

**REPORT OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA AND
ISLANDS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (SAIHC)**

1. **Chairman:** Captain Abri KAMPFER, Hydrographer South Africa
Vice Chairman: Mr Abdool Oozeer, PS Ministry of Housing & Lands, Mauritius
 2. **Membership:** France, Mozambique, Mauritius, Norway, South Africa and United Kingdom.
 3. **Associate Members:** Angola, Kenya, Malawi, Madagascar, Tanzania, Portugal, Comoros, Namibia and Seychelles.
- Observers:** Brazil and United States of America

Meetings:

8th SAIHC Conference Namibia, Walvis Bay, 6 – 7 September 2011.

4. Agenda Items

The SAIHC Conferences tend to work to a standing agenda with modifications for new issues as they arise. The principal agenda items dealt with during the above-mentioned meetings are:

- Feedback from other IHO Bodies affecting SAIHC
 - **IRCC**
 - **CBSC**
 - **IHB**
- SAIHC Activities in the light of IHO Workprogramme
 - INT chart scheme for Region H and NAVAREA VII Self Assessment: Progress made since last meeting; actual Charting Status; ENC production status; new requirements and modifications proposed to the scheme.
 - Bilateral and Regional Cooperation Agreements, Projects and Regional Capacity Building Management Plan. CBSC Technical Visits and Regional Projects.
 - Presentation of National Reports: Hydrographic surveying, nautical charting, nautical publications and information status
 - Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting (C-55)
 - Procedures in response to Marine Disasters
- Marine / Hydrographic Spatial Data Infrastructure
- Feedback on Regional Projects
- Revision of SAIHC Statutes

Conclusions

Main conclusions were as follows:

- Member States were urged to 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.
- Member States were encouraged to approve the applications for IHO membership of Haiti and Monte Negro.
- All recipients of the IHO Technical visits were unanimous in their praises of the value of the Technical visits in creating awareness on Hydrography at higher levels of decision making in their respective countries.
- To encourage and to assist Member States to subscribe to IHO and IALA conventions and to work towards establishing Hydrographic and Aids to Navigation institutions.
- Distribute IHO resolutions to Member States. Encourage the exchange of relevant hydrographic information and to stimulate communication among Member States. The training opportunities offered by IHO Member states are of particular importance to assist with building of Hydrographic capacity in the region.
- The importance of C-55 was re-iterated as it forms the basis of establishing capacity building needs in the various regions. All Member states were urged to keep C-55 up to date.
- SAIHC strategies to involve non-IHO Member States in RHC's activities were established to be achieved by regular technical visits, correspondence forwarded by the Chairman and annual SAIHC meetings.
- Emphasis was placed on the importance of IHO reference documents to be used in compliance with INT charting standards. Member states were encouraged to comply with these standards.
- The need for MSI was emphasised, especially in the Great Rift Valley Lakes region.
- ENC coverage is similar to that of INT Chart coverage and this is mainly due to the sterling efforts of the SAIHC Member states with charting responsibilities. Deficiencies in charting coverage will only be improved through modern surveys as the lack of data is the main inhibitor.
- Care should be taken of duplicating work in areas where modern surveys already exist. Recipient states should forward all survey data to the relevant charting authorities.
- Generic Bilateral Agreement for the provision of Hydrographic Services created by France is considered as a very good example of the type of agreement that can be used by MS and associated members who require hydrographic services or wish to enter

into a Bilateral Agreement with another contracting government, to comply with the SOLAS Convention obligations.

- SAIHC Statutes to be amended to reflect annual meetings, as well as the venues for the meetings to be amended to allow for the SAIHC meetings to be held outside of the SAIHC region.

5. Status of IRCC actions (relevant for the SAIHC)

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. RHCs Permanent. In the SAIHC only one country (Mozambique) has not yet approved the amendments to the IHO Convention, but confirmation has been received that the process is underway and no additional support is required to accelerate the process.

IRCC03/02: Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership. RHCs Permanent. - Complied.

IRCC03/09: UK to lead the design of a framework for C-55 development by correspondence. 31 July 2011. No longer required

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. RHCs Permanent. - Complied.

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. RHCs 30 June 2011 - Completed

IRCC03/15 Provide to the WENDWG Chair and IRCC Chair comments on the draft report on implementation of the WEND Principles. RHCs 15 October 2011. Completed

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. RHCs/GEBCO Permanent. – A GEBCO representative will be invited to attend the 9th SAIHC Conference.

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).

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Completed

IRCC03/19 Report to IRCC4 on:

a. their experience in dealing with marine disasters in relation with IHO guidelines (TR 1/2005), Nothing to report for SAIHC.

b. strategies to involve non-IHO MSs in RHC's activities. - SAIHC strategies to involve non-IHO Member States in RHC's activities were established to be achieved by regular technical visits, correspondence forwarded by the Chairman and annual SAIHC meetings.

6. Venue and date of next meeting

The 9th SAIHC Conference will be held in Mauritius on 18 and 19 September 2012.

7. Actions required from IRCC4

IRCC is invited to note this report