

**SIXTH MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE  
IHO-IRCC6  
Paris, France, 19-20 May 2014**

**REPORT**

**1. OPENING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

*Docs: IRCC6-01A                      List of Documents (IHB)*  
*IRCC6-01B rev5                    List of Participants (IHB)*

The Chair, Rear Admiral Tom Karsten (UK), opened the meeting and welcomed the IRCC Members and Observers. He thanked his predecessor, Dr. Savi Narayanan (Canada) for her work at IRCC. He also thanked the *Service Hydrographique et Océanographique de la Marine* (SHOM) for hosting the meeting and for their excellent organization and the IHB for the support to the Chair. The Chair also gave a brief presentation highlighting the main objectives of the IRCC; namely, that Members and Observers could promote and coordinate their activities and express their views.

The *Ingénieur Général de l'Armement* (IGA) Bruno FRACHON (France) welcomed all the participants to the *Pôle Géosciences* where Météo-France, *Institut National de l'Information Géographique et Forestier* (IGN) and SHOM are located in Paris. He thanked his team for working hard to prepare the meeting.

Mr. Robert Ward, the President of the IHO, thanked the host, SHOM, for arranging the venue and the facilities for IRCC6. He highlighted the role of the IRCC to provide the oversight, governance and the direction for the execution of Programme 3 of the IHO Work Programme, particularly the delivery, implementation and execution of the global and regional aspects of the IHO's objectives. For this reason the IRCC is made up of representatives of the regional Commissions and the subordinate bodies of the IRCC rather than representatives of individual States. He also noted the busy agenda for only two days and the many important matters to consider, while stressing that WEND is a particularly important topic.

The meeting participants were invited to introduce themselves for the benefit of participants attending IRCC for the first time. The list of participants was updated (**Annex A**). The hosts and the IHB gave a brief on logistics and administrative issues.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE**

*Doc: IRCC6-02 rev1                      Agenda and Timetable (IHB)*

The Chair introduced the Agenda items and the timetable (*doc. IRCC6-02 rev1*) and invited participants to comment. The agenda and timetable were adopted without changes.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF IRCC5 MEETING**

*Docs: IRCC6-03A                      Minutes of IRCC5 (IHB)*  
*IRCC6-03B                              Status of Action List from IRCC5 (IHB)*

The Secretary, IHB Director Mustafa Iptes, introduced the IRCC5 Report and List of Actions (docs IRCC6-03A and IRCC6-03B) which were reviewed and updated accordingly. The Chair inquired whether there was any feedback from IMO on action IRCC5/15 concerning the IHO report to the NAV Committee. President Ward explained that the report had been compiled and would be considered during the IMO/NCSR1 meeting (30 June - 4 July 2014). Regarding action IRCC5/16, the

Secretary explained that very few answers were received to the IRCC CL 3/2014 on the relevant tasks of the IHO 2013 Work Programme.

The Secretary also explained that a limited number of answers were received for IRCC CL 4/2014 on the IHO-EU Network Working Group (IENWG). Regarding actions IRCC5/34 and IRCC5/35, the Chair invited the RHC Chairs to provide the regional view on Satellite Derived Bathymetry (SDB) and Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry (CSB) for the next EIHC5. The meeting agreed on the following actions and decision:

**Decision 1: to approve the IRCC5 report and the action list.**

**Action 17: RHC Chairs to invite Hydrographic Office representatives to be prepared to discuss Proposals 4 (Crowd Sourced Bathymetry - CSB) and 6 (Satellite Derived Bathymetry- SDB) during EIHC5 (deadline: EIHC5).**

**Action 18: RHC Chairs to be ready to present the regional view on CSB and SDB during EIHC5 (deadline: EIHC5).**

**Action 19: Chair of IHO-EU Network WG to report the progress of the IHO-EU Network WG to IRCC7 (during IRCC7).**

**Note:** Actions 1 to 16 are permanent and actions agreed during the respective agenda items are numbered from 17 onward.

#### **4. REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE**

*Doc: IRCC6-04 TOR-ROP (IHB)*

The Secretary introduced the IRCC Terms of Reference (ToR) and Rules of Procedure (RoP). The Article 1 of the RoP was revised to include the WENDWG and IENWG in IRCC and Article 3 of the RoP was amended to better reflect of the process through which the Vice-Chair assumes the Chair if the Chair is unable to carry out his duties. The revised RoPs will be submitted for Member States' approval.

The final text for IRCC RoP Article 1 and Article 3 was agreed as below, with the changes in red:

1. The Committee shall be composed of the Chairs of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions; the Chairs of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA), the Capacity Building Sub- Committee (CBSC), the Worldwide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS), the International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC), **Worldwide ENC Data (WEND) Working Group, IHO-EU Network Working Group (IENWG)** and the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) Guiding Committee. Committee Meetings shall be open to all Member States (MSs) of the IHO. International Organizations and accredited Non-Government International Organizations (NGIOs) may attend Committee Meetings.
3. 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 Assembly is 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 **assume** the Chair with the same powers and duties.

The meeting agreed on the following decision and actions:

Decision 2: to approve the amendments to the IRCC RoP and submit to MSs for approval (**Annex B**).

Action 20: IHB to issue CL to seek MSs approval of the updated IRCC RoP (deadline: June 2014)

Action 21: IHB to upload the revised IRCC RoP to the IHO website when adopted by MSs (deadline: September 2014).

## 5. REPORT BY THE CHAIR AND THE IHB

*Docs: IRCC6-05 Report of IHB (IHB)*

The Chair presented his oral report on the activities of the IRCC since the last meeting. He highlighted; the revision of the WEND Principles with new guidelines and the new definition of cartographic boundary; new ToR for WENDWG; the revision on publications B-6, S-5 and S-8; revision of the IHO CB Strategy; the progress of CB activities (increasing numbers); new digital C-55 available; increased number of recognized courses of Category A and Category B; the establishment of the IENWG; and, the activities in the RHC meetings.

President Ward presented the IHB Report (*doc. IRCC6-05*) with special emphasis on the ratification of the IHO Convention by 48 Member States with only 8 more necessary for the approval. He highlighted also the status of approval of Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam and Georgia. The President also presented the status of development of the Country Information Database, the Regional Information Database, the pilot project for the Antarctica and the IHO ENC Catalogue.

The President also presented IHO outreach and World Hydrographic Day preparation, the future participation in IFHS Hydro 14 (that will include an IHO Stakeholders' Forum) and the stand down of the International Hydrographic Review editor. Regarding the EIHC5, he reported the nine proposals, the three reports and recommendations, the three programme summaries and recommendations and the 2015 WP and budget. He highlighted the participation of Member States in the execution of the IHO WP, the increasing dependence on voluntary industry participation and contract support, the need to coordinate the scheduling of meetings and the dependency on the inputs from Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups for resource-based planning.

Director Iptes presented the objectives and the outcome of the IHO Seminars on Capacity Building and on the Standards of Competence that were held in Monaco from 5 to 7 March 2014. The level of participation and the feedback received indicated the importance of these two themes to the IHO community. He also suggested IRCC worked intersessionally in order to fulfill its needs and underlined the fact that the IRCC Secretariat was facing difficulties in getting responses from RHC Chairs and from IRCC bodies the IRCC Circular Letters. The meeting then agreed on the following decision:

Decision 3: to note the reports of the Chair and of the IHB.

## 6. RHC REPORTS

<i>Docs: IRCC6-06A</i>	<i>Nordic HC (NHC Chair)</i>
<i>IRCC6-06B</i>	<i>North Sea HC (NSHC Chair)</i>
<i>IRCC6-06C</i>	<i>East Asia HC (EAHC Chair)</i>
<i>IRCC6-06D rev 2</i>	<i>US/Canada HC (USCHC Co-Chair)</i>
<i>IRCC6-06E</i>	<i>Mediterranean and Black Seas HC (MBSHC Chair)</i>
<i>IRCC6-06F</i>	<i>Baltic Sea HC (BSHC Chair)</i>
<i>IRCC6-06G</i>	<i>Eastern Atlantic HC (EAtHC Chair)</i>
<i>IRCC6-06H rev 1</i>	<i>South-East Pacific Regional HC (SEPRHC Chair)</i>
<i>IRCC6-06I</i>	<i>South-West Pacific HC (SWPHC Chair)</i>
<i>IRCC6-06J</i>	<i>Meso American &amp; Caribbean Sea HC (MACHC Chair)</i>

<i>IRCC6-06K</i>	<i>Southern Africa and Islands HC (SAIHC Chair)</i>
<i>IRCC6-06L</i>	<i>North Indian Ocean HC (NIOHC Chair)</i>
<i>IRCC6-06M</i>	<i>ROPME Sea Area HC (RSAHC Chair)</i>
<i>IRCC6-06N</i>	<i>South West Atlantic HC (SWAtHC Chair)</i>
<i>IRCC6-06O</i>	<i>Arctic Regional HC (ARHC Chair)</i>

The Chair invited RHC Chairs and Representatives to briefly summarize their report and to present key achievements, the challenges faced and lessons learned in each Region.

**NHC** Chair, Mr. Rainer Mustaniemi (Finland), reported on the developments in the NHC WGs and the status regarding the IRCC5 actions.

**NSHC** Representative, Mr. Hans C. Lauritzen (Norway), highlighted the extensive participation of its members in the IHO bodies, the participation in the EMODNet and the EU Coastal Projects. The region decided to follow and contribute to the development of remote sensing bathymetry.

**EAHC** Representative, Hideki Kinoshita (Japan), highlighted that two Members of the region, Brunei Darussalam and Vietnam, are waiting for approval, the development of the EAHC Training, Research and Development Center (TRDC), the capacity building activities in the region, and the nomination of Dr. Nishida as new member at the IHR Editorial board.

Regarding the response to disaster, the Chair requested the EAHC to share their experience and knowledge with others whenever possible. Mr. Shin Tani (Japan), the Chair of GEBCO Guiding Committee, explained that activities were already conducted to share the experiences gained after the last tsunami.

**USCHC** Co-Chair, Mr. Denis Hains (Canada) reported the last meeting held in conjunction with the Canadian Hydrographic Conference (CHC2014), the active contribution from the region to 11 IHO bodies with 31 participants, the ongoing solution for the ENC overlap in Beaufort Sea between the USA and Canada, the progress done in LIDAR, SDB and near real-time digital nautical publications. He reported the challenges on facing the need for awareness of the need for better charting in the Arctic, the demands for real or near real-time products and services, the maintenance or increasing the participation in the IHO activities and the use of technology for virtual collaboration.

**MBSHC** Chair, Captain Erhan Gezgin (Turkey), reported the work of the Region F International Charting Coordination Working Group (ICCWG) and the activities of the Working Group on the Safety of Navigation in the Black and Azov Seas (BASWG), the status of the actions from IRCC5, the draft disaster action plan for the region, the approval of the "Rules for the designation of MBSHC representatives to the IHO Council", the definition of the Performance Indicators and the nomination of the representative from MBSHC (LCDR Bulent Gurses, Turkey) to the IHR Editorial Board. He also reported the 2014 capacity building activities (two technical visits done to Lebanon and Georgia and one in preparation for Israel).

**BSHC** Chair, Mr. Taivo Kivimae (Estonia), reported the work done by the five WGs, particularly, the new project for re-surveying, the preparation for the implementation of the harmonized European Vertical Reference System, the updates to the INT Chart Scheme, the harmonization rules for ENC production, the creation of a harmonized bathymetric database and the developments for MSDI. He also reported the IHR special edition dedicated to the BSHC before EIHC5, the status of the actions from IRCC5 and cooperation with other organizations.

**EAtHC** Chair, IGA Bruno Frachon (France), reported the increasing importance of maritime activities in the region, with an increase of awareness of Hydrography both in-country and in regional organizations and the need to make tools available to assist with these increasing activities. He reported on the High Level Seminar held in the region focused on the development of Hydrography in

coastal States, jointly organized by IALA-IMO-IHO, under the “Delivery As One” strategy. He highlighted the difficulties in organizing the proper flow of Maritime Safety Information and establishing permanent points of contact. He also noted the proposal to develop a holistic capacity building project in the region in a sustainable form and the use of an MSI portal to share information in the region.

**SEPRHC** Chair, Rear Admiral Hugo Veran (Peru), reported the status of the actions from IRCC5, the current situation of ENCs in the region, and thanked the support from CBSC to help identifying common areas in Hydrography and Nautical Cartography in the region that will lead to enhanced opportunities and development of common tools.

**SWPHC** Chair, Commodore Brett Brace (Australia), reported that New Caledonia became an Observer to SWPHC, the risk assessment programme for prioritizing surveys in Cook Islands and Tonga, the results of the risk assessment for Vanuatu, the key role of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in the region with high level engagement in the development of a regional hydrographic surveying capability. He noted the increasing awareness of the value of hydrographic data for the development of the region and recognition of the need to establish a regional hydrographic data gathering capability.

UK (previous SWPHC Chair) recognized the value of the risk assessment methodology in SWPHC. The President highlighted the model of developing a regional survey capability in SWPHC (SPC) and MACHC (Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States - OECS) in order to support and enhance the provision of hydrographic services in Small Islands Developing States (SIDS).

**MACHC** Chair, Mr. Michel Amafo (Suriname), reported the importance of working on the highest levels of decision making in the region, the lessons learned with the participation of industry, policy makers, politicians and other international and regional organizations. He announced the forthcoming Mexican Hydrographic Conference to be held in December 2014, along with the MACHC15 Meeting and a CB-supported Raising Awareness Seminar.

**SAIHC** Chair, Captain Abri Kampfer (South Africa), reported the progress made by means of capacity building activities, the establishment of the INT Chart Coordinating Committee and the lack of hydrographic survey data or the lack of access to the available data. He also noted that a large number of states have not fully achieved hydrographic capability; so more progress is expected by doing more capacity building activities.

**NIOHC** Chair, Vice-Admiral Witoon Tantigun (Thailand), reported on capacity building activities in the region and the final status of the IRCC5 actions. He also presented the improvement in regional charting activities.

**RSAHC** Representative, Admiral Srinivasan (Saudi Arabia), reported on the improved ENC scheme for medium and small scale charts, the admission of Iraq as an Associate Member, the growing improvement on charting in national waters and the progress made in preparation for the adoption of an INT Chart scheme for the ROPME Area in 2015. He mentioned that Saudi Arabia offered to conduct training from 2015 at the Hydrographic Training Centre in Jeddah for trainees from the Gulf and Red Sea regions, the development of a 5-year capacity building plan, the increasing interaction with stakeholders to enable better Hydrographic Services and the nomination of Oman as a new member at the IHR Editorial Board.

The Chair asked whether RSAHC and NIOHC cooperate in capacity building issues. RSAHC Representative highlighted the Tides and Water Level and Ports and Shallow Water training affecting both regions. The CBSC Chair, Mr. Thomas Dehling, stressed that there is increasing inter-regional capacity building collaboration and UK noted the role of the CB Coordinators to foster inter-regional cooperation.

**SWAtHC** Representative, Captain Nickolas Roscher (Brazil), reported the status of the INT Chart and the ENC schemes, the capacity building activities in the region, the inter-regional ‘on the job’ training provided by Brazil in Mozambique and the training of hydrographic personnel from Namibia in the Brazilian Hydrographic Service (DHN).

**ARHC** Representative, Mr. Noralf Slotsvik, reported the harsh environmental conditions and the difficulties in surveying the Arctic, the development of the strategic direction document and the specifications of an Arctic Voyage Planning Guide with the support from Canada. He noted the work done by the three WGs, the cooperation with other international organizations, the experiences in running a Scientific Forum with invited experts, the use of ECDIS north of 85° N and the investigation on the use of satellite derived vertical reference surfaces.

President Ward highlighted that the IHO requested to become an Observer of the Arctic Council and approval is expected in due time. The Chair then led a debate on how to enhance cooperation and the following actions were agreed by the meeting:

**Decision 4: to note the reports from the RHC Chairs and Representatives**

**Action 22: USCHC to share the lessons learned from the US-Canada transboundary (agreement) project with IRCC (deadline: IRCC7)**

**Action 23: EAthC to report progress in the use of an Internet portal in the EAthC region aiming at sharing MSI information (deadline: IRCC7).**

**Action 24: EAHC to share experiences gained in handling natural disasters (ref. IHO Resolution 1/2005) that recently occurred in the EAHC region (deadline: IRCC7).**

**Action 25: SWPHC to share experience gained in developing the risk assessment tool, including activities related to engaging decision makers and donor agencies (deadline: IRCC7).**

**Action 26: CBSC to report on the development of joint CB projects with inter-regional and inter-institutional relevance (completed during the meeting).**

## **7. REPORTS FROM IRCC BODIES**

*Docs: IRCC6-07A Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA Chair)*

*IRCC6-07B World-Wide Navigational Warning Service SC (WWNWS-SC Chair)*

*IRCC6-07C Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC Chair)*

*IRCC6-07D WEND Working Group (WENDWG Chair)*

*IRCC6-07E FIG-IHO-ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC Chair)*

*IRCC6-07F GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC Chair)*

*IRCC6-07G IHO-EU Network Working Group (France)*

The Chair invited the IRCC bodies to present the main achievements, challenges faced and lessons learned and invited the Committee to discuss the inputs and to provide guidance to each body’s work programme.

**HCA** Chair, President Robert Ward, reported the outcomes of HCA13 held in Cadiz (Spain) with the participation of 15 of the 23 Member States, Colombia as an Observer for the first time and a number of organizations, IHO body representatives and expert contributors. He noted that the main topics of the meeting were: the ways to increase surveying activity in Antarctic waters, the continuing campaign to raise awareness at the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), the progress in the INT

Chart and ENC scheming and production, the progress on crowd-sourced bathymetry and the declaration of encouragement for public/private cooperation to minimize expenses on contract surveying. He stressed that more than 95% of the Antarctic waters are unsurveyed.

The Chair requested information and links between HCA and ARHC. The President explained that there are better surveys in the Arctic than in the Antarctic but both regions share common problems. In both, the lead is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the challenge is to raise awareness in Hydrography in the regions. The recent resolution at ATCM on cooperation in Hydrography put IHO/HCA as the coordinating authority and the same needs to be undertaken in the Arctic Council.

USA suggested a resolution on the use of non-standard data like CSB and SDB in order to make progress in areas with boundary disputes. This should incorporate guidance on how to use the data. The meeting then agreed on the following decision and action:

**Decision 5: to note the report from HCA.**

**Action 27: Chair to invite HSSC/EIHC5 to consider the use of non-standard data such as CSB, SDB and how to use it in direct and indirect ways (deadline: EIHC5).**

**WWNWS-SC** Representative, Mr. Eric Langlois (France) reported that the Sub-Committee monitors and guides the IHO/IMO WWNWS including 21 NAVAREA Coordinators, maintain close liaison with WMO for the WWMIWS and METAREA Coordinators, proposes new methods to enhance the provision of navigational warnings to mariners at sea and provides appropriate guidance to concerned IHO Member State Representatives. He noted the last meeting that saw the participation of 42 delegates from 22 Member States and other international organizations; the meeting was also attended by 19 NAVAREA and one Sub-Area Coordinators. He reported on the work done in preparing editorial amendments to the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on MSI, in reviewing the IMO documents related to MSI to ensure consistency, the establishment of a WG to develop an MSI standard for S-100 and the delivery of capacity building training on MSI. He also reported the future work programme for the WWNWS-SC.

The meeting agreed on the following decisions:

**Decision 6: to note the report from WWNWS-SC.**

**Decision 7: to approve the continuation of the WWNWS-SC under its current ToR and RoP.**

**CBSC** Chair, Mr. Thomas Dehling (Germany), reported the revision of the IHO CB Strategy that established a limitation on acquisition of equipment only when continued support exists under a comprehensive programme and funding for non-Member States limited to Phase 1 projects. He also noted the development of a new procedure for technical visits, the need to improve C-55 under a GIS infrastructure, the development of the ToR for the CB Coordinators and its importance for the IHO CB Strategy, even for the regions that do not need capacity building support. He stressed the fact that CB Coordinators should commit for longer than a year in order to properly organize the activities in or from the region and acknowledged the work done by the IHB CB Assistant to improve the general management of the capacity building activities.

The President noted that the CB Assistant cannot be renewed beyond December 2014 due to administrative reasons and that the IHB will try to absorb the tasks in-house, coming back to Member States if this approach fails.

France thanked the CBSC Chair for the work done and the achievements of the CBSC. The President echoed France's views and said that the whole IHO should be proud of the work done by the CBSC, which is also of interest to IMO and IALA.



The Secretary highlighted the problems in selecting the candidates for the Category A and Category B courses, namely, not enough applications were received and invited Member States to give more support to their potential candidates. The Committee then agreed on the following decision and action:

**Decision 8: to note the report from CBSC.**

**Action 28: RHC Chairs to encourage the National Hydrographers to invest in English language training in order to increase the chances of their candidates being selected to Cat A and Cat B training courses delivered in English (permanent).**

**WENDWG** Chair, Captain Jamie McMichael-Phillips (UK) reported on the development of the WEND Principles and its revised Guidelines, the Proposal 7 from France to the EIHC5, the draft procedure for overlaps, the RENC and WENC development, governance and associated problems, the minimum standards for a RENC operation, the coverage for small, medium and large scale ENC's and the concept of the metadata data store. He also submitted to IRCC the WENDWG Work Programme for approval.

The Chair invited the Committee to discuss the WENDWG issues in agenda item 8 and the meeting agreed on the following decision:

**Decision 9: to note the report from WENDWG.**

**IBSC** Chair, Prof. Nicolas Seube (France), reported the current status of the IBSC, the revision to the IHO Publications S-5 (Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors) and S-8 (Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers), the development of a new edition of S-5 and S-8 with separate Category A and Category B components, the positive outcomes of the Standards of Competence Stakeholders' Seminar and of the consultation done for the development of the standards. The Chair submitted the IBSC work programme for the future S-5A and S-5B.

The Chair invited the Committee to discuss the revised S-5 and S-8 under agenda item 9 and this was agreed by the meeting. The Committee then agreed on the following decision:

**Decision 10: to note the report from IBSC.**

**GEBCO GC** Chair, Mr. Shin Tani, reported the progress of the GEBCO products and projects: the initiatives in bathymetric grids, the standardization of undersea feature names, the capacity building support from Nippon Foundation of Japan and other education initiatives, the GEBCO World Map, the regional mapping projects, the IHO-IOC GEBCO Cook Book, the development of shallow water bathymetry, the importance of DCDB, and the online interface to the Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names. He also noted the difficulties in obtaining data from Member States to progress the GEBCO initiatives.

The Committee then agreed on the following decisions:

**Decision 11: to note the report from GEBCO Guiding Committee.**

**Decision 12: to urge Regional Hydrographic Commissions to support GEBCO regional projects.**

**Decision 13: to encourage Regional Hydrographic Commission member states to submit data to GEBCO.**

**IHO-EU Network Working Group (IENWG)** Representative, IGA Bruno Frachon (France), reported the establishment of this new WG and invited the nominations to the WG. He highlighted the



importance of the cooperation with the European Union and the development of Marine Knowledge 2020 in European waters to which the IHO contribution is considered very relevant. He also reported the meeting held and the participation of the IHB and the Member States, and the IHO participation to help promoting the IHO standards.

The meeting agreed on the following decision:

**Decision 14: to note the report from IHO-EU Network WG.**

## **8. WEND PRINCIPLES AND GOVERNANCE**

<i>IRCC6-08A</i>	<i>Revised Guidelines for the implementation of the WEND Principles, as amended (IHB)</i>
<i>IRCC6-08B</i>	<i>Relevance of information overlay services and their status in the global IHO ENC programme (France)</i>
<i>IRCC6-08C</i>	<i>Draft procedure for the ENC Overlaps (France)</i>
<i>IRCC6-08D</i>	<i>The IHO ENC Catalogue (IHB)</i>
<i>IRCC6-08E</i>	<i>Report on the development of an IHO WENC (WENDWG)</i>

The Chair invited the meeting to review the WEND Principles and the Guidelines for its implementation, together with the governance requirements to fulfill the WEND Principles.

The President Ward provided the views of the IHB Directing Committee on WEND issues and the complexity of the current status of WEND. The statement of the President is as follows:

“The WEND concept was originally adopted by the IHO Member States 17 years ago. It was conceived and adopted before ECDIS and ENCs were being used widely. Things have changed over time - and the WEND Principles and the ways that HO’s operate have also changed. Notwithstanding those changes, the WEND was, and still is, in effect, the IHO’s implementation and delivery programme for achieving global ENC coverage. Quoting from the WEND Principles, which are an IHO Resolution, the WEND aims *to ensure a world-wide consistent level of high-quality, updated official ENCs through integrated services that support chart carriage requirements of SOLAS Chapter V, and the requirements of the IMO Performance Standards for ECDIS.*

In the 17 years of the WEND Principles we have seen the establishment of RENCs, such that about two thirds of the world’s ENCs are now regularly and independently quality assured as meeting the IHO’s ENC compilation standards and, at the same time, the RENCs provide chart distributors with an effective and very convenient one-stop shop for obtaining ENCs for sale and distribution to mariners. This means that about one third of the world’s ENCs are, in effect, being quality assured and distributed only at the local rather than the regional and global level through the RENC system. This means that some ENCs may be consistent at the national level, but not consistent regionally or globally. ENCs that do not go through a RENC also make it more difficult for many potential service providers to deliver fully integrated ENC services if they have to obtain them from each HO rather than through the RENC system. This is a question to be addressed by the IHO. Also, we should bear in mind that integrated services are an underpinning concept in the IMO’s vision for e-Navigation.

Turning to specific WEND issues, and the priority that we are placing on them, it is interesting to note that the WEND WG and the IRCC continues to place a high emphasis on ENC coverage, on the quality and reliability of the information in ENCs and on the harmonization of current ENCs with the corresponding paper charts, and on overlapping ENCs. Meanwhile, there is no comment or obvious concern on any of these matters at the IMO and the Directing Committee has received no adverse input or comments from any stakeholders either. It appears that not all the IHO Member States are equally concerned. This lack of concern from some member states may actually be the real issue.

The IHB Directing Committee also notes that there are a relatively small number of States active in raising WEND and ENC issues and then trying to address them. A much greater number of States are choosing to remain silent. Is this because those States do not think that the WEND and its objectives affect them? Or that the issues don't refer to their ENCs? Or is it because they don't like the WEND model? Or are there other reasons? If so, what are they? It seems difficult for the IHO to find a way forward with WEND if we don't have these answers.

This criticism of the IHO regarding the accessibility of some ENCs has not been formalized, as yet. But it is worthy of our consideration. The Directing Committee would therefore encourage the IRCC to carefully consider the WEND in its current form - its purpose, its successes and its future. This is because the WEND is an IHO concept that has been repeatedly endorsed by the Member States, but appears not to enjoy universal support from all our Member States.

Whatever is decided, the IHO cannot impose directives on its member states and therefore there needs to be compromise - as there has always been throughout the life of the WEND concept. National sensitivities, policies and constraints must be taken into account and acknowledged in whatever policies collectively adopted for the future.

The Directing Committee looks forward to a constructive discussion on the WEND and its future, on the outstanding issues, and in particular, on identifying all the different points of view and opinions. We believe that it is important to bring the different opinions and the priorities out into the open - so that all IHO Member States are aware and understand that everyone has a part to play and is a stakeholder. We hope that this meeting provides that opportunity - EIHC5 will provide another.

Our task and our challenge as the IHO, is to continue to harmonize the different national circumstances, policies and sensitivities that can affect individual ENC Producer States and thereby keep our stakeholders as satisfied with the IHO ENC programme in the future as they seem to be at present." The topic was then offered for wider comment.

The WENDWG Chair presented the revised guidelines (*doc. IRCC6-08A*), that was submitted to the approval of Member States by CL 6/2014, and was followed by France that reported on the Proposal 7 to the EIHC5 on WEND Principles and Guidelines.

The Chair invited the WENDWG Chair to comment on the proposal, who highlighted the challenges and difficulties with implementing the WEND Principles. The meeting acknowledged that further discussion will take place during EIHC5. He noted that some of the overlaps are difficult to solve due to geopolitical considerations and commented on the proposal from Singapore to use technological tools to allow OEMs to solve the overlaps.

UK agreed with many of the issues identified by France in Proposal 7 and supported tasking the WENDWG to undertake an analysis to identify the factors related to the inability to fulfill the WEND Principles. He noted that further details were provided in the comments to the CCL 8 to the EIHC5.

NSHC Chair stressed that the main issue is the lack of availability of ENCs and not the overlaps. There is a need for a seamless ENC database. UK, however, noted that from the mariners' perspective there is no issue with availability as they deal with chart agents.

Saudi Arabia supported Proposal 7 in order to avoid competition between RENCs and service providers. He noted the good work done to develop ENC Coverage. The Chair noted that Proposal 7 will be raised at the EIHC, so that the WENDWG should look at the Proposal very carefully and consider the consequences.

The IRCC agreed that there is the need of a collective view on Proposal 7 and proposed to task the WENDWG to produce a document with the impact, consequences and identified lines of actions related to Proposal 7.

The meeting then agreed that the WENDWG Chair should adjust the WENDWG Work Programme to address the topics under consideration and resubmit during agenda item 10, input from HSSC5.

The Chair then invited France to introduce *doc. IRCC6-08C* on the draft procedure on ENC overlaps. The WENDWG Chair agreed with the procedure but acknowledged that some of the overlaps would remain due to the geopolitical situation.

PRIMAR noted that the procedure was developed within the RENCs as a natural consequence of its day-to-day operational work. USCHC stated that it is good procedure but should be more visible. He proposed that this procedure should be an IHO resolution and was supported by UK and the MBSHC Chair. IC-ENC agreed that the procedure should be endorsed by a relevant body of the IHO.

WENDWG Chair suggested one further step, in case there is no agreement to solve an overlap: take the issue to the IMO. The President stressed that the IHO has a duty of care to identify and report these issues to the IMO and in this regard, a risk assessment is the tool to be used. The RENCs informed IRCC that this procedure has been used successfully.

USCHC Chair highlighted the length of time it has taken for USA and Canada to solve the four disputed limits between their countries. The meeting then agreed to the following decision:

**Decision 15: RENCs to first use the procedure on overlaps as an IRCC procedure until more input is received and then possibly propose this to be an IHO resolution.**

The Chair then invited France to introduce *doc. IRCC6-08B* on the Admiralty Information Overlay (AIO), highlighting some of the issues identified. UK noted that the primary objective of the AIO is to provide the mariners with the differences and ambiguities between ENCs and paper charts, as many mariners still live in a hybrid environment. He also noted that the number of issues in the AIO is decreasing with time as they are being resolved, and that there are limitations with the AIO but the point of view of the mariner is important and the solution of these issues needs to be sought. He pointed out that AIO is a practical way to help mariners during the transition from paper chart to ENC and that this is to allow the ECDIS to be able to create additional layers to update the ENCs.

MACHC Chair asked whether there is communication with the coastal State before issuing AIOs over their charts, which was confirmed by the UK. However, the NSHC Chair expressed that Norway does not consider AIO as a necessary product for Norwegian ENCs as they already include Notice to Mariners (Temporary/Permanent) in their ENCs.

The Chair suggested this issue should be resolved by UK and France bilaterally. France, however, stressed that this is also multilateral and that the question is whether this is crucial to navigation or not. He highlighted that if this is related to safety of navigation, then it should be used according to the collective view of the IHO.

The IRCC then agreed on the following action:

**Action 29: UK and France to address the AIO issue bilaterally and report back to IRCC7 (deadline: IRCC7)**

The Chair invited the WENDWG Chair to introduce *doc. IRCC6-08E* on the IHO WENC Concept. He reported that WENDWG4 had reached an impasse. A task was agreed to the RENC Harmonization Sub-Group (RHSG) to progress the work and provide a common view of the RENCs on the way

forward. He reported that in the meantime the minimum standards for the RENC operation are under development.

IC-ENC explained that the Member States belonging to the RENCs do not support the view that the IHO WENC is made of the ENC's available via RENCs and think this is too prescriptive, as the way to distribute the ENC's is a national decision. The meeting then agreed on the following action:

**Action 30: WENDWG Chair to report back to IRCC7 on the evolution of the WENC Concept (deadline: IRCC7).**

The Chair invited the IHB to report on the ENC Catalogue (*doc. IRCC6-08D*) and the developments in C-55. The new version of the online Catalogue was presented and the absence of CATZOC was explained, as these are data and not metadata. The new version of C-55 was also introduced. The IHB highlighted the need for more guidance on how to improve C-55 and the Catalogue.

## **9. ENDORSEMENTS FROM THE IRCC**

*Docs: IRCC6-09A      Revised IHO Capacity Building Strategy (CBSC Chair)*  
*IRCC6-09B      Revised IHO Publications S-5 Ed. 11.1.0 (Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors) and S-8 Ed. 3.1.0 (Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers) (IBSC Chair)*  
*IRCC6-09C      Work Plan for the new S-5A and S-5B Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors (IBSC Chair)*  
*IRCC6-09D      Revised ToR for the GEBCO Guiding Committee (GEBCO GC Chair)*

### **CB Strategy**

The Chair invited the CBSC Chair to introduce doc IRCC6-09A on the revised IHO CB Strategy. He noted the mature stage of the revision and the numerous opportunities to present inputs, including the recent CB Seminar.

The meeting agreed on the following decision:

**Decision 16: to note the report from CBSC regarding the revision of the CB Strategy.**

### **IHO Publications S-5 and S-8**

The Chair invited the IBSC Chair to introduce doc IRCC6-09B on the revised IHO Publications S-5 and S-8. He commented on the feedbacks and inputs received, including the recent Seminar on Standards of Competence.

The IRCC agreed on the following decision and action:

**Decision 17: to endorse the IHO publications S-5 Ed. 11.1.0 and S-8 Ed. 3.1.0.**

**Action 31: IHB to issue a CL seeking MSs approval of IHO publications S-5 and S-8 (deadline: June 2014).**

### **IBSC Work Plan**

The Chair invited the IBSC Chair to introduce doc IRCC6-09C on the IBSC Work Plan to achieve the new S-5A and S-5B. He explained the process of consultation and noted the feedback received from Stakeholders.

The meeting then agreed on the following decision and action:

Decision 18: to approve the IBSC Work Plan on the development of the new standards.

Action 32: IBSC to develop the new S-5A and S-5B standards and report to IRCC for endorsement (deadline: IRCC7)

### **GEBCO TOR**

The Chair invited the GEBCO Guiding Committee Chair to introduce doc IRCC6-09D on the revised ToR. The President suggested a change to RoP 2.1 from "shall act" to "shall assume".

The meeting then agreed on the following decision and actions:

Decision 19: to endorse the new ToR/RoP with the change in RoP item 2.1 from "shall act" to "shall assume".

Action 33: IHB to seek MSs approval of the revised ToR/RoP of the GEBCO Guiding Committee (deadline: June 2014).

Action 34: IHB to send a letter to IOC to seek endorsement for the revised GEBCO ToR/RoP (deadline: June 2014)

### **10. INPUTS FROM MEMBER STATES AND OTHER BODIES AFFECTING IRCC**

*Docs: IRCC6-10A Input from HSSC5 (HSSC)*  
*IRCC6-10B IHO Representation in GEO Events (IHB)*  
*IRCC6-10C Input from MSDIWG5 (MSDIWG)*

The Chair invited the President to introduce *doc. IRCC6-10A* on the inputs from HSSC5. He reported the extensive participation during the last meeting and the outcomes related to SDB and CSB, including the possible impact to S-44. He highlighted the concerns regarding the differences between paper chart and ENC updates, as well as inconsistencies between ENCs from different producers, and how this reflects badly on the IHO. HSSC requested IRCC to encourage the resolution of these issues by Regional Hydrographic Commissions via the WENDWG.

The President also stressed that HSSC requested that the WENDWG be tasked to assess if the ENC usage indicator based on the number of ENCs distributed annually under license by PRIMAR and IC-ENC (equivalent annual licenses) is appropriate, and to propose alternatives, if not. He also pointed out that IRCC was invited to consider the updated list of potential stakeholders' events planned in 2014 that would justify the involvement of representatives from IHO Member States and/or from the IHB, taking into account the available resources.

He also commented on the promotion of MSDI development and the development of a product specification for navigational warnings based on S-100 (IHO S-124), to which WWNWS-SC was invited to liaise with TSMAD.

The meeting held a discussion on the provision of temporary and preliminary ENC updates, the differences between paper charts updates and ENC updates, and the inconsistencies between ENCs from different producers and the impacts on the IHO. WENDWG Chair suggested using the figures provided by the producer nations rather than the RENCs.

The meeting also discussed the significance of the Performance Indicators on the number of ENCs distributed annually under license as provided by the RENCs versus the total number distributed. Turkey suggested tasking WENDWG to prepare the guidelines for the work of the RENCs, supported by France and PRIMAR.

The IRCC further considered the work programme of the WENDWG and then agreed on the following actions and decision:

Decision 20: to approve the WENDWG Work Programme.

Action 35: WENDWG to assess how representative are the performance indicators based solely on the inputs from PRIMAR and IC-ENC, and propose alternatives, if appropriate (deadline: HSSC6).

Action 36: WENDWG to assess the impact and consistency of updates for ENC's and paper charts (coverage and quality) and to include this as a permanent agenda item (until 2018).

Action 37: WENDWG to investigate a change in the WEND Guidelines to address the coverage and quality of updates for ENC's and paper charts (IRCC7).

Action 38: IHB to issue a CL to ask producer nations whether they distribute their ENC's via RENC's and, if not, what is the reason (June 2014).

Action 39: IHB to issue a follow up CL with the results of the previous action (deadline: August 2014).

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WENDWG Work Programme:

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- i. To develop a proposal for a pilot project using OEM software tools to resolve overlapping ENC data issues for consideration at WENDWG5.
  - ii. To finalise paper on Guidelines on Assessing and Eliminating the Risk of Overlapping ENC Cells.
  - iii. To provide a revised RHSG paper on WENC.
  - iv. To continue working to attract ENC producer nations to join the RENCs.
  - v. To produce a paper on the benefits for ENC producer nations to join a RENC.
  - vi. To monitor ENC coverage and quality and report to IRCC and IHB.
  - vii. To monitor and report the statistics on those ENC's not distributed via RENCs.
  - viii. To provide a scoping paper of the ENC Catalogue and to progress catalogue development.
  - ix. To develop Capacity Building activities.
  - x. To monitor and advice on the impact of differences between paper charts and ENC updates and encourage Producer Nations through IRCC to solve issues that affect end users.
  - xi. To assess ENC usage indicators and to propose alternatives if appropriate.
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Action 40: RHC Chairs to facilitate the resolution of inconsistencies between paper charts and ENC's and between ENC's from different producers (permanent).

Action 41: RHC to consider opportunities to interact with stakeholders in 2014 and encourage participation in the relevant events (deadline: December 2014).

Action 42: RHC Chairs to notify Member States in their regions of opportunities for interaction and encourage participation with relevant stakeholders in accordance with CL 8/2014 (deadline: December 2014).

Regarding actions related to the stakeholders, France noted the Brest Sea Tech Week event in October 2014 and the knowledge of the maritime environment and suggested adding this event to the HSSC5 list of Stakeholders' Events (Annex to doc. IRCC6-10A).

The Chair invited the IHB to introduce *doc. IRCC6-10B* on the relations between the IHO and the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). The President highlighted the previous participation of the IHO, the importance of GEO and invited the IRCC to consider the appropriate IHO representation in future GEO-related events. The meeting then agreed on the following decision:

**Decision 21: to recognize the importance of GEO and to continue participation in GEO related events by all means, with the IHB in the lead but involving the RHCs, MSs and GEBSCO.**

The Chair invited the MSDIWG Representative, Mr. Edward Hosken (UK) to introduce *doc. IRCC6-10C* on the inputs from MSDIWG5. He highlighted the importance of MSDI as a tool for the development of Hydrographic Services and the contributions expected from the IRCC.

The BSHC Chair presented the regional experience with MSDI and the MACHC Chair introduced the Marine Economic Infrastructure Programme (MEIP) to emphasize the economic benefits of Hydrography, to facilitate the engagement of policy and decision makers, and to prepare marine disaster plans.

New Zealand also offered to contribute to the work of the MSDIWG by sharing the experience regarding the importance of geo-information, and presented the current use for hydrographic assessment in the Pacific Community and the future use for environmental assessment.

Director Iptes informed the meeting that there will be a session on MSDI during EIHC5. Saudi Arabia shared the experience with the establishment of a large database, a 2-year programme starting July 2014 with three stages: planning, execution and operation.

Canada informed the IRCC about the development of the programme: "Marine Cadastre and Targeted Ocean Mapping" (TOM) and will share experiences of that programme, which contains a strategy to better use marine information (coastal zone management, natural resources offshore, etc.).

The NSHC Chair considered that despite the huge importance of the MSDI, the IHO devotes little time to the subject and proposed to encourage Hydrographic Services to evolve from the classical approach of chart producing to creating an infrastructure (MSDI) that could benefit a broader range of activities.

The NSHC Chair asked whether MSDIWG could sit under the two Committees (HSSC and IRCC). The President explained that the creation of WG is under each committee discretion and the background on why MSDIWG is under HSSC. He noted that a case could be made to place MSDI under IRCC due to the importance of coordination to MSDI.

Following the discussion the meeting agreed on the decisions and actions:

**Decision 22: to address the IRCC contribution to MSDI during IRCC7.**

**Action 43: Chair and Secretary to include a MSDI agenda item at IRCC7 (deadline: IRCC7).**

**Decision 23: to contribute to the "policy" component of the MSDIWG.**

**Decision 24: to propose moving the MSDIWG subordination from HSSC to IRCC.**

**Action 44: IHB to facilitate the move of the MSDIWG from HSSC to IRCC (deadline: HSSC6).**



## 11. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

<i>Docs: IRCC6-11A</i>	<i>BSHC Input to the IRCC SPIs and WPIs (BSHC)</i>
<i>IRCC6-11B</i>	<i>SEPRHC Input to the IRCC SPIs and WPIs (SEPRHC)</i>
<i>IRCC6-11C</i>	<i>NSHC Input to the IRCC SPIs and WPIs (NSHC)</i>
<i>IRCC6-11D</i>	<i>MBSHC Input to the IRCC SPIs and WPIs (MBSHC)</i>
<i>IRCC6-11E</i>	<i>SWPHC Input to the IRCC SPIs and WPIs (SWPHC)</i>
<i>IRCC6-11F</i>	<i>EAtHC Input to the IRCC SPIs and WPIs (EAtHC)</i>

Director Iptes presented the Performance Indicators compiled by the IHB and highlighted the importance of receiving input from the RHCs and from the IHO subordinated bodies. Following the comments from RHCs, the meeting agreed on the action:

**Action 45: Chair to send an IRCC CL seeking input to the Performance Indicators (deadline: June 2014).**

## 12. DATA GATHERING AND MANAGEMENT

<i>Docs: IRCC6-12A</i>	<i>Risk Assessment Methodology (NZ)</i>
<i>IRCC6-12B</i>	<i>Maximizing the use of Hydrographic Survey Data (MACHC)</i>

New Zealand presented the use of a Risk Assessment Methodology developed by New Zealand and how it may be considered as an example to RHCs to add in their CBSC tool box to improve their awareness. The meeting also discussed the benefits of the Risk Assessment tool to establish Hydrographic Survey priority by Member States.

The CBSC Chair explained that the methodology was already incorporated in the revised IHO CB Strategy. The President explained that the development of the GIS platform and C-55 will be able to provide the tools for a better risk assessment. The meeting then agreed on the following decision and action:

**Decision 25: to recommend the use of the Risk Assessment methodology to establish Hydrographic Survey priority by Member States.**

**Action 46: RHC Chairs to encourage MSs in their respective regions to use the Risk Assessment methodology to establish Hydrographic Survey priorities (permanent).**

The MACHC Chair introduced *doc. IRCC6-12B* on the benefits of maximizing the use of hydrographic data. UK explained that there is no national regulation to force the flow of data to the HO and such an initiative would be welcomed.

The President suggested that those ideas on survey data should be put in a written paper as guidance so that the Chair can propose it as a resolution to the EIHC when delivering the IRCC report so that the MSs could refer to it directly.

The NSHC Chair explained that there are two sides to this story. One side is reported in the paper under consideration. The other is that data being held in HOs should be made available for use by a broader community.

USCHC Co-Chairs supported the initiative that links to the MSDI development to allow data sharing and considered that an IHO Resolution would be appropriate. France supported the pragmatic approach, but considered that an IHO Resolution does not have the power to enforce and should be taken carefully so that it does not jeopardize countries' policy. He also pointed that the IHO Resolution could have an obligation to report shoals.

The meeting then agreed on the following action:

**Action 47: Chair to propose an IHO resolution on maximizing access to hydrographic information when delivering the IRCC report to the EIHC (EIHC5).**

### **13. IRCC WORK PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT**

The IHB presented an overview of the review cycle mechanism as below:

#### Reporting by MSs/RHC/IRCC

a) References:

IHO Strategy 2009

IHO Resolution 12/2002 - Review Cycle

b) Inputs:

MS to Chair (February): progress of the relevant items of the IHO WP

Chair to IHB (March): IRCC Annual Report

c) Additional inputs:

MS to Chair/IHB the SPIs and WPIs (January)

ICCWG: INT and ENC Schemes (January)

Director Iptes informed the Committee that the IHB will issue a CL regarding the missing reports on performance indicators and ENC Schemes in due time.

### **14. ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIR**

The Chair invited nominations to the vacant position of the Vice Chair in accordance with the IRCC ToR and RoP. SAIHC Chair nominated Parry Oei (Singapore) for Vice Chair and was seconded by EAHC, SWPHC and CBSC. Mr. Parry Oei was elected by acclamation. The meeting agreed on the following action:

**Action 48: Chair to write to the new Vice Chair to inform him of his nomination (deadline: June 2014)**

### **15. NEXT IRCC MEETINGS (VENUE AND DATE)**

The Chair invited the IRCC Members to discuss the venue and date of the following meetings. Following the offerings from a number of countries, the meeting agreed on the following decisions:

**Decision 26: to hold IRCC7 over 3 days following the CBSC meeting with a weekend in-between.**

**Decision 27: to hold IRCC7 in Mexico (exact venue TBD) on 1-3 June 2015.**

**Decision 28: to hold IRCC8 in UAE (Abu Dhabi) in 2016 (first week of June, exact dates TBD).**

**Decision 29: to hold IRCC9 in Suriname in 2017 (exact venue and dates TBD).**

### **16. REVIEW OF THE ACTIONS, DECISIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR EIHC5**

The Chair invited the Secretary to present the draft actions and decisions agreed during the meeting for adoption. The IRCC reviewed the permanent actions and the actions agreed during the meeting (**Annex C**), the decisions (**Annex D**) and the tasks (**Annex E**) associated to IRCC.

### **17. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE IRCC FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE IHO MEMBER STATES**

The Committee discussed the recommendations for consideration by the IHO Member States and agreed on the following decision, considering that the recommendations are embedded in the actions and decisions agreed:

**Decision 30: to remove the agenda item on "Recommendations of the IRCC for considerations of the IHO Member States" from future IRCC Meetings.**

#### **18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair invited the participants to present other business items, if any. No other item was proposed.

#### **CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

The Chair highlighted the achievements during the meeting and thanked the support from SHOM and from the IHB. The President expressed that the IRCC is a young body but each meeting raises a level of maturity, not to forget the incredible impact it has on the IHO reputation. He was also impressed by the great sense of ownership from the RHC's. The Chair thanked again Mexico, the UAE and Suriname for offering to host the next IRCC meetings. The Chair closed the IRCC6 at 15h30 on 20 May 2014.

#### **ANNEXES:**

- A) List of Participants
- B) Revised Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the IRCC
- C) List of Actions
- D) Decisions
- E) Tasks

**SIXTH MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION  
COMMITTEE  
IHO-IRCC6**

**Paris, France, 19-20 May 2014**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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**INTER REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE (IRCC)  
Revised Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure**

Ref:

- a) IHB Circular Letter N° 115/2007, dated 10 December 2007
- b) IHB Circular Letter N° 46/2009, dated 03 July 2009
- c) IHB Circular Letter N° 54/2009, dated 03 August 2009
- d) IHB Circular Letter N° 28/2010, dated 30 March 2010

Considering the need to promote and coordinate those activities that might benefit from a regional approach, and considering further that Capacity Building has been identified as a strategic objective, the International Hydrographic Organization establishes a Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) with the following Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure. The IRCC shall report to each ordinary session of the International Hydrographic Conference (“*each ordinary session of the International Hydrographic Conference*” to be replaced by “*each ordinary session of the Assembly through the Council*” when the Council and Assembly are established).

**Note:** The IRCC shall assume the responsibility of the policy matters related to the World-wide Electronic Navigational Chart Database (WEND) until the Council is established.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

1. Establish, coordinate and enhance cooperation in hydrographic activities amongst States on a regional basis, and between regions, especially on matters associated with Capacity Building; Promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings; General Bathymetry and Ocean Mapping, Education and Training, and the implementation of the WEND suitable for the needs of international shipping.  
  
Establish co-operation and partnership with governments, organizations and industry to enhance the delivery of Capacity Building programs and to ensure long-term sustainability.
2. Monitor the work of specified IHO Inter-Organizational Bodies engaged in activities that require inter-regional cooperation and coordination as directed by the International Hydrographic Conference (“*the International Hydrographic Conference*” to be replaced by “*the Assembly*” when the Assembly is established) and provide advice and guidance to the IHO representatives as required.
3. Promote co-operation between regional organizations concerned with the use of hydrographic and bathymetric data, information and products as well as Maritime Safety Information (MSI) for navigation safety and all other marine purposes, including economic development, environmental protection and coastal resource management.
4. Review and implement the IHO Capacity Building Strategy and promote the Capacity Building and Training initiatives identified by the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Organization, facilitating interaction between RHCs and potential donors at both international and regional levels.
5. Prepare and maintain publications related to the objectives of the Committee.
6. Prepare a Committee Work Program and propose it to each ordinary session of the International Hydrographic Conference (“*each ordinary session of the International Hydrographic Conference*” to be replaced by “*each ordinary session of the Assembly through the Council*” when the Assembly and the Council are established). Consider and decide upon proposals for new work items under the Committee Work Program, taking into account the financial, administrative and wider stakeholder consequences and the IHO Strategic Plan and Work Program.
7. Monitor the execution of the Committee Work Program and report to each ordinary session of the International Hydrographic Conference (“*ordinary session of the International Hydrographic Conference*” to be replaced by “*meeting of the Council*” when the Council and Assembly are established), including an evaluation of the performance achieved.
8. Propose to the International Hydrographic Conference (“*the International Hydrographic Conference*” to be replaced by “*the Assembly through the Council*” when the Council and Assembly

are established), the establishment of new Sub-Committees, when needed, supported by a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis.

9. As required, establish Working Groups to fulfill the Committee Work Program, in conformance with IHO Resolution 11/1962 as amended (“*IHO Resolution 11/1962 as amended*” to be replaced by “*Article 6 of the General Regulations*” when the revised IHO Convention enters into force) and approve their Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure.
10. Monitor the work of its Sub-Committees, Working Groups and other bodies directly subordinate to the Committee.
11. Review annually the continuing need for each Working Group previously established by the Committee.
12. Liaise and maintain contact with relevant IHO and other bodies to ensure that IHO work activities are coordinated.
13. Liaise with other relevant international organizations and Non-Government International Organizations (NGIOs).
14. These Terms of Reference can be amended in accordance with IHO Resolution 11/1962 as amended (to be replaced by Article 6 of the General Regulations when the revised IHO Convention enters into force).

## RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. The Committee shall be composed of the Chairs of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions; the Chairs of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA), the Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC), the Worldwide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS), the International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC), Worldwide ENC Data (WEND) Working Group, IHO-EU Network Working Group (IENWG) and the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) Guiding Committee. Committee Meetings shall be open to all Member States of the IHO. International Organizations and accredited Non-Government International Organizations (NGIOs) may attend Committee Meetings.
2. A Director of the International Hydrographic Bureau (“*the International Hydrographic Bureau*” to be replaced by “*the Secretariat*” when the Secretariat is established) shall act as Secretary to the Committee. The Secretary shall prepare the reports required for submission to each ordinary session of the Conference (“*the Conference*” to be replaced by “*the Assembly and Council*” when the Council and Assembly are established).
3. 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 Assembly is 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 assume** the Chair with the same powers and duties.
4. The Committee shall meet once a year, by mid June, and whenever possible in conjunction with another relevant conference or meeting. The venue and date of the meeting shall be decided at the previous meeting, in order to facilitate participants’ travel arrangements. The Chair or any member of the Committee, with the agreement of the simple majority of all members of the Committee, can call extraordinary meetings. Confirmation of the venue and the date shall normally be announced at least six months in advance. All intending participants shall inform the Chair and Secretary ideally at least one month in advance of their intention to attend meetings of the Committee.
5. Decisions shall generally be made by consensus. If votes are required on issues or to endorse proposals presented to the Committee, decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of Committee Members present and voting. When dealing with inter-sessional matters by correspondence, a simple majority of all Committee Members shall be required.
6. The draft record of meetings shall be distributed by the Secretary within six weeks of the end of meetings and participants’ comments should be returned within three weeks of the date of dispatch. Final minutes of meetings should be distributed to all IHO Member States and posted on the IHO



website within three months after a meeting.

7. The working language of the Committee shall be English.
8. When established, Working Groups shall operate by correspondence to the maximum extent practicable.
9. Recommendations of the Committee shall be submitted to IHO Member States for adoption through the IHB or International Hydrographic Conference as appropriate (“*IHB or International Hydrographic Conference as appropriate*” to be replaced by “*Council to the Assembly*” when the Council and Assembly are established).
10. These Rules of Procedure can be amended in accordance with IHO Resolution 11/1962 as amended (to be replaced by Article 6 of the General Regulations when the revised IHO Convention enters into force).

**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC  
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**ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE  
INTERNATIONALE**

**LIST OF ACTIONS AGREED AT IRCC6**

(Updated: 20 May 2014)

<b>No</b>	<b>ACTION (AGENDA ITEM)</b>	<b>RESP.</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
IRCC6/01	Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership	RHC Chairs	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2014	Permanent.
IRCC6/02	Continue to engage pending applicants in their region to encourage the ratification of the IHO Convention	RHC Chairs	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2014	Permanent.
IRCC6/03	Consider the participation of stakeholders at the RHC conferences	RHC Chairs	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2014	Permanent.
IRCC6/04	Continue to engage suspended Member States (MSs) in their region to encourage their re-admission to the IHO	EAtHC MACHC MBSHC	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2014	Permanent.
IRCC6/05	Provide the IRCC Chair with progress reports on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2014 Work Programme (10)	RHCs and IRCC subsidiary organs	Jan 2015	Permanent.
IRCC6/06	Provide the IHB with the IRCC Annual Report for 2014. Note: IRCC Chair to compile inputs from Action IRCC6/05	IRCC Chair	Feb 2015	Permanent.
IRCC6/07	Provide to the IRCC Chair the estimated values of SPIs and agreed WPIs as of 31 December 2014 and target values for 31 December 2017, complemented by the comments on the difficulties encountered and suggestions for a way forward	RHC Chairs	Jan 2015	Permanent
IRCC6/08	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 (6)	RHCs / GEBCO	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2014	Permanent.

No	ACTION (AGENDA ITEM)	RESP.	DEADLINE	STATUS
IRCC6/09	Encourage MSs 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 (11)	RHC Chairs	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2014	Permanent.
IRCC6/10	Organize, prepare, attend IRCC7	Chair/IHB	IRCC7	Permanent.
IRCC6/11	Prepare the draft IRCC6 Report and circulate to the IRCC6 Participants	Chair/IHB	Jun 2014	Permanent.
IRCC6/12	Provide comments to the Chair on the draft IRCC6 Report	IRCC6 Participants	15 Jul 2014	Permanent.
IRCC6/13	Upload the IRCC6 Report to the IHO Website	IHB	22 Jul 2014	Permanent.
IRCC6/14	Investigate mechanisms for raising external funds	Chair/IHB	IRCC7	Permanent.
IRCC6/15	Provide material to the IHB to promote the achievements of IRCC bodies including CBSC, GEBCO	RHC Chairs and subsidiary bodies	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2014	Permanent.
IRCC6/16	Take every opportunity to promote the achievements of IRCC bodies including CBSC, GEBCO	IHB	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2014	Permanent.
IRCC6/17	Invite Hydrographic Office representatives to be prepared to discuss Proposals 4 (Crowd Sourced Bathymetry - CSB) and 6 (Satellite Derived Bathymetry- SDB) during EIHC5	RHC Chairs	EIHC5	
IRCC6/18	Hydrographic Office representatives to be ready to present the regional view on CSB and SDB during EIHC5	RHC	EIHC5	
IRCC6/19	Report the progress of the IHO-EU Network WG to IRCC7	IHO-EU Network WG	IRCC7	
IRCC6/20	Issue a CL to seek MSs approval of the updated IRCC RoP	IHB	June 2014	
IRCC6/21	Upload the revised IRCC RoP to the IHO website when adopted by MSs	IHB	September 2014	
IRCC6/22	Share the lessons learned from the US-Canada transboundary (agreement) project with IRCC	USCHC	IRCC7	
IRCC6/23	Report progress in the use of an Internet portal in the EAtHC region aiming at sharing MSI information	EAtHC	IRCC7	

No	ACTION (AGENDA ITEM)	RESP.	DEADLINE	STATUS
IRCC6/24	Share experiences gained in handling natural disasters (ref. IHO Resolution 1/2005) that recently occurred in the EAHC region	EAHC	IRCC7	
IRCC6/25	Share experience gained in developing the risk assessment tool, including activities related to engaging decision makers and donor agencies	SWPHC	IRCC7	
IRCC6/26	Report on the development of joint CB projects with inter-regional and inter-institutional relevance	CBSC	completed during the meeting	
IRCC6/27	invite HSSC/EIHC5 to consider the use of non-standard data such as CSB, SDB and how to use it in direct and indirect ways	Chair	EIHC5	
IRCC6/28	Encourage National Hydrographers to invest in English language training in order to increase the chances of their candidates being selected to Cat A and Cat B training courses delivered in English	RHC Chairs	Permanent	
IRCC6/29	Address the AIO issue bilaterally and report back to IRCC7	UK and France	IRCC7	
IRCC6/30	Report on the evolution of the WENC Concept to IRCC7	WENDWG Chair	IRCC7	
IRCC6/31	Issue a CL seeking MSs approval of IHO publications S-5 and S-8	IHB	June 2014	
IRCC6/32	Develop the new S-5 Cat A and B standards and report to IRCC7 for endorsement	IBSC	IRCC7	
IRCC6/33	Seek MSs approval of the revised ToR/RoP of the GEBCO Guiding Committee	IHB	June 2014	
IRCC6/34	Send a letter to IOC to seek endorsement for the revised GEBCO ToR/RoP	IHB	June 2014	
IRCC6/35	Assess how representative are the performance indicators based solely on the inputs from PRIMAR and IC-ENC, and propose alternatives, if appropriate	WENDWG	HSSC6	
IRCC6/36	Assess the impact and consistency of updates for ENCs and paper charts (coverage and quality) and to include this as a permanent agenda item	WENDWG	until 2018	

No	ACTION (AGENDA ITEM)	RESP.	DEADLINE	STATUS
IRCC6/37	Investigate a change in the WEND Guidelines to address the coverage and quality of updates for ENC's and paper charts	WENDWG	IRCC7	
IRCC6/38	Issue a CL to ask producer nations whether they distribute their ENC's via RENC's and, if not, what is the reason	IHB	June 2014	
IRCC6/39	Issue a follow up CL with the results of the previous action	IHB	August 2014	
IRCC6/40	Facilitate resolution of inconsistencies between paper charts and ENC's and between ENC's from different producers	RHC Chairs	Permanent	
IRCC6/41	Consider opportunities to interact with stakeholders in 2014 and encourage participation in the relevant events	RHC	December 2014	
IRCC6/42	Notify Member States in their regions of opportunities for interaction and encourage participation with relevant stakeholders in accordance with CL 8/2014	RHC Chairs	December 2014	
IRCC6/43	Include a MSDI agenda item at IRCC7	Chair and Secretary	IRCC7	
IRCC6/44	Facilitate the move of the MSDIWG from HSSC to IRCC	IHB	HSSC6	
IRCC6/45	Send an IRCC CL seeking input to the Performance Indicators	Chair	June 2014	
IRCC6/46	Encourage MS's in their respective regions to use the Risk Assessment methodology to establish Hydrographic Survey priorities	RHC Chairs	Permanent	
IRCC6/47	Propose an IHO resolution on maximizing access to hydrographic information when delivering the IRCC report to the EIHC	Chair	EIHC5	
IRCC6/48	Write to the new Vice Chair to inform him of his nomination	Chair	June 2014	

**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC  
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**SIXTH MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE  
IHO-IRCC6  
Paris, France, 19-20 May 2014**

**LIST OF DECISIONS**

<b>No</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1	to approve the IRCC5 report and the action list.
2	to approve the amendments to the IRCC RoP and submit to MSs for approval (Annex B).
3	to note the reports of the Chair and of the IHB.
4	to note the reports from the RHC Chairs and Representatives
5	to note the report from HCA.
6	to note the report from WWNWS-SC.
7	to approve the continuation of the WWNWS under its current ToR and RoP.
8	to note the report from CBSC.
9	to note the report from WENDWG.
10	to note the report from IBSC.
11	to note the report from GEBCO Guiding Committee.
12	to urge Regional Hydrographic Commissions to support GEBCO regional projects.
13	to encourage Regional Hydrographic Commission member states to submit data to GEBCO.
14	to note the report from IHO-EU Network WG.
15	RENCs to first use the procedure on overlaps as an IRCC procedure until more input is received and then possibly propose this to be an IHO resolution.
16	to note the report from CBSC regarding the revision of the CB Strategy.
17	to endorse the IHO publications S-5 Ed. 11.1.0 and S-8 Ed. 3.1.0.
18	to approve the IBSC Work Plan on the development of the new standards.
19	to endorse the new ToR/RoP with the change in RoP item 2.1 from "shall act" to "shall assume".
20	to approve the WENDWG Work Programme.
21	to recognize the importance of GEO and to continue participation in GEO related events by all means, with the IHB in the lead but involving the RHCs, MSs and GEBCO.
22	to address the IRCC contribution to MSDI during IRCC7.
23	to contribute to the "policy" component of the MSDIWG.
24	to propose moving the MSDIWG subordination from HSSC to IRCC.
25	to recommend the use of the Risk Assessment methodology to establish Hydrographic Survey priority by Member States.
26	to hold IRCC7 over 3 days following the CBSC meeting with a weekend in-between.
27	to hold IRCC7 in Mexico (exact venue TBD) on 1-3 June 2015.
28	to hold IRCC8 in UAE (Abu Dhabi) in 2016 (first week of June, exact dates TBD).
29	to hold IRCC9 in Suriname in 2017 (exact venue and dates TBD).
30	to remove the agenda item on "Recommendations of the IRCC for considerations of the IHO Member States" from future IRCC Meetings.



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**LIST OF IRCC TASKS AGREED AT IRCC6**

**(Updated 20 May 2014)**

<b>No</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>RESP.</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
IRCC6 01/2014	Organize, prepare, attend and report IRCC7.	Chair with the support of Secretary and IHB	IRCC6	See Action IRCC6/10
IRCC6 02/2014	Support the IHB to implement the IHO planning mechanism.	Chair	Feb 2015	See IRCC5-06.2 and Actions IRCC6/05, 06 and 07
IRCC6 03/2014	Contribute to the IHO Annual Report.	Chair	Feb 2015	Produce IRCC Annual Report 2014. See Action IRCC6/06
IRCC6 04/2014	Update and implement the IRCC Work Programme (List of Actions and Tasks agreed at IRCC4).	IRCC	Dec 2014	
IRCC6 05/2014	Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership.	RHCs	Permanent	See Action IRCC6/01
IRCC6 06/2014	Encourage the ratification of the IHO Convention by approved applicants.	RHCs	Permanent	See Action IRCC6/02
IRCC6 07/2014	Secure the ratification of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention.	RHCs	Dec 2014	
IRCC6 08/2014	Contribute to the development of C-55.	RHCs and Chair	Permanent	
IRCC6 09/2014	Contribute to improving the framework of IHO response to marine disasters.	RHCs	Permanent	See Action IRCC6/24
IRCC6 10/2014	Contribute to monitoring and improving the global status of hydrographic surveying.	RHCs	Permanent	

<b>No</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>RESP.</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
IRCC6 11/2014	Contribute to the development of MSDI.	Chair and CBSC Chair	Permanent	See Actions IRCC6/43 and 44