



Meso American & Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) Report to IRCC3



Submitted by MACHC Chairman: Rear Admiral Nick Lambert – UK

Members: Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, France, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela.

Associate Members: IHO Members – None; Non IHO Members - Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, El Salvador, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, St Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia.

Observers: IHO Members – Chile, Rep. Dominicana; Non IHO Members - Bahamas, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, and St Vincent & The Grenadines.

Organizations: Association of Caribbean States (ACS), Comisión Centroamericana de Transporte Marítimo (COCATRAM), FIG-IHO-ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC), and Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH)

1. Last Meeting: Paramaribo, Suriname, 8-12 November 2010
(attendees underlined above).

2. Main items under consideration:

2.1. INT Chart Scheme

MACHC INT Chart scheme has a total of 70 charts. From these, 25 charts (35.7%) are already published. The following charts (first edition) are/were planned to be published in 2011:

4196, scale 1:300.000, “Do Cabo Norte ao Cabo Maguari”, producer BR; and

4197, scale 1:300.000, “Do Cabo Maguari à Ponta Boiuçucanga”, producer BR.

MACHC Member States INT Charts Production

Country	INT Charts edited	INT Charts to be edited	Total INT Charts
Brazil	4	2	6
Colombia	8	1	9
Cuba	0	6	6
France	5	0	5
Guyana	0	1	1
Guyana / Suriname	0	1	1
Mexico	0	7	7
United Kingdom	5	12	17
United Kingdom / Cuba	0	1	1
United States	1	8 *	9
Venezuela	2	6	8
Total	25	45	70

*This US INT Chart as schemed will not be available in the near future, due to a NOAA transition to a seamless database chart production system. The U.S. National Charts should be used for interim coverage, which can be downloaded for free.

2.2. ENC Scheme

Due to the dynamic nature of this activity a number of changes in the total ENC cells have occurred since the initial MACHC Member States ENC production plan was developed in early 2010. Some cells were recalled and/or withdrawn while others were

subsequently found to fall outside the MACHC area. At this time the total number of cells in the MACHC Member States ENC production plan consists of a total of 649 cells. Of these, 496 (76.4%) are already published. The table below shows the current situation.

MACHC Member States ENC Production and Coverage Status

Country	cells produced and delivered	cells not yet available	Total cells
Brazil	7	5	12
Colombia	13	34	47
Cuba		29	29
France	28	21	49
Mexico	50	11	61
Netherlands	22	3	25
UK	201		201
US	175		175
Venezuela		50	50
Total	496	153	649

The MACHC ECC is developing a comprehensive report on the status of ENC coverage within the MACHC Region, which will reflect further updates to the above table. This Report will be presented to the 12th MACHC meeting in December 2011.

2.3. Establishment of MACICC-WG

Establishment of the MACICC-WG (IRCC Action No. 02/14) was discussed by participants and provisionally endorsed; due to the current excellent progress being made by both the INT Chart Committee and the ENC Coordinator it was considered that the MACICC-WG should be established within 2 years.

2.4. Capacity Building

In its last meeting, MACHC approved a Capacity Building Plan which was based on the IHO CBSC strategy and incorporates elements of the IHO Strategic Plan and Caribbean regional characteristics. It seeks to promote the establishment and development of Hydrographic Services as well as to increase IHO membership.

The Antigua training course is a CBSC funded event run on behalf of the MACHC and features in the 2011 CB Work Programme. It will deliver a Basic Hydrographic Survey Training Course which will give the 9 participants an understanding of hydrographic surveying - regulations/specifications/equipment/products etc it will not teach them to be surveyors. This course is unique because of the industry participation. The three survey companies involved (Kongsberg, CARIS US and Fugro) will provide the equipment to ensure the practical aspects of surveying are covered in a live scenario. We are indebted to the Antigua Department of Marine Services & Merchant Shipping for making all local arrangements and organising for a suitable vessel to be available.

The UKHO are developing the course module which will be delivered in Week 1. Week 2 will be devoted to practical surveying, and the three companies will be given the opportunity to demonstrate their products. There will also be a VIP reception on the Wednesday of Week 2 to showcase this event. The course module will be made available to the IHO to enable other RHCs to run similar events if they choose.

3. General aspects

The Commission would like to highlight the success of the Haiti Donors Meeting that was held prior to the 11th MACHC meeting. The meeting offered the opportunity to Haiti to present to conference participants the project for the establishment of the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of Haiti. Haiti representatives received pragmatic advice on the most cost-effective way to move ahead with the project, following a step by step approach. Capacity building phases one and two were considered for priority

implementation. Robust actions were identified and basic support was offered to Haiti by several participants.

The GOH (Gulf of Honduras Project) is also worthy of note as it highlights a cooperative venture with survey training by the US and the data collected being used by the UKHO to improve paper and electronic charting.

Valuable progress is being made by ECC WG 2 particularly the documentation of ENC coverage, which highlighted ENC gaps and overlaps in the region. The elimination of the overlaps is progressing well but there is still concern over some significant gaps in the region, which will need to be urgently addressed before ENC carriage requirements come into force. Many of these issues are being resolved by Member States and regular video/phone conferencing is assisting the process.

4. Conclusions:

MACHC is committed to carrying forward hydrographic, cartographic and capacity building activities in close alignment with IHO objectives and goals.

The cooperative work of its Committees, its Capacity Building Plan, and the experience with distance / on line communication could be seen as a model for other Commissions to follow.

5. Next meeting: St. Kitts, 5-9 December 2011.

6. Proposals:

The IRCC (and the WEND-WG) are invited to note this report.