



Meso American & Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) Report to IRCC5



Chair: Mr Michel Amafo (Director MAS, Suriname) – Mar 2013 onwards
 RAdm Tom Karsten (National Hydrographer, United Kingdom) – Dec 2012-Mar 2013
 RAdm Nick Lambert (National Hydrographer, United Kingdom) – Dec 2011-Dec 2012

Vice Chair: Capt Peter Kortenoeven (Hydrographer, Netherlands) Mar 2013 onwards
 Mr Michel Amafo (Director MAS, Suriname) – Dec 2011- Mar 2013

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, 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, Guyana, St Vincent & The Grenadines.

Organizations: Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), 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), HYPACK, International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), International Bathymetric Chart of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico (IBCCA), International Maritime Organization Regional Activity Center / Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Center (IMO REMPEITC), Maritime Alliance, Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services (RTCM).

Companies: CARIS, Celebrity Cruises, EPQ, ESRI, Fugro, IIC Technologies, Jeppesen, Kongsberg, Pelydryn, DISAGRO, QPS BV Netherlands.

1. Last Meeting: 13th MACHC meeting, Antigua, Guatemala, 19-22 November 2012 (attendees underlined above).

2. Status of IRCC4 Actions (relevant to MACHC):

IRCC04/01 Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership.

Complete - MS were encouraged by both IHB (Robert Ward) and MACHC Chair (R. Admiral Nick Lambert (UK) to approve pending applications at the 13th MACHC Meeting.

IRCC04/03 Continue to engage suspended Member States in their region to encourage their re-insertion in IHO.

Complete - MACHC Chair contacted Dominican Republic to encourage their participation at the 13th MACHC Meeting, Guatemala. No response received.

IRCC04/06 Comply with the CBSC Procedures and 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.

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

IRCC04/07 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.

Complete - MACHC Chair contacted GEBCO Guiding Committee/Bathymetric Regional Project Chairs to encourage their participation at the 13th MACHC Meeting, Guatemala. An International Bathymetric Chart of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico (IBCCA) representative attended the 13th MACHC Meeting.

IRCC04/08 RHCs to provide comments on draft C-55 framework, developed by Australia, to IRCC Chair.

Complete

IRCC04/09 Consider amending Statutes of the RHCs in order to allow non-IHO MSs to host RHCs conferences, when and if applicable.

Complete – Consideration was given to amending the Statutes at the 13th MACHC Meeting but the existing wording was deemed appropriate to allow non-IHO MSs to host.

IRCC04/12 Complete statistical information identifying achievements prepared at the IRCC Meeting.

Complete

IRCC04/13 Provide written feedback on Annexes B and C of WEND Principles (CONF.18/WP3) according to 18th IHC Decision 13.

Complete

IRCC04/17 Circulate the paper “A Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability” to RHCs to be used as a raising awareness tool.

Complete – Topic discussed at the 13th MACHC Meeting.

IRCC04/18 Provide the IRCC Chair with their report on the progress of the relevant tasks of the IHO 2012 Work Programme.

Complete

IRCC04/20 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.

Complete.

IRCC04/27 Inform MSs of the IMO's transition to and the implication of the mandatory IMO Member States Audit Scheme from 2015.

Complete – Topic discussed at the 13th MACHC Meeting.

IRCC04/30 Consider the participation of the stakeholders at the RHC conferences.

Complete – there was a wide participation of stakeholders at the 13th MACHC Meeting.

IRCC04/32 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.

Complete – Estimated values of SPIs and agreed WPIs requested by e-mail from MACHC MS; nil return.

3. Main items under consideration:

3.1. Wider involvement with organizations in region

There was an increase in the number and variety of relevant international organisations participating at the recent MACHC meeting. Highlights included presentations by REMPEITC (Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre for the Wider Caribbean) and CCCCC (Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre),

which raised awareness of ocean and coastal sustainability and relevance of the 'Blue Economy'.

3.2. Blue Economy

The President of the "Maritime Alliance" gave a very well received presentation with engaging discussions on the 'Blue Economy' and 'Maritime Funding'. The consideration and importance of maritime funding was also discussed. MACHC Member States produced a resolution on the 'Blue Economy' for future reference.

3.3. Marine Economic Infrastructure Programme (MEIP) work

MEIP Demonstrator Model Options ESRI and CARIS presented their respective solutions for a MACHC MEIP for delegates to consider and discuss. MS decided that both systems be provided to the WG for a limited trial period before a decision was taken on how to progress using one provider. The aim of this trial period would be for WG members to identify a portal to achieve the MEIP purpose and not to lose focus on the 'economic' aspect of the work.

3.4. Intercessional activities

MACHC Chair or IHB representative plans to participate at the 'Sea Trade Cruise Shipping Conference', Miami, 2014 and possibly give a presentation on the importance keeping nautical charting 'up-to-date' with the latest hydrographic data. This would help to educate the audience how they can assist Hydrographic Offices and chart producers by providing hydrographic data for products and thereby improving safety.

3.5. Sub region projects

The Eastern Caribbean Hydrographic Initiative, which was established, with international funding, to conduct systematic area surveys throughout the Eastern Caribbean is starting to make some progress.

3.6. CB planning even with limited CB funding

At the last Capacity Building Sub Committee (CBSC) meeting in Singapore the only MACHC submission which was approved was for an MSI course. This was the result of a smaller budget available to the CBSC and the increase in RHCs submitting requests. The higher level courses such as MSDI, hydro surveying and charting are deemed lower priority (compared to technical visits and MSI).

3.7. Training in region

The CB themes emerging from the region with regarding training are:

- Smaller scale courses with assistance from HOs in the region
- Distance learning (including a Spanish version)
- Regional projects with training incorporated (OECS, GoF)
- Training Ship in region (France, Netherlands, UK)
- Regional collaboration between nations

3.8. Data gathering methods - Crowd Sourcing, Satellite Bathymetry

Crowd sourcing and satellite bathymetry data gathering methods have been keenly discussed at the last two MACHC meetings. There is currently a trial taking place in Antarctica using five vessels to assess the validity of Crowd Sourcing; so far the data looks promising. Some MACHC MS have been tasked to assess the viability of satellite bathymetry in region and liaise on trials.

3.9. Specialist user input from visits and meeting participation

There was broad specialist user input on topics ranging from how hydrographic products impact on the commercial maritime trade to hydrography being the base map for the 'Blue Economy'.

3.10. MS views on WEND-WG

The WEND-WG encouraged RHCs to take the lead on the reduction of gaps and overlaps of ENC's in their region – the MACHC Integrated Charting Committee (MICC, previously MACICCWG) has worked hard on this issue and has considerably reduced ENC gaps and overlaps in region.

MS were encouraged to review the wording of the guidelines when they are distributed by the IHO and to respond accordingly to the circular letter even if they are yet to produce ENC's.

3.11. Invite chairs of similar RHCs to plenary

Chairs of RHCs with a similar mixture of developed and emerging Hydrographic Administrations combined with small and large Island nation states, such as SWPHC and NIOHC, should be invited to attend.

4. General aspects:

The Commission would like to note the relative success of participation of Industry and Stakeholders during the 13th meeting. It 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 as well as to impact, if appropriate, to agenda items. The two key themes for many of the presentations were the Blue Economy and Maritime Funding. The MACHC Marine Economic Infrastructure Programme (MIEP) was reinforced by the discussions and plans set in place to work towards an in region test case.

Valuable progress is being made by MICC 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 MACHC is working at obtaining alternative sources for funding to continue development in region.

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: Philipsburg, St Maarten, November/December 2013.

7. Proposals:

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