



Meso American & Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) Report to IRCC4



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, British Virgin Islands (UK), Dominican Republic, Montserrat (UK); Non IHO Members - Bahamas, Belize, Costa Rica, Dominica, Grenada, St Vincent & The Grenadines.

Organizations: Association of Caribbean States (ACS), Comisión Centroamericana de Transporte Marítimo (COCATRAM), Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), FIG-IHO-ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC), International Bathymetric Chart of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico (IBCCA), International Maritime Organization (IMO), Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services (RTCM)

1. Last Meeting: 12th MACHC meeting, St Kitts, St Kitts and Nevis, 6-9 December 2011 (attendees underlined above).

2. Status of IRCC3 Actions:

IRCC03/01 Implement actions to accelerate the process of ratification of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention in order to meet the end of 2011 deadline.

MS were encouraged by both IHB (Captain Alberto Costa Neves) and MACHC Chair (R. Admiral Nick Lambert (UK) to accelerate the process of ratification of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention at the 12th MACHC Meeting.

IRCC03/02 Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership.

MS were encouraged by both IHB (Captain Alberto Costa Neves) and MACHC Chair (R. Admiral Nick Lambert (UK)) to approve pending applications.

IRCC03/04 Contact suspended Member States in their region to encourage their reinsertion in IHO

MACHC Chair contacted Dominican Republic to encourage them to participate in the meeting in St Kitts. No response received.

IRCC03/07 Nominate a representative to the IHR Editorial Board and report to the IHB.

Dr Rob Hensley was nominated to represent MACHC on the IHR Editorial Board.

IRCC03/09 UK to lead the design of a framework for C-55 development by correspondence.

UKHO updated the MACHC membership on the latest position with regard to C-55 development. Essentially the correspondence group had been successful - noting the exceptional assistance of the BSHC - and the IRCC Chairman was able to produce a report to the XVIII IHC which recommended a way forward.

IRCC03/10 Provide an example of the MACHC action plan to other RHCs for consideration in promoting intercessional continuity.

Completed.

IRCC03/12 Ensure the timely provision of the appropriate documentation that justify expenses associated to CB projects, and to demand refund, if needed, not later than one month after the event has finalized.

The MACHC CB Coordinator makes every effort to comply with this provision.

IRCC03/13 Report to the WENDWG Chair on the implementation of each item of the WEND Principles and on the validity of coverage and overlap analysis submitted by the WENDWG

Reported to WENDWG Chair

IRCC03/15 Provide to the WENDWG Chair and IRCC Chair comments on the draft report on implementation of the WEND Principles.

Comments provided.

IRCC03/17 Invite GEBCO Guiding Committee / Bathymetric Regional Project Chairs to attend corresponding RHCs meetings, aiming at strengthening collaboration with a priority on improving high resolution shallow water bathymetry at the regional level.

Representative of IBCCA (International Bathymetric Chart of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico) attended the last MACHC meeting.

IRCC03/18 Update the report to IRCC Chair on the implementation of the guidance for the preparation and maintenance of international chart schemes (CL 23/2010 of 3 March 2010).

Update provided.

IRCC03/19 Report to IRCC4 on:

a. their experience in dealing with marine disasters in relation with IHO guidelines (TR 1/2005),

Discussions held at 12th MACHC on experiences by MS with marine disasters.

b. strategies to involve non-IHO MSs in RHC's activities.

Discussions held at 12th MACHC and all nations within region contacted to attend. Sponsorship to 10 nations to enable their attendance provided by UK.

3. Main items under consideration:

3.1. INT Chart Scheme

The MACHC INT Chart scheme has a total of 71 charts of which 26 charts (36.6%) are already published.

MACHC INT Chart Committee has an action to produce an INT Chart Plan which should include the Pacific Area of the region, and consider using national charts of the UK and US as interim products for future production of INT Charts. A framework should be presented to the Committee during the MACHC intercessional period.

3.2. ENC Scheme

The ECC submitted their report, ENC Coverage of the MACHC Region to the 11th MACHC Conference in Suriname, in November 2010. At the meeting, the original goal was expanded. By July 2012, the MACHC was to include adequate ENC coverage for Usage Bands 4-6 for the Atlantic side of the MACHC and for all Usage Bands (Bands 1-6) for the Pacific side.

MACHC MS endorsed the ECC/WG2 report and the following recommendations at the 12th MACHC meeting, St. Kitts:

- MACHC ECC monitors and updates the INT Region B, Atlantic and Pacific Ocean sides, ENC scheme for all Usage Bands.
- MACHC ECC explores options for depicting ENC schemes on the MACHC webpage, using the ArcGIS online portal as a pilot project. The display interface will allow for ease of access to the current available status of regional ENC coverage within the MACHC.
- As a permanent task, MACHC Member States are invited to provide the ECC with updates to their ENC production plans.
- MACHC Chair is invited to provide this report to the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) as the region's contribution to global ENC coverage so that it may be conveyed accordingly to the IMO.
- In order to create the IHO Worldwide Electronic Navigation Database, all ENC producers are encouraged to make their ENCs available to the Regional Electronic Navigational Chart Coordinating Centers, even if they are distributed by different channels.
- If Member States are unable to complete their ENC coverage in the designated timeframes, the MACHC, in partnership with appropriate authorities, should pursue options to address this situation, in accordance with the IMO ECDIS Requirements and the WEND principles.
- If MACHC Member States are unwilling to distribute ENCs or to have another country produce ENCs for them, the MACHC Chair will inform the IRCC. The IRCC will take appropriate action with the WEND Working Group, the IHB, and IMO.

3.3. Establishment of MACICC-WG

Establishment of the MACICC-WG (IRCC Action No. 02/14) was discussed by participants and endorsed; the chairs of the ECC & ICC Working Groups were tasked to liaise and plan/organise their work flow in line with agreed Meso-American and Caribbean International Chart Coordinating Working Group (MACICCWG) Terms of Reference (ToR).

3.4. 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 was a CBSC funded event run on behalf of the MACHC and featured in the 2011 CB Work Programme. It delivered a Basic Hydrographic Survey Training Course which gave the 9 participants an understanding of hydrographic surveying - regulations/specifications/equipment/products etc it did not teach them to be surveyors. This course was unique because of the industry participation. The three survey companies involved (Kongsberg, CARIS US and Fugro) provided the equipment to ensure the practical aspects of surveying were covered in a live scenario. We are

indebted to the Antiguan Department of Marine Services & Merchant Shipping for making all local arrangements and organising for a suitable vessel to be available.

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

4. General aspects

The Commission would like to highlight the success of the Industry and Stakeholders meetings that were held prior to and in between the 12th MACHC meeting. The meetings offered the opportunity for industry representatives and stakeholders to present to conference participants their ideas and views on Cartography, Hydrography and their visions for the future. The two key themes for many of the presentations were capacity building and ENC production. The discussions on the presentations seemed to influence and contribute to some of the relevant debates in plenary, particularly the action to establish a MACHC Marine Economic Infrastructure Programme to share marine spatial data relevant to the region.

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 gaps in the region, which will need to be urgently addressed. Many of these issues are being resolved by Member States and regular video/phone conferencing is assisting the process.

5. 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 its intercessional communication policy could be seen as a model for other Commissions to follow.

6. Next meeting: Antigua, Guatemala, 19-23 November 2012.

7. Proposals:

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