (Task 3.5.5)

CBSC and IHB continued to monitor the capacity building aspects of on going projects.

5.6. Bilateral agreements (Task 3.5.6)

The following bilateral arrangements were reported in 2010 by IHO Member States:

- France: bilateral arrangement with Benin;
- India: bilateral arrangement with Mauritius;
- UK: memorandum of understanding with Bangladesh, memorandum of understanding with Kuwait and revised bilateral arrangement with Vietnam.

6. Maritime Safety Information (Element 3.6)

The World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWSSC) held its 2nd meeting in Sydney, Australia, from 9 to 13 August 2010. All the tasks in Element 3.6 (tasks 3.6.2 to 3.6.4) were addressed. The report of the meeting is available on the IHO web site (ref. CL 57/2010).

Training aids for MSI regional workshop (see § 5.2) have been translated into French and Spanish, to facilitate the training process, even though the day to day working/operating language is English.

The Sub-Committee produced a revised draft NAVTEX Manual which was then approved by Member States for submission to IMO COMSAR 15 (ref. CL 65/2010 and 74/2010).

IMO, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the IHO agreed to establish 5 new Arctic NAVAREAs/METAREAs as part of the expansion of the IMO/IHO WWNWS into Arctic waters. Effective 1 July 2010, an International SafetyNET Service for broadcasting navigational warnings and meteorological warnings and forecasts in the English language will be declared to be in an “Initial Operational Capability” (IOC) for these waters with a transition to “Full Operational Capability” (FOC) on 1 June 2011. The NAVAREA coordinators are:

- Canada: NAVAREA XVII and XVIII,
- Norway: NAVAREA XIX
- Russian Federation: NAVAREA XX and XXI.

7. Ocean Mapping Programme (Element 3.7)

The IOC-IHO GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC) held its 27th meeting in Lima, Peru, on 18 September 2010 following the 26th meeting of the GEBCO Technical Sub-Committee on Ocean

Mapping (TSCOM) (17 September 2010) and the 23th meeting of the GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (GEBCO SCUFN) (11-14 September 2010) and the first meeting of the interim Sub-Committee on Regional Undersea Mapping (GEBCO iSCRUM) (14 September 2010). All the tasks in Element 3.7 (tasks 3.7.4 to 3.7.11) were addressed (ref/ CL 85/2010).

The IHB representative encouraged the GGC to work closely with the IRCC and to make use of this forum to provide reports on the progress made by all GEBCO bodies and to identify GEBCO needs and possible cooperation in joint initiatives with RHCs.

A new version of the GEBCO-08 grid was released on 27 September 2010.

Noting that the IOC Coordinating Group on Ocean Mapping (CGOM) and some of the International Bathymetric Charting Projects (IBCs) were effectively defunct it was agreed to investigate ways to strengthen the relationship between GEBCO and IBCs, including upgrading the iSCRUM to a formal Sub-Committee (SCRUM).

A new version of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names (B-8) dated August 2010 is available on the GEBCO web site. The GGC decided to speed up the preparation of an updated edition of IHO B-7 “GEBCO Guidelines” and requested the IHB to continue coordinating this effort.

Annex

**IRCC2 Action List
(Status updated as of 31 December 2010)**

No	ACTION	RESP.	DEADLINE	STATUS
IRCC02/01	Adopt objectives to accelerate the process of ratification of the protocol of amendments to the IHO Convention in order to meet the end of 2011 deadline.	RHCs	Permanent. Report results to IRCC3	On going
IRCC02/02	Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership.	RHCs	Permanent. Report results to IRCC3	On going
IRCC02/03	Contact pending applicants in their region to encourage the ratification of the IHO Convention.	EAtHC and MBSHC	30 SEP 2010	On going
IRCC02/04	Contact suspended Member States in their region to encourage their re-insertion in IHO.	EAtHC and MACHC	30 SEP 2010	On going
IRCC02/05	Report to IRCC3 on: a. the methodology used for assessing and displaying survey status, taking into account navigational and MSDI requirements. b. the implementation of the guidance for the preparation and maintenance of International chart schemes (CL 23/2010 of 3 March 2010). c. their experience in dealing with marine disasters in relation with IHO guidelines (TR 1/2005). d. strategies to involve non-IHO MSs in RHC's activities.	RHCs	20 APR 2011	On going
IRCC02/06	Nominate a representative to the IHR Editorial Board and report to the IHB.	RHCs (which have not done so)	30 DEC 2010	On going
IRCC02/07	Identify resources to carry out a visit in Georgia in 2010.	CBSC in coordination with MBSHC Chair and IHB.	30 JUL 2010	Done
IRCC02/08	Consider any opportunity to re-launch the regional activities in the ROPME area, e.g. by holding simultaneous or back-to-back meetings.	IHB and NIOHC Chair	30 OCT 2010	On going
IRCC02/09	Consider the invitation of observers to the meetings of the RHC to be established in the Arctic Region, in accordance with article 4 of TR 2/1997 as amended.	ARHC (in establishment process)	Permanent	

IRCC02/10	Harmonize the IRCC ToR and RoP with approved IHO texts.	IRCC Secretary	30 JUL 2010	Done
IRCC02/11	Provide a link from the WWNWS web page to MSI Capacity Building activities.	IRCC Secretary	30 JUL 2010	Done
IRCC02/12	Request follow up reports from recipients of CB Fund support and submit them to the IHB.	RHCs	30 DEC 2010	On going
IRCC02/13	Report to IRCC3 on the outstanding actions from IRCC1: a. To send a letter to institutions running recognized courses addressing the subject of cost recovering mechanisms. b. To provide to IHB the update to S-5 and S-8 related with the Individual Recognition Guidelines. c. To continue deliberations and consult RHCs on any regional initiatives to develop recognised training or systems to monitor and assess the competency of Individuals.	IBSC	20 APR 2011	On going
IRCC02/14	Progress the tasks outlined in the WEND-WG terms of reference and especially: a. Monitor progress in providing ENC coverage and identify and propose solutions to issues of concern such as gaps and overlaps. This should include consideration of the MBSHC paper to the WEND WG. b. Investigate and report on the significance of other areas of concern: - variation in licensing terms and conditions - reports of ENC quality and updating issues c. Keep RHC Chairs informed of ENC issues identified within their regions. d. Provide support to IHB in preparation of reports to IMO NAV Sub-Committee. e. Prepare a report for IRCC3.	WEND-WG In conjunction with RHCs.	a) Permanent b) 20APR2011 c) Permanent d) Permanent e) 20APR2011	On going
IRCC02/15	Invite HSSC to consider the way forward for the ECDIS Stakeholders' Forum in order to continue allowing for timely input from the industry.	IRCC Chair	30 AUG 2010	Done (HSSC2-08.2A)
IRCC02/16	Coordinate with IHB the presentations to IMO on status of ENC to ensure best available information is used.	WEND-WG	Permanent	On going
IRCC02/17	Consider ways to strengthen collaboration with RHCs with a priority on improving high resolution shallow water bathymetry at the regional level.	GEBCO GC	Permanent	On going

IRCC02/18	Add an item on “Review of Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure” in the standing agenda for future IRCC Meetings.	IRCC Secretary	30 JUL 2010	Done
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