

MEDITERRANEAN & BLACK SEAS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (MBSHC)

MBSHC report to IRCC7 Mexico City, Mexico 1-3 June 2015

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

2. Membership

Members: Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine (20 Members).

Associate Members: Bulgaria, Israel, Malta, Palestinian Authority, UK, USA (6 Associate Members).

Observers: Albania, Germany, Lebanon, DINMA, IOC, PRIMAR and the IHB Representatives.

3. Meetings

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

Next Meeting: 19th MBSHC, Batumi, Georgia, 30 June-2 July 2015.

4. Current MBSHC Working Groups:

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

b. Black and Azov Seas Working Group (BASWG), last meeting was in Batumi, Georgia 03-04 June 2014. Next meeting will be in 2016 (TBD in MBSHC 19).

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

No	ACTION (AGENDA ITEM)	RESP.	DEADLINE	STATUS
IRCC6/01	Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership	RHC Chairs	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2014	It will be discussed at MBSHC 19 which will take place in July 2015.
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	Bulgaria is encouraged at all relevant meetings. Ongoing.
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	Serbia is invited to MBSHC Meeting. Ongoing

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	GEBCO Guiding Committee is invited to MBSHC meetings.
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	It will be discussed at MBSHC 19.
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		It will be discussed at MBSHC 19.
IRCC6/40	Facilitate resolution of inconsistencies between paper charts and ENC's and between ENC's from different producers	RHC Chairs	Permanent	It will be discussed at MBSHC 19.
IRCC6/46	Encourage MSs in their respective regions to use the Risk Assessment methodology to establish Hydrographic Survey priorities	RHC Chairs		It will be discussed at MBSHC 19.

6. Conclusions and Achievements:

a. The draft disaster action plan for MBSHC was prepared after MBSHC18 in 2013 and then the consolidated version was distributed after receiving the comments from members. This issue is planned to be finalized in the next meeting.

b. The "Rules for Designation of MBSHC Representatives to the IHO Council" is approved by the Commission and will be included in MBSHC Statute.

c. Since IRCC6, the Capacity Building activities in the region are as follows;

(1) 5-year CB plan for MBSHC (2015-2019) was agreed and the relevant submissions for 2016 were submitted to CBSC for consideration.

(2) Technical visit to Israel was implemented between 01-03 July 2014 with participation of experts from Greece, Turkey (lead) and IHB.

(3) Following three CB activities are planned for 2015;

- Technical Visit to Montenegro,
- MSI workshop
- MB&SSS Workshop

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

f. Update of IHO membership within MBSHC region;

(1) Georgia has become 83rd Member State of the IHO as announced by the IHB with IHO CL 30/2015 and the 20th Member State of the MBSHC in accordance with Article 1 of the Statutes of the MBSHC.

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

7. Actions required from the IRCC7:

No formal proposals were made.

The IRCC is invited to take note of this report.

Capt.(PhD) Erhan GEZGİN
Chairman, MBSHC