

MEDITERRANEAN & BLACK SEAS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (MBSHC)**MBSHC report to IRCC6**
Paris, France 19-20 May 2014

1. **Chair:** Cmdre. George MATARANGAS (Greece) until 27 September 2013
Capt. (PhD) Erhan GEZGİN (Turkey) since 28 September 2013

2. Membership

Members: Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine (19 Members).

Associate Members: Bulgaria, Georgia, Israel, Malta, Palestinian Authority, UK, USA (8 Associate Members).

Observers: Albania, Germany, Lebanon, DINMA, IOC, PRIMAR. IHB Representatives: Director Mustafa İPTEŞ, Assistant Director Alberto Costa NEVES.

3. Meetings

18th MBSHC, İstanbul, Turkey, 25- 27 September 2013.

Next Meeting: 19th MBSHC, Batumi, Georgia, June 2015 (TBC).

4. Current MBSHC Working Groups:

a. Region F International Charting Coordination Working Group (ICCWG)

b. Black and Azov Seas Working Group (BASWG), next meeting will be in Batumi, Georgia 03-04 June 2014.

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

No	Action	Resp.	Deadline	Status-MBSHC
IRCC5/01	Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership	RHCs	Permanent. Report to IRCC Chair. Dec 2013.	Following approvals missing: a. Vietnam: 6 (Algeria, Cyprus, Italy, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain) b. Georgia: 6 (Algeria, Italy, Morocco, Russian Fed., Spain, Tunisia) c. Brunei Darussalam: 7 (Algeria, Italy, Morocco, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia) (Action MBSHC18/05-ongoing)
IRCC5/02	Continue to engage pending applicants in their region to encourage the ratification of the IHO Convention	EAtHC and MBSHC	Permanent. Report to IRCC Chair. Dec 2013.	Pending applicant Bulgaria. To be discussed in next BASWG Meeting.
IRCC5/03	Continue to engage suspended Member States in their region to encourage their re-insertion in IHO	EAtHC, MACHC and MBSHC	Permanent. Report to IRCC Chair. Dec 2013.	Suspended MS Serbia. (Action MBSHC18/04-ongoing)

IRCC5/04	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	RHCs	Permanent	MBSHC CB activities comply with the CBSC Procedures. (Actions MBSHC 18/17,18,19,20 and Decisions MBSHC18/04,05,06)
IRCC5/06	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 and GEBCO	Permanent	Representative of GEBCO (Italy) attends to MBSHC Meetings and reports GEBCO activities.
IRCC5/07	Consider the participation of the stakeholders at the RHC Conferences	RHC Chairs	Before IRCC6	Stakeholders are invited to MBSHC Meetings. (CARIS BV, QPS UK, IC-ENC, Fugro Pelagos and METU participated at MBSHC18.)
IRCC5/16	Provide the IRCC Chair with the reports on the progress of the relevant tasks of the IHO 2013 Work Programme.	RHCs and IRCC subsidiary organs	By the end of Jan 2014	T1.1.4 Greece designated as a focal point of the MBSHC for the EU-IHO relation. (Decision MBSHC18/02) T1.3.2 Turkey designated as MBSHC representative for IHR editorial board. T3.1.18 Industry participated in MBSHC 18. T3.2.4 Participation of non-IHO MSs in MBSHC meetings increased (in 2008 2 Non MSs and 6 in 2013).
IRCC5/19	Provide to IRCC Chair the estimated values of SPIs and agreed WPIs as of 31 December 2013 and target values for 31 December 2017, complemented by the comments on the difficulties encountered and suggestions for the way forward	RHC Chairs	Permanent. Report to the Chair by the end of Jan 2014	SPIs & WPIs for MBSHC defined for the first time in 2013 and provided to IRCC Chair. As the figures are based on inadequate information, some SPIs & WPIs could not be defined. But, the relevant information will be collected permanently in the following years and more reliable data is going to be obtained.
IRCC5/20	Consider proposing agenda items to the next EIHC5	RHC Chairs	Jan 2014	No proposal from MBSHC.
IRCC5/28	Encourage RHCs to support GEBCO regional mapping projects and report back to IRCC6.	RHC Chairs	IRCC6	Ntr.
IRCC5/34	Encourage Member States and representatives of industry and academia to promote and to work together to ensure that the best possible use is made of satellite derived bathymetry.	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Ntr. This issue will be included in the agenda of the following meetings.
IRCC5/35	Encourage discussions on how Crowd Source Bathymetry can be used in official navigational products and report back to IRCC6.	RHC Chairs	IRCC6	Ntr.
IRCC5/36	Provide material to the IHB to promote the achievements of IRCC bodies including CBSC, GEBCO.	RHC Chairs and subsidiary bodies.	Permanent.	5-year CB plan for MBSHC provided and submissions for 2015.

6. Conclusions and Achievements:

a. The draft disaster action plan for MBSHC was prepared. This issue is planned to be finalized in the next meeting.

b. The text for “Rules for Designation of MBSHC Representatives to the IHO Council” is approved by the Commission.

c. Greece was designated as the EU-IHO Focal Point for MBSHC.

d. SPIs & WPIs for MBSHC defined for the first time in 2013. As the information obtained was inadequate, some of the SPIs & WPIs could not be defined. But, the relevant information will be collected permanently in the following years and more reliable data is going to be obtained and reported accordingly.

e. MBSHC representative for IHR Editorial Board was designated (Turkey)

f. Regarding the Capacity Building activities in the region;

(1) 5-year CB plan for MBSHC (2015-2019) was agreed and the relevant submissions for 2015 were submitted to CBSC for consideration.

(2) Three Technical Visits (Georgia, Israel and Lebanon) were planned for 2014. Two of them were implemented as follows;

- Lebanon between 05 and 07 February 2014 with participation of experts from France, Turkey (lead) and IHB;

- Georgia 22 and 24 April 2014 with participation of experts from Turkey (lead) and Ukraine.

(3) Technical visit to Israel is planned between 01 and 03 July 2014 with participation of experts from Greece, Turkey (lead) and IHB

g. There have been some navigational safety activities in Caspian Sea. States bordering Caspian Sea were informed on the works of the MBSHC and they will be invited to the next meeting of the Commission as observers.

h. Update of IHO membership within MBSHC region;

(1) Montenegro has become 82nd Member State of the IHO as announced by the IHB with IHO CL 07/2014 and the 19th Member State of the MBSHC in accordance with Article 1 of the Statutes of the MBSHC.

(2) Georgia applied for the membership in 2012 and currently 39 out of 52 approvals received.

(3) The membership of Bulgaria is approved but awaiting deposit of Instrument of Accession.

7. Actions required from the IRCC6:

No formal proposals were made.

The IRCC is invited to take note of this report.

Capt.(PhD) Erhan GEZGİN
Chairman, MBSHC