

**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION
EASTERN ATLANTIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION
THIRD MEETING OF THE IHO INTER REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC3
Niterói, Brazil, 25-26 May 2011**

REPORT FROM THE EASTERN ATLANTIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

- 1. Chair:** Vice Admiral Agostinho RAMOS DA SILVA (Portugal)
Vice Chair: Ingénieur Général Bruno FRACHON (France)

2. Membership:

Full Members: France, Morocco, Nigeria, Portugal and Spain.

Associate Members: Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Republic of Congo, Senegal and Togo.

Observers:

Countries: Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Republic Democratic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, United Kingdom and United States.

IHB: Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA, Ingénieur en chef Michel HUET

3. Last Meeting: Accra, Ghana, 24 – 26 NOV 2010

The 11th Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (EAtHC) Conference, chaired by Commodore Gunda Inusa, Hydrographer of Nigeria, was hosted by the Government of Ghana, at the Regional Maritime University (Accra), on the 24th-26th November 2010. The event was attended by 32 participants from the five effective member states and from seven associate member states and observers.

4. Main items under consideration:

4.1. INT Chart Scheme

The CHATINCHART Catalogue and ENC production in the region is coordinated by the French Hydrographic Service (SHOM).

EAtHC INT Chart scheme has a total of 172 charts. From these, 120 charts (70%) have already been published.

	Planned INT Charts	Produced INT Charts ⁽¹⁾
France	68	50
Morocco	3 ⁽²⁾	1
Portugal	45	34
Spain	32	26
United Kingdom	30	9

4.2. ENC Scheme

The ENC coverage on EAtHC region had progress considerably during the last two years. The ENC coverage on Usage Band 2 is now completed and on Usage Band 3 there was a significant enhancement, especially on the EAtHC African coast, however there are still some gaps.

The ENC production on the region, 333 cells, is presented on the table below (updated on 2nd May 2011).

	Band 1 Overview	Band 2 General	Band 3 Coastal	Band 4 Approach	Band 5 Harbour	Total
France	2	5	20	29	39 ⁽³⁾	95
Portugal	1	5	11	18	43	78
Spain	0	4	12	22	29	67
United Kingdom	4	2	34	28	25 ⁽⁴⁾	93

4.3. Capacity Building

Two technical visits are planned to take place during 2011. France and Portugal volunteered themselves to conduct the visits to Gabon and Guinea-Bissau, respectively.

5. General aspects:

Adhesion to IHO membership: Cameroon, Mauritania and Sierra Leone, were recently invited by EAtHC to deposit their ratification instrument to access to IHO member states.

The ratification of the protocol of amendments of the IHO convention was approved by the Portuguese Government and was sent to the Government of Monaco last month. In Nigeria the process of ratification is in progress.

⁽¹⁾ The produced charts correspond to charts with INT numbers, referred to November 2010.

⁽²⁾ Charts in co-production with France.

^(3, 4) Includes usage band 6.

6. Final Remarks:

- EAtHC is committed to carrying forward hydrographic, cartographic and capacity building activities in accordance with IHO objectives and goals.
- The need for observer nations to sign the EAtHC statutes, in order to become associate members, was exhaustively deliberated during the last EAtHC Conference.
- Responsible authorities of coastal states in the region were notified of the importance of setting up Hydrographic Committees; in order to undertake the hydrographic services and responsibilities underlined on SOLAS, Chapter V, Regulation 9.
- Member states should report to the Region G International Charting Coordination Coordinator (France) on current or planned high-speed crafts routes in Region G in order to be able to meet IMO requirements, ECDIS carriage and related ENC coverage.
- INT Chart producing nations are invited to check and update the information in C-11 and provide feedback to the Region G Coordinator.
- Member states should identify systematic procedures for the transmission of survey data to cartographic authorities in order to enable a swift update of nautical documentation, paper charts and ENC.
- The importance of C-55 was reaffirmed as it forms the basis of evaluating capacity building needs in the various regions.
- Togo expressed that efforts were ongoing to apply for IHO membership before the next EAtHC Conference.

7. Venue and date of the next meeting:

Lisbon, Portugal, 12 – 15 Nov 2012.