

# INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION

## FOURTH MEETING OF THE INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE Singapore, 7-8 June 2012

### 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: Cameroon, France, Morocco, Nigeria, Portugal and Spain.

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

Observers:

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

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

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 <sup>(1)</sup>
France	68	50
Morocco	3 <sup>(2)</sup>	1
Portugal	45	34
Spain	32	26
United Kingdom	30	9

**4.2. ENC Scheme**

During the last year, the ENC coverage on EAtHC region made little progress. The ENC coverage on Usage Band 2 is completed and on Usage Band 3 there is a major gap on the northern part of Africa<sup>3</sup>.

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

<sup>(2)</sup> Charts in co-production with France.

The ENC production on the region, 336 cells, is presented on the table below (updated on April 2012).

	Band 1 Overview	Band 2 General	Band 3 Coastal	Band 4 Approach	Band 5 Harbour	Total
France	2	5	16	28	38	89
Portugal	1	5	11	18	49	84
Spain	0	4	11	23	29	68
United Kingdom	3	1	34	29	28	95

#### 4.3. Capacity Building

Since the last IRCC meeting three technical visits were conducted at the EAthC, to Cameroon (by France, on September 2011), Guinea-Bissau (by Portugal and France, on February 2012) and Gabon (by France, on April 2012).

#### 4.4. Status of IRCC Actions (relevant to EAthC)

*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:* Process ongoing in Nigeria. Before the XVIII International Hydrographic Conference (IHC) Nigeria was contacted and encouraged to accelerate the process of ratification.

*IRCC03/03 - Contact pending applicants in their region to encourage the ratification of the IHO Convention:* Cameroon, Mauritania and Sierra Leone, were invited by EAthC, before the XVIII IHC, to deposit their ratification instrument. Cameroon had obtained the required approval of two-thirds of the IHO Member States in March 2009 and deposited its Instrument of Accession to the Convention on 20 April 2012. EAthC is pleased with the accession of the 81<sup>st</sup> IHO Member State, which also became the 6<sup>th</sup> effective Member of this Regional Hydrographic Commission (RHC).

*IRCC03/04 - Contact suspended Member States in their region to encourage their re-insertion in IHO:* The Republic Democratic of Congo was encouraged by EAthC for its re-insertion in IHO. The participation of this State on the XVIII IHC, can be viewed as a sign of interest in re-joining the Organization.

*IRCC03/19 - Report to IRCC4 on the experience in dealing with Marine Disasters (TR 1/2005):* Before the coming meeting of this RHC, efforts are being made to establish a net of focal points in the area of hydrography. Communications in this region has been a major problem.

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<sup>3</sup> From the 800 major ports worldwide, EAthC has 10 ports without adequate ENC coverage.

## **5. Final Remarks:**

- EAtHC Chairmanship is inviting the observer coastal States from the region to sign the EAtHC statutes on the coming Conference.
- 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.
- EAtHC is committed to carrying forward hydrographic, cartographic and capacity building activities in accordance with IHO objectives and goals.

## **6. Venue and date of the 12<sup>th</sup> EAtHC meeting:**

Lisbon, Portugal, 14 – 16 Nov 2012.