

**THIRD MEETING OF THE IHO INTER REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC3**

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 26 – 27 May 2011

Report from the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica

Chairman: Captain Hugo Gorziglia, IHB Director
Vice Chairman: Commodore Rod NAIRN, Hydrographer of Australia

Since IRCC2, the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) held its 10th Meeting at the British Antarctic Survey headquarters in Cambridge, United Kingdom, on 20-22 September 2010. 16 out of the 23 IHO Member States, i.e. Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Korea (Rep of), New Zealand, Norway, Peru, South Africa, Spain, UK and USA (NGA), were present, as well as Observers from COMNAP, IAATO, IALA, GEBCO/IBCSO and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office. In total 31 delegates were in attendance.

The Commission elected Commodore Rod NAIRN (Australia) as Vice Chairman of the HCA.

The Commission reviewed the status of the actions agreed at the last meeting, discussed the progress achieved and acknowledged that almost all actions had been completed. Those subjects requiring further discussion were considered under the different agenda items during the meeting. The reports provided by IAATO, IALA, GEBCO and IBCSO as well as those provided by IHO Member States were commented. The reports on the progress made regarding the INT chart scheme; ENC scheme and production; the C-55 status with regard to the Antarctica; and an Antarctic GIS under development at the IHB, were also considered and discussed. Several actions were identified to progress further the actions. The Commission regretted that there was no representation and no reports from IMO, IOC and AT Secretariat.

The Commission took note with satisfaction of the constant support and contribution made by IAATO. At this meeting the delegation of IAATO was formed by four representatives in a clear demonstration of interest in the HCA work. The Commission discussed in great extent the outcomes of the seminar delivered by HCA at the last IAATO Annual Meeting in June 2010 as well as the technical visits paid to IAATO ships before heading to Antarctica, briefing Captains on the procedure to collect and render hydrographic data collected as Ships of Opportunity. With regard to this last topic, IAATO offered to collect and made available all old available bathymetric data collected by IAATO ships; it was agreed to continue the practice of ships' visit and a group was established to study complementary future actions to implement the existing procedure.

Especial discussion took place on availability of ENC covering Antarctic waters. It was agreed to include in the IHO report to the next ATCM the status on ENC production and a call to enhance ENC availability as a mechanism to improve safety to navigation and protection of the marine environment in the region. It was also agreed to prepare a paper to be submitted to IMO to report on the real value of ENC coverage of Antarctic waters by 2012 due to poor bathymetric data availability, datum mis-adjustment and other relevant factors. The IHB as the coordinator of the INT Chart Scheme of Antarctica was requested to develop and propose a large-scale ENC scheme for consideration by the HCA.

The Hydrographic Survey Prioritisation Working Group continues to analyse the needs and its work will be improved with input from a new assessment on Maritime Shipping Routes and surveys requirements that will be made by all HCA Members. Input is also awaited from IAATO that agreed to review the HCA survey plans.

The Commission also agreed on a number of other actions to be carried out during the intersessional period. The following so far achieved can be highlighted:

- a) IAATO has started to provide bathymetric data to the IHB and this has been resubmitted to the UKHO as the producer nation of the charts covering the area.
- b) Visits have been paid to IAATO ship before heading to Antarctica motivating Captains on the collection and rendering of hydrographic data.
- c) Presentation of a paper on “Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting in Antarctic”, at the *Arctic-Antarctic Seafloor Mapping Meeting 2011*, Stockholm, Sweden, 03-05 May. The scientific community was invited to share with the IHO any bathymetric data collected during IPY and during any other research mission. Also to liaise with national hydrographic authorities as needed.
- d) The HCA was represented by its Vice Chair at the IAATO 22nd Annual Meeting, Hobart, Australia, 9-12 May 2011. The rationality of this participation is to stress the close joint HCA and IAATO undergoing work.
- e) A comprehensive catalogue of all national and INT charts covering Antarctica was prepared by the IHB and posted on the IHO website.
- f) HCA members have agreed to include 5 new charts in the INT Chart Scheme, all in the Antarctic Peninsula.

Following a kind invitation from the Australian Hydrographic Service, the Commission decided to have the 11th HCA meeting in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia on 5 – 7 October 2011.

Hugo Gorziglia
Captain – Chilean Navy
IHB Director
HCA Chairman