

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL  
COORDINATION COMMITTEE  
IHO-IRCC4  
Singapore, 7-8 June 2012**

The fourth Meeting of the IHO Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) was held at the Regent Hotel Singapore, Singapore, from 7 to 8 June 2012. All Members of the Committee were present or represented. Delegates from individual IHO Member States were also present (**Annex A – List of Participants**).

## **1 - Opening of the meeting and administrative arrangements**

IGA Gilles Bessero, IRCC Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed IRCC Members and Observers, and thanked the Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) of Singapore and the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) for organizing the meeting.

He stressed the importance of the work of the IRCC to translate the directions of the 18th International Hydrographic Conference, held in April 2012, especially, in the light of the Technical Engagement Seminar of the preceding day, those aspects related to:

- Capacity Building strategy, activities and funding
- The need to improve the coverage and quality of the hydrographic surveys
- ENC related issues
- Developments in Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI)
- The status of the amendments to the Convention
- Election of the new Chair and Vice Chair

Rear Admiral Nick Lambert (UKHO) thanked the Chair for his kind words and welcomed the participants. Mr. Jamie Chen (MPA) welcomed the participants to Singapore and wished all a good meeting. The participants were invited to introduce themselves for the benefit of those attending IRCC for the first time.

The Chair introduced the Agenda (Doc. IRCC4-01D) and the Timetable (Doc. IRCC4-01F) that were unanimously adopted. The Secretary introduced the List of Documents (Doc. IRCC4-01A) including the latest documents received. The Annotated Agenda (Doc. IRCC4-01E) was used as the guiding document for the progress of the meeting.

The Host offered information about administration and logistics for the meeting.

## **2 - Report by the Chair and pending matters**

### **2.1 - Report by the Chair**

The Chair provided a general overview of events and activities since IRCC3 which are relevant to the Committee within the scope of the IRCC Work Programme, referring to the IRCC Annual Report 2011 (Doc. IRCC4-02.1) as well as to the IRCC Report to the 18th IHC (Doc. CONF.18/WP.3).

Regarding the Protocol of amendments to the IHO Convention, he emphasized the need to engage in a regional level in order to motivate MSs to ratify it. The Committee noted the deposit of the instrument of accession by Cameroon that became the 81<sup>st</sup> Member State of the IHO.

Following the report, the Chair invited comments from IRCC Members. France (Frachon) proposed to reduce the frequency of IRCC Meetings, possibly to around 18 months or one year ahead of the International Hydrographic Conferences (both Ordinary and Extraordinary). It was backed by Australia (Nairn), Canada (Narayanan), Portugal (Ramos da Silva) and UK (Lambert). However, Germany (Dehling) suggested reconsidering the issue once the work programme is adopted. The IRCC Secretary supported the connection with the work programme and stressed that in the future the Council will also require annual meetings and there will be a chance for inter-regional coordination in this forum. The Committee discussed the need to investigate electronic means to work more efficiently and optimize face-to-face meetings. UK (Lambert) referred to PRO6 discussed by the Conference and invited the Committee to consider whether it should do more to encourage survey activities and make the best use of techniques such as satellite bathymetry and crowd sourcing bathymetry.

On the proposal of the Chair, the Committee agreed to move agenda item 5 (Review of Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure) to be discussed after agenda item 6 (IRCC Work Programme management).

## **2.2 - Outcome from the 18th IHC**

### [IRCC4-02.2 Outcome from the 18<sup>th</sup> IHC](#)

The Chair reported the outcomes of the 18th IHC (doc. IRCC4-02.2). He presented the outcomes related with IHO Work Programme 1 and proposed to address them under the relevant agenda items:

- Status of IHO Membership (item 2.3)
- Status of approval of the Protocol of amendments to the IHO Convention (item 2.4)
- Input from and to the IHO Strategic Planning Mechanism (item 6.2)
- Input from and to the IHO Work Programme (item 6.1)

He presented the MSDI issues (IHO Work Programme 2) and proposed to address these issues during the general discussion of RHCs' reports (item 3.1).

He also presented the outcome of the Conference about the IHO Stakeholders' forum and proposed to discuss IRCC contribution under item 6.3 (IRCC Work Programme). UK (Lambert) stressed that the issues related to ECDIS should also include ENC's, and any reference be made to the two items.

The Chair presented Conference Decision 11 (CB Strategy) and proposed to discuss the implementation of the Decision under item 3.4 (CBSC Report).

He presented the status of C-55 development and invited the Committee to discuss ways and means to contribute to the relevant tasks of the IHO Work Programme (task 3.4.3 and 3.6.1A) at Committee level and via RHCs, including the possibility to set up an ad hoc working group with the appropriate terms of reference and membership. He indicated that the definition of the appropriate survey indicators is one item to be considered (Annex of IRCC4.02-2) and that the interaction with HSSC and its relevant working groups needs to be discussed also.

Australia (Nairn) questioned whether DQWG should take care of C-55 and the need to establish definitions and users' requirements. He also mentioned the need to add the spatial

element to C-55. He then proposed to start filling C-55 with CATZOC and the upload and update be made through the RENCs. He also suggested that C-55 should incorporate risk analysis. South Africa (Kampfer) supported the idea of using CATZOC. Canada (Narayanan) stressed the need to define the requirements, framework and deliverables in an easy to use environment. She also noted that the term "Adequate Survey" is useless. UK (Lambert), on the other side, supported the idea of using chart source diagrams to start C-55, since CATZOC is not yet well used. Furthermore most of ENC's are compiled from paper charts.

France (Frachon) supported the idea of a two-level approach: characterization of the seafloor and of the shipping in order to allow the establishment of priorities within the regions. He also expressed the need to properly define the necessary metadata. USA (Justi) spoke on the need to clearly define the purpose of C-55.

Denmark (Lars) recalled that it is necessary to assess the survey status as well. Germany (Dehling) supported the use of the re-survey project already developed in the NSHC and referred to the parameters of S-44 as a good way to assess the status of surveys, especially in areas where the rate of change of the seafloor is important. He noted that the general perception of the Committee is that currently C-55 is useless; it misses the spatial element and needs to incorporate external information like major ports and routes.

After further elaboration on the user requirements for C-55, the Chair invited Australia (Nairn) to chair a side meeting on C-55 and present the results in a written format, that will be circulated by the RHC Chairs (see item 3.1).

The outcome of the Conference about the implementation of the WEND Principles (Decisions 12 & 13) was also reported by the Chair who proposed to discuss the way forward under item 3.5 (WEND WG Report).

The Chair presented Conference Decision 14 (IHO Resolution 1/2005 - IHO Response to Disasters) and proposed to address the issue during the general discussion of RHCs' reports (item 3.1).

He also presented Conference Decision 17 (global status of hydrographic surveying) and invited comments on the way forward, taking into consideration the outcome of the discussion about C-55 development and action IRCC03/11. The Committee was invited to:

- elaborate an action plan based on the outline in Doc. IRCC4.02-2,
- consider the role of RHCs and CBSC, and
- evaluate the need of a specific "Survey Assessment Working Group".

It was agreed that it is necessary to revisit suggested action items c and d of Doc IRCC4.02-2. The IRCC Secretary recalled that the IHO structure does not allow the contracting and supervision of surveys. France (Frachon) stated that it is important to develop item d on a survey fund on how to get the funds and how to operate them. He noted that the liability of the IHO if conducting surveys should also be considered.

UK (Lambert) recalled that there are precedents in the World Bank to fund projects and recommended the IHO/IHB to prepare to manage such a fund. Germany (Dehling) reminded the Committee that it is necessary to identify the shortcomings and the regions in order to submit a project. He also noted that it is necessary to contract consultants to

organize the documents and the submission and that it is necessary also that the IHO supports the project in the high level administration as long as the recipient States are committed to the project.

The Chair summarized stating that it is necessary to rephrase this item d, to consider a regional approach, to operate on a project by project basis and to align with the IHO priorities (Africa, Caribbean Sea and Small Islands Developing States).

### **2.3 - Status of IHO membership**

The IRCC Secretary reported (Doc. IRCC4-02.3) on the new IHO Member State (Cameroon), the status of pending approval of applications (Haiti, Viet Nam and Brunei Darussalam), pending deposit of instruments of accession (Bulgaria, Mauritania, Montenegro and Sierra Leone) and reinsertion of suspended Member States (Democratic Republic of the Congo and Dominican Republic).

EAtHC and MBSHC Chairs reported on the progress in implementing action IRCC3/03 with pending applicants in their Region. EAtHC and MACHC reported on the progress in implementing action IRCC3/04 with the suspended Member State in their Region.

The Chair invited the Committee to discuss possible actions to promote IHO membership in cooperation with IMO and other international organizations.

The Committee invited RHCs to continue encouraging the re-insertion of suspended Member States and to encourage pending applicants to deposit their instruments of accession. The IHB was invited to request the support of Monaco Government. IRCC Secretary explained that every year IHB sends the circular letter n° 1 reporting the membership status, together with the convention approval. He also reported that the Monaco Government takes an active role in communicating with the National Points of Contact but is not always successful.

The Committee considered and agreed the following actions:

**IRCC4/01 (RHCs): Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership.**

**IRCC4/02 (EAtHC and MBSHC): Continue to engage pending applicants in their region to encourage the ratification of the IHO Convention.**

**IRCC4/03 (EAtHC and MACHC) Continue to engage suspended Member States in their region to encourage their re-insertion in IHO.**

### **2.4 - Status of approval of amendments to the IHO Convention**

The IRCC Secretary reported (Doc. IRCC4-02.4) on the status of approval of the amendments to the IHO Convention (36 notifications as of 21 April 2012). RHC Chairs reported on the situation and perspectives in their Region.

Committee reviewed the list of Member States which have not yet ratified the Protocol of Amendments and agreed the following **Task** to secure the additional ratification by a minimum of 12 Member States as soon as possible and not later than end of 2013 so that the first Assembly may take place in 2014:

IRCC4 07/2013	Secure the ratification of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention.	RHCs	Dec 2013
------------------	--	------	----------

The IRCC Secretary also reported that Spain has agreed that the IHB circulate as and when necessary the translation into Spanish of the text of the Protocol of Amendments to the Convention that they have produced, in order to facilitate the process in other Spanish-speaking countries.

## 2.5 - Status of Action List from IRCC3

The Chair reviewed the list of actions agreed at IRCC3 (Doc. IRCC4-02.5B), referred the pending actions to the relevant agenda items and addressed one “orphan” action:

- IRCC03/07: *composition of the IHR Editorial Board*. The Chair invited the RHC Chairs which have not yet designated a representative to do so before the end of the year, in order to allow them to participate in the review of articles that will be submitted in January 2013.

The Commission agreed on the following action:

IRCC4/04 (EAHC, MBSHC, NHC and RSAHC): Nominate a representative to the IHR Editorial Board and report to the IHB.

## 3 - Actions and inputs from IRCC Bodies

The Chair invited the Chairs of IRCC Bodies to report briefly on the activities of their bodies and introduce recommendations or other items relevant for IRCC consideration.

### 3.1 - Regional Hydrographic Commissions

The Chair requested the RHC Chairs to address the following actions:

IRCC3/18: *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).*

IRCC3/19: *Report to IRCC4 on:*

- a) *their experience in dealing with marine disasters in relation with IHO guidelines (TR 1/2005),*
- b) *strategies to involve non-IHO MSs in RHC's activities.*

RHC Chairs summarized the activities of their Commissions, reported on actions since IRCC3 and offered comments/recommendations for IRCC consideration (Doc. IRCC4-03.1A to 03.1O). The main elements are provided below:

**The NHC** reported on the main projects for data exchange and MSDI. The Commission also presented the joint actions to present hydrographic projects and the active Working Groups in the region.

**The NSHC** presented the achievements of its working groups and the relation to all the IHOs bodies and other international organizations. The impact of the European Commission decisions over national Hydrographic Offices was stressed. The Commission

also reported on the re-survey strategy and the proposal to promote the WEND principles through the distribution of ENC's under a new brand name IHO-WEND.

**The EAHC** reported the ENC harmonization work on small scale ENC's (due to be completed in 2013) and the capacity building activities in the region. The web site was noted. The IRCC Secretary invited RHC members to visit the EAHC and MACHC web sites as they are good source of information within the region and amongst the regions.

**The USCHC** reported on the ENC Transboundary Project to eliminate overlaps and other joint actions in the Beaufort Sea and the harmonization of the ENC Catalogue. The Commission also presented suggestions to the WEND-WG to achieve the WEND principles and to the IRCC for the development of C-55.

**The MBSHC** reported on the status of the IRCC action list and the amendment to the statutes to enable Associate Members to host MBSHC meetings. The Committee acknowledged the value of this principle and agreed on the following action:

**IRCC4/09 (RHCs): Consider amending Statutes of the RHCs in order to allow non-IHO MSs to host RHCs conferences, when and if applicable.**

**The BSHC** presented the achievements of its numerous working groups, with emphasis on addressing re-survey planning and maritime spatial data infrastructure. UK (Lambert) commented on the economic infrastructure approach. France (Frachon) noticed the multi-use of data in the region. The Commission also reported on the cooperation with other organizations.

**The EAHC** presented the status of the INT Chart and ENC schemes, the capacity building activities in the region and the situation of the IRCC action list.

**The SEPHC** shared its experience with the inundation charts to support tsunami preparedness. The Commission also reported on the INT Chart and ENC schemes, the capacity building activities and the status of the IRCC action list.

**The SWPHC** emphasized the increasing participation of non-MSs in the Commission meetings and the amendment of the statutes to allow any MS of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to become an SWPHC member. The Commission also reported the ongoing and future capacity building projects in the region, the status of INT Charts and ENC's and the status of the IRCC action list.

**The MACHC** reported the status of the IRCC action list and the strategy to involve non-IHO MSs in the region. Action IRCC3/10 was accomplished (*Provide as an example the MACHC action plan to other RHCs for consideration in promoting intersessional continuity*). The Commission also presented the INT Chart and ENC schemes, the capacity building initiatives and the engagement of Industry and Stakeholders.

**The SAIHC** reported the capacity building results in the region, especially the impact of technical visits in creating awareness on hydrography at higher levels of decision making in the visited countries. The Commission stressed the importance of exchanging hydrographic information and the development of C-55 to further build capacity in the region. The IRCC action list and INT Chart and ENC scheme status were also reported.

**The NIOHC** presented the status of the IRCC actions and the situation of INT Charts and ENC coverage. The Commission reported the development of a conference to highlight the importance of MSDI to economic prosperity, of evolution of satellite bathymetry, the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme (VIMSAS) and the crowd sourcing survey techniques.

The Committee discussed the transition from VIMSAS to a mandatory regime and decided the following action:

**IRCC4/27 (RHC Chairs): Inform MSs of the IMO's transition to and the implication of the mandatory IMO Member State Audit Scheme from 2015.**

**The RSAHC** reported the status of C-55 in the region, the establishment of the International Chart Coordination Working Group and the capacity building activities.

**The SWaHC** presented the status of the INT Charts and ENCs in the region, including the actions to remove inconsistencies, and the capacity building project developments.

**The ARHC** reported that the Commission was formally established, the area of responsibility was agreed in consultation with the neighbor RHCs and the development of the INT Chart Region 'N' is underway (Action IRCC3/08). The Commission reported that a prototype design for the Arctic Mariners Routeing Guide is being developed. The Commission discussed the creation of this INT Chart Region and agreed the following action:

**IRCC4/05 (ARHC, IHB and CSPCWG): Create / introduce Region N in the IHO INT Chart Scheme.**

The Committee noted the reports and discussed the outputs. Next the Chair invited the Committee to address two issues from the 18<sup>th</sup> IHC: MSDI and response to disasters. Regarding the MSDI, he suggested that the Committee considers further its role at the Committee level and via RHCs and CBSC in contributing to the development of MSDI through:

- reviewing MSDI developments at the regional level (RHCs),
- identifying CB requirements associated with MSDI development (CBSC),
- identifying any need for cross-regional coordination (IRCC),
- discussing future IRCC input to MSDIWG activities (IRCC).

The following actions were agreed:

**IRCC4/22 (IRCC Chair): Request HSSC to task MSDIWG to develop an "introduction to MSDI" training course.**

**IRCC4/23 (CBSC Chair): Investigate the possibility to deliver a MSDI courses with IOC and/or other organizations.**

Regarding the IHO response to disasters, the Chair requested the Committee to take IHC Decision 14 into account when considering the outcome of action IRCC3/19 (RHCs reports on their experience with marine disasters in relation with IHO guidelines). He noted that the new amendments to IHO Resolution 1/2005 which were approved by the Conference deal

mainly with the procedures and guidance at the national levels and invited the Committee to consider the impact on the development of standard operational procedures at the regional level and the role of the IRCC in providing general guidance to RHCs. The Committee considered the request and agreed on the following Task:

IRCC4 09/2013	Contribute to improving the framework of IHO response to marine disasters.	RHCs	Permanent
------------------	--	------	-----------

The debate on C-55 was re-opened. The Chair invited Australia (Nairn) to present the results of the side meeting on C-55 and the Committee agreed the text incorporated as **Annex B (Discussion on C-55)** to this report. The IBSC Chair (Tsoulos) recalled the metadata standard already established in the ISO 19000 and the INSPIRE initiatives as important sources for the future development of C-55. The Committee decided the following action:

**IRCC4/08 (Chair and RHCs): Circulate draft C-55 framework developed by Australia, RHCs to provide comments to Chair. Chair to provide final version to IHB.**

and agreed on the following Task:

IRCC4 10/2013	Contribute to monitoring and improving the global status of hydrographic surveying.	RHCs	Permanent
------------------	---	------	-----------

UK (Lambert) raised the issue of compiling the RHCs' best practices to allow IHO MSs to share this important source of information for hydrographic management. The Commission decided then the following action:

**IRCC4/10 (UK): Compile the RHCs best practices to be uploaded to the IHO Web site.**

UK (Lambert) also proposed the discussion of the fund raising for the continued improvement of the IHO. The Commission then agreed on the action:

**IRCC4/11 (Chair and IHB): Investigate mechanisms for raising external funds.**

Canada (Narayanan) proposed to the Committee to elaborate a list of achievements since IRCC1. The Committee agreed and the following action was decided:

**IRCC4/12 (Canada and all Members): Complete document identifying achievements prepared at the meeting, to be included in the report. Complete statistical information.**

The document prepared by Canada (Narayanan) is attached as **Annex C (List of IRCC Achievements)**.

### 3.2 - Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica

The HCA Chair summarized the activities of HCA and introduced the relevant items for the Committee consideration. He stressed the discussions on how to improve safety of navigation in Antarctica, including the IHO Work Programme tasks to conduct risk assessment in the region, the status of hydrographic surveys and nautical chart production. The Committee noted the report.

### 3.3 - World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee

The IRCC Secretary introduced the report in the absence of the WWNW-SC Chair. The SC reported the adoption of the NAVTEX Manual by MSC89 and the following review of the WWNWS documents, in order to ensure consistency. It also reported the establishment of five new NAVAREAs/METAREAs in the Arctic Ocean and the MSI courses. The Commission noted the report.

### 3.4 - Capacity Building Sub-Committee

The CBSC Chair summarized the outcomes of CBSC10, especially in the view of the 18th IHC. The SC established a working group by correspondence to review the Capacity Building Strategy, so the SC will report back to IRCC5 for discussion. The revised IHO CB strategy is to be submitted in 2015 to the 5th EIHC. The Commission decided then the following action:

**IRCC4/24 (CBSC Chair): Report on the revision of the IHO CB Strategy.**

The CBSC Chair also reported the increase of the planned IHO contribution to the CB Fund from 125 000 € to 225 000 € in the 2013-2017 period. He acknowledged the participation from Japan via the Nippon Foundation (Japan Capacity Building Project), and from the Republic of Korea (RoK), by means of a direct contribution to the CB Fund. The Joint IHO/IMO/WMO/IOC/IALA/IAEA/FIG Capacity Building meeting was presented.

The CBSC Chair presented the CB Fund balance and the updated 2012 CBWP. He explained the reasoning behind the agreed 2013 CBWP, due to the higher demand from the RHC with respect to the estimated balance for the coming year. The SC discussed the need for the MSDI courses, as noted by all the Regional Hydrographic Commissions.

The CBSC Chair stressed the Capacity Building Management System being developed by the Norwegian Hydrographic Service and the IHB. The system aims to comply with the increasing needs of capacity building management. The SC also discussed the Performance Indicators related to capacity building and established an Ad Hoc Working Group to deal with the subject by correspondence and to report back to CBSC11.

The Committee noted the report and discussed the importance of delivering the MSDI other data-related courses. The need to find ways to raise funds for capacity building was also discussed, as already considered in action IRCC4/11 (above). RoK questioned the figures presented as their 2012 contribution and the following action was decided:

**IRCC4/26 (IHB and CBSC Chair): Check ROK funding total in the CB Fund for 2012 and amend the CBSC report if required.**

The Commission also discussed the need for the RHCs to comply with the CB Procedures and decide to task the RHC Chairs with an action:

**IRCC4/06 (RHCs): Comply with the CBSC Procedures and ensure the timely provision of the appropriate documentation that justify expenses associated to CB projects, and demand refund, if needed, not later than one month after the event has finalized.**

### 3.5 - WEND Working Group

The WEND-WG Chair reported on the activities of the WG. He briefly described the history before the WG and the outcomes of the WEND-WG1 in 2011. The decision was taken to present a draft revised text for the WEND Principles and Guidelines to account for the IMO mandatory carriage of ECDIS, including amplification of the processes for gap and overlap solutions.

The WG also presented the views for improving the RENC operation and attractiveness and also reported the status of ENC coverage by usage bands and of the RENC membership.

The Committee noted the report and decided to confirm the existence of the WEND-WG and its Chair and Vice Chair. The Committee discussed the gaps and overlaps in adjacent cells, and the ENC quality issues. There was an agreement on the need of the high level government awareness to deal with the ENCs challenges. The Committee also recognized the need to engage IMO to reach this high level awareness.

Australia (Nairn) invited the Committee to note IHO CL 05/2012 (RENC transparency documents) and CL 51/2012 (continuous provision of ENCs to the IHB).

The Chair invited the Committee to consider the appropriate actions to implement IHC Decision 12 & 13 (*IRCC04-02.2*), taking into consideration *IHO CL 40/2012* on ensuring consistency between ENCs and corresponding paper charts, and instructs the WEND WG accordingly:

***Decision 12** constitutes a reaffirmation of the basis on which the activities of the WEND WG should be continued in accordance with its term of reference. More specifically, the WEND WG is invited to consider the following actions and report back to IRCC:*

- a) invite MSs/RHCs to identify ENC gaps and overlaps in their areas and elaborate a program to complete what is still missing, identifying target date for achievement;*
- b) invite RHCs to identify their regional shortcoming to be able to comply with SOLAS V Regulation 9, i.e. not what they need but what services they are not able to provide;*
- c) define a methodology to monitor coverage and availability of ENC and the priority areas still needed to be covered.*

***Decision 13** invites IRCC to task WEND WG to give further consideration to Annexes B and C of PRO WENDWG-2 and report back to IRCC6 for revision and adoption before submitting it to the 5th EIHC.*

The Committee agreed upon the following actions:

**IRCC4/13 (RHCs): Provide written feedback on Annexes B and C of WEND Principles (CONF.18/WP3) according to 18<sup>th</sup> IHC Decision 13.**

**IRCC4/14 (WEND-WG): Provide revised Annexes B and C of WEND Principles (CONF.18/WP3) to the IHB for approval by MS.**

The Chair invited the Committee to consider the contribution of the WEND-WG to the IHO Stakeholders' forum as input to item 6.3. The Committee decided the action:

**IRCC4/28 (WEND-WG Chair): Participate at the IHO Stakeholders' forum organized by HSSC.**

The Committee considered the status of action IRCC3/11 (*IHB in connection with WEND-WG: Incorporate in the periodic evaluation of the availability of ENC submitted to IMO (NAV) consideration on the impact of poor bathymetric data availability, datum mis-adjustment problem, and other relevant factors*). The Committee agreed on the following action:

**IRCC4/15 (UK, Chair and IRCC Members): UK to investigate, produce and provide the Chair with a draft straw paper highlighting ENC issues required to be reported to IMO and other high level organizations. Chair to circulate it to IRCC Members for comments and to provide this input to IHB for consideration.**

The Committee also discussed the previous action IRCC3/11 and considered appropriate to continue with an action in this line:

**IRCC4/25 (IHB in connection with WEND-WG): Incorporate in the periodic evaluation of the availability of ENC submitted to IMO (NAV) consideration on the impact of quality deficiencies, data availability, and other relevant factors.**

The Chair requested the WEND-WG Chair to discuss the need for a ToR update and the Committee agreed on an action:

**IRCC4/16 (WEND-WG Chair): Review and propose amendments to the WEND WG ToR if necessary.**

### **3.6 - FIG-IHO-ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers**

The IBSC Chair reported the recent meeting in Buenos Aires and the number of recognized and re-recognized programmes. Worth noting is the recognition of the first regional scheme for individual recognition, from the Australasian Hydrographic Surveyors Certification Panel.

The IBSC Chair reported on the evolution of the overall revision of the Standards (S-5 and S-8) and of the publications C-6 and C-47. He reported on the finance project that will be presented to the IHB to support this revision, according to the approved 2013-2017 Work Programme. The Chair reported that two new members of the IBSC had joined recently and that the on-site review process is being developed.

The Committee noted the report.

### **3.7 - GEBCO Guiding Committee**

The GGC representative reported on GEBCO activities and outcomes: the GEBCO products (gridded data, display software, digital atlas, publications, the web services, undersea feature names and world map). He presented the several meetings, the Scholar Programme, the IHO DCDB and other issues.

Committee noted the report and agreed the continuation of action IRCC03/17:

**IRCC4/07 (RHCs and GEBCO): 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.**

The Chair referred to IHO CL 42/2012 of 16 April 2012 and invited IRCC members to note that the next GEBCO Meetings and the GEBCO Science Day have been programmed alongside the 7<sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference (Theme: UNCLOS in a changing world) in October 2012 to foster dialogue between the two groups who have numerous matters of common interest and encouraged participation in both the GEBCO Science Day and the ABLOS Conference.

#### **4 - Inputs from other bodies affecting IRCC**

##### **4.1 - Input from HSSC3**

The Chair noted two issues of interest for IRCC:

- MSDI issues: HSSC noted the benefit of providing more operational advice to MS on MSDI and that increased MS participation in MSDI matters should be encouraged (see item 3.1).
- IHO Stakeholders' forum: HSSC agreed to support a joint IRCC / HSSC submission to the 18<sup>th</sup> IHC (see item 6.3).

##### **4.2 - Status of co-operation with non IHO bodies**

###### *4.2.1 - RIO+20 process*

The IRCC Secretary reported that, following Action IRCC3/24 (*consider the appropriate level of participation in the RIO + 20 process, in line with the IHO strategic directions*), the Brazilian Hydrographer (Vice-Admiral Miranda) agreed to represent the IHO in the Rio+20 Summit that will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20 - 22 June 2012. The IHB has provided the relevant documents and support to this participation.

The Chair introduced document IRCC4-04.2A and invited the Committee to consider the proposals relevant to IHO:

- proposal 3.b: Reform Regional Ocean Management Organizations,
- proposal 3.c: Enhance Coordination, Coherence and Effectiveness of the UN System on Ocean Issues.

The Committee agreed the following action:

**IRCC4/17 (Chair and RHCs): Circulate the paper "A Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability" to RHCs to be used as a raising awareness tool.**

###### *4.2.2 - Other inputs*

The Chair invited the IRCC Secretary to inform the Committee on issues related with MSC90 (16-25 May 2012), TC62 (6-8 June 2012), C108 (11-14 June 2012) and NAV58 (2-6 July 2012). The Secretary also reported on the coming IOC EC45 (26-28 June 2012).

Regarding the relations with regional organizations, the Chair invited the Committee to

discuss its contribution to the implementation of the MOU between the European Commission and the IHO which was signed at the 18<sup>th</sup> IHC (*IRCC4-02.2B*). France (Frachon) indicated that the issue will be addressed at the next NSHC Conference (Sept. 2012).

## **5 - Review of Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure**

The Chair invited observations if any on the adequacy of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure. The Committee discussed the eventual change in the periodicity of the IRCC Meetings (RoP 4) after consideration of the work programme (item 6) and decided to keep the annual event.

The Committee also considered whether to change the composition of the IRCC (RoP 1) from the RHC Chair to RHC Representative and decided to keep the Chairs, due to the need to maintain a high level participation.

## **6 - IRCC Work Programme management**

### **6.1 - Input from and to the IHO Work Programme**

The Chair introduced document IRCC4-06.1 and invited the Committee to consider the proposed actions. The Committee so decided:

**IRCC4/18 (RHCs and IRCC subsidiary organs): Provide the IRCC Chair with their report on the progress of the relevant tasks of the IHO 2012 Work Programme by end of January 2013.**

**IRCC4/19 (IRCC Chair): Provide the IHB with the IRCC Annual Report for 2012 by end of February 2013.**

**IRCC4/20 (RHCs and IRCC subsidiary organs): Review the relevant tasks of the IHO 2013 Work Programme in their respective work plans and report on suggested updates, if any, to the IRCC Chair by end of October 2012.**

**IRCC4/21 (IRCC Chair): Report suggested updates to the IHO 2013 Work Programme, if any, to the IHB by end of November 2012.**

### **6.2 - Input to the IHO Strategic Planning Mechanism**

The Chair introduced document IRCC4-06.2 and invited the Committee to consider the following elements of its contribution to the Strategic Plan monitoring system:

- a) IRCC to agree on its contribution to the monitoring of SPIs based on the SPI table in Annex A;
- b) IRCC to review the WPI table in Annex B and any alternative proposals and to agree on a limited set of basic and representative WPIs suited to the IRCC component of the IHO 2013-2017 Work Plan and on a monitoring framework;
- c) IRCC to invite RHCs and IRCC subsidiary organs to provide to the IRCC Chair the estimated values of SPIs and agreed WPIs as of 31 December 2012 and target values for 31 December 2017 by end of January 2013.
- d) IRCC Chair to report to the IHB Directing Committee on the IRCC contribution to the Strategic Plan monitoring system in the IRCC Annual Report for 2012 by the end of February 2013.

The Committee considered that some refinement of the wording is necessary in order to make the WPIs clear. The following actions were agreed:

**IRCC4/32 (RHC Chairs): Provide to the IRCC Chair the estimated values of SPIs and agreed WPIs as of 31 December 2012 and target values for 31 December 2017.**

**IRCC4/33 (IRCC Chair): Report to the IHB Directing Committee on the IRCC contribution to the Strategic Plan monitoring system in the IRCC Annual Report for 2012.**

### **6.3 - IRCC Work Programme**

The Chair introduced document IRCC4-06.3 and invited the Committee to review the status of the IRCC 2012 Work Programme and to consider the draft IRCC 2013 Work Programme. The Commission approved the reviewed **IRCC 2012 Work Programme (Annex D)** and adopted the Tasks as included in **Annex E**.

In accordance with the action plan associated with IHC Decision n° 9, Chair invited the Committee to identify which items of its Work Programme could benefit from exchanges with the relevant Stakeholders and to consider its involvement in the HSSC stakeholders' day, notably in relation with the activities of the WEND-WG (see item 3.5).

The Committee considered these issues and agreed the following actions:

**IRCC4/29 (IRCC Members): Identify the need and content of a stakeholders' forum event to be organized in 2013 if necessary.**

**IRCC4/30 (RHC Chairs): Consider the participation of the stakeholders at the RHC conferences.**

### **7 - Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Chair referred to article 3 of IRCC Rules of Procedure:

*The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be a representative of a Member State. The election of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be decided at the first meeting after each ordinary session of the Conference (Conference to be replaced by Assembly when the Council and Assembly are established) and shall be determined by vote of the Committee Members present and voting. If the Chair is unable to carry out the duties of the office, the Vice-Chair shall act as the Chair with the same powers and duties.*

The Chair introduced document IRCC4-07 and invited additional nominations if any.

The IRCC Vice-Chair withdrew his candidacy and nominated Canada (Narayanan) for Chair and UK (Lambert) as Vice Chair. It was supported by Australia (Nairn) and Denmark (Hansen).

The Committee elected Canada (Narayanan) and UK (Lambert) as Chair and Vice Chair of the IRCC.

It was agreed that the elected Chair and Vice-Chair take their positions after the conclusion of the meeting.

## **8 - Next IRCC meeting. Venue and date.**

The Chair invited proposals for the venue and dates for IRCC5. The CBSC Chair reported that CBSC had received an offer from India but it was still pending confirmation from local authorities. Australia (Nairn) kindly offer to host the meeting in case India could not confirm its offer.

The Committee decided to accept the offer from India, with Australia as the alternative venue. Regarding the dates, the Committee decided to meet back to back with the CBSC, with the dates as follows: CBSC (30 May to 1 June 2013) and IRCC (3-4 June 2013).

## **9 - Any other business**

### **9.1 - World Hydrography Day 2012**

The Chair reminded the Committee of the theme for WHD 2012: “*International Hydrographic Cooperation - Supporting safe navigation*” and invited comments on the implementation.

He also reminded the Committee of the preceding themes:

WHD 2011: “Human resources - The important element to the success of Hydrography”

WHD 2010: “Hydrographic services - The essential element for maritime trade”

WHD 2009: “Hydrography - Protecting the Marine Environment”

WHD 2008: “Capacity Building, a vital tool to assist the IHO in achieving its mission and objectives”

WHD 2007: “Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs); an essential element of safety at sea and efficient maritime operations”

WHD 2006: “85 years of the IHO contributing to worldwide safety to navigation”

The Chair invited ideas on the theme for WHD 2013, including possible link with other celebrations such as:

- the theme of the World Maritime Day for 2013 which should be discussed at the 108<sup>th</sup> session of the IMO Council (11-14 June 2012)
- UN Observances: 2013 is the International Year of Water Cooperation

The Committee reviewed the ideas put forward at IRCC3:

- *Making ENCs work for you !!*
- *Hydrography the fuel for ECDIS mandating !!*
- *Hydrography an essential element for E- Navigation !!.*
- *Hydrography in the context of the transition to the digital era !!*

The Committee considered the following additional inputs:

- Hydrography supports economic development
- Hydrography enables economic development (prosperity)
- Hydrography - the essential tool for economic development

and agreed to submit to the IHB Directing Committee the list of potential themes.

### **9.2 - IRCC Report for 2012**

The Committee agreed on the procedure for preparing the IRCC Report for 2012 (see item

6.1).

**10 - Decisions of the IRCC**

The Chair reviewed the list of actions from the meeting for final approval by the Committee.

The Committee agreed on the **LIST OF ACTIONS AND IRCC TASKS** as contained in **Annex E**.

**11 - Recommendations of the IRCC for consideration of the IHO Member States.**

The Chair reviewed possible recommendations, and the Committee agreed that the recommendations will be channelled via RHC Chairs.

**12 - Closure of the meeting.**

The Chair thanked the participants and the hosts and adjourned the meeting at 1600, on June 08, 2012.