

EASTERN ATLANTIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (EAtHC)

EAtHC report IRCC7
Mexico city, Mexico, 1-3 June 2015

1. Chair:

Chair: CAPT Abdelouahed DIHAJI (Morocco) since 19 September 2014.

Vice-Chair: According to the status of the EAtHC, the vice-chair is designated or elected at the opening of each conference, for the duration of the conference.

2. Membership:

Members: Cameroon, France, Morocco, Nigeria, Portugal, Spain.

Associate members: Benin, Cape Verde, Congo (Rep. of), Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo.

Observers: Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, United Kingdom, United States of America

Angola and IHB.

3. Meetings :

Following EAtHC meetings have taken place:

10th Meeting-Lomé, Togo (2-5 December 2008);

11th Meeting-Accra, Ghana (24-26 November 2010);

12th Meeting-Lisbon, Portugal (14-16 November 2012);

13th Meeting-Casablanca, Morocco (16-18 September 2014);

Next meeting: 14th EAtHC will take place on October 2016 (Date to be confirmed) in Cadiz, Spain.

4. Current EAtHC Working Groups :

- a) Region G International Charting Coordination Working Group (G-ICCWG) ;
- b) IHO-EU Network Working Group (EAtHC represented by France).

5. Status of IRCC actions (relevant for the EAtHC):

No	Action	Resp	Deadline	Status- EAtHC
IRCC6/01	Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership	RHC Chairs	Permanent. Report to IRCC Chair. Dec 2014.	Ongoing communication to EAtHC members. The importance and benefits of growing the membership of the IHO was communicated at the 13th EAtHC Conference (Action EAtHC 13-5).
IRCC6/02	Continue to engage pending applicants in their region to encourage the ratification of the IHO Convention.	RHC Chairs	Permanent. Report to IRCC Chair. Dec 2014.	Candidatures of Mauritania and Sierra Leone have received the number of votes allowing them to become members, but the Government of Monaco has not yet received their instrument of accession. The Republic of Congo is preparing to initiate a

				<p>process. Following up its participation at the 13th EAtHC Conference, the Republic of Congo increased significantly its involvement in IHO regional activities by the signature of the Status of the Commission by Mr. Martin Parfait Amé COUSSOUD MAVOUNGOU, Minister of Merchant Navy of the Republic of Congo and by delivering for example a significant amount of MSI information related to oil platform locations in its national waters to their NAVAREA Co-ordinator. Lastly, Republic of Congo recently informed the IHB and the EAtHC Chair about its intention to apply for IHO membership. Following up the exchanges with the delegation of Senegal during the 13th Conference of the EAtHC then for the 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference, the IHO Executive Committee encourages the authorities of the Republic of Senegal to initiate appropriate steps and procedures to apply for IHO membership.</p>
IRCC6/03	Consider the participation of the stakeholders at the RHC Conferences	RHC Chairs	Permanent. Report to IRCC Chair. Dec 2014.	In the 13 th EAtHC Conference, a several industry stakeholders have taken part to some of the commission debates. The participation of representatives of industry at the EAtHC conferences was effective.
IRCC6/04	Continue to engage suspended Member States (MSs) in their region to encourage their re-admission to the IHO.	EAtHC MACHC MBSHC	Permanent. Report to IRCC Chair. Dec 2014.	To encourage its reinsertion in the IHO, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been informed of the last and the forecoming EAtHC meeting and the invitation Circular Letter has been transmitted to that State. A specific letter will be sent by the EAtHC Chair to remind DRC to participate to 14 th EAtHC meeting. Two observers from DRC attended the 5 th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference, in Monaco 2014.
IRCC6/05	Provide the IRCC Chair with progress reports on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2014 Work Program (10)	RHC Chairs and subsidiary organs	Permanent. Jan 2015	Done.
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	RHC Chairs	Permanent. Jan 2015	Done.

	way forward			
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	Permanent. Report to IRCC Chair. Dec 2014.	GEBCO has been invited to the last EAtHC meeting in 2014 and a one of their representants has attended.
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	Permanent. Report to IRCC Chair. Dec 2014.	This issue has and will be included in the agenda of the last and the following meetings.
IRCC6/15	Provide material to the IHB to promote the achievements of IRCC bodies including CBSC, GEBCO.	RHC Chairs and subsidiary bodies.	Permanent. Report to IRCC Chair. Dec 2014.	EAtHC Chairmanship encourages to MSs to provide referenced material.
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	Done, the EAtHC's Chairman pointed out the fact those topics encompass both technical and conceptual issues.
IRCC6/18	Hydrographic Office representatives to be ready to present the regional view on CSB and SDB during EIHC5	RHC	EIHC5	//
IRCC6/23	Report progress in the use of an Internet portal in the EAtHC region aiming at sharing MSI information	EAtHC	IRCC7	- MSI course was held in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) on 16-18th december 2014 ; - Circular letter has been sent to all EAtHC to gather propositions to adapt BSDB approach.
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	This matter has been discussed in the last Conference.
IRCC6/40	Facilitate resolution of inconsistencies between paper charts and ENCs and between ENCs from	RHC Chairs	Permanent	In the last Conference, France, the ICCWG for the region G gave a brief report on the work achieved by that WG, emphasizing on the progresses made on

	different producers			application guide to the WEND Principles, the definition of a procedure to deal with ENC overlaps, and some aspects regarding ENC distribution and accessibility.
IRCC6/41	Consider opportunities to interact with stakeholders in 2014 and encourage participation in the relevant events.	RHC	December 2014	All stakeholders are invited to continue to attend the EAtHC's meetings and are allowed ample opportunities to interact with the EAtHC membership.
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	In the last Conference the Chairman recalled that HSSC issued a list of events ought to be opportunities for IHO to be represented by its Member States, taking account of available resources. The CL8/2014 table in annex summarizes the MS participation linked with those events. MS that wishes to represent IHO to 'unattended' events are invited to liaise with the IHB.
IRCC6/46	Encourage MSs in their respective regions to use the Risk Assessment methodology to establish Hydrographic Survey priorities.	RHC Chairs	Permanent	During the last Conference this item was not addressed due to lack of time.

6. Agenda Items:

Task numbers refer to IHO WP for 2014 (see CL 74/2013 dated 20 December 2013).

IHO Work Programme 1 – "Corporate Affairs"

Element 1.1 Co-operation with International Organizations and participation in relevant meetings.

Task 1.1.8: IALA has been invited to the 13th EAtHC Conference last September 2014 to present their activities and tools. Moreover, this conference has been an occasion to raise awareness about the involvement of IALA in the coordination mechanism between IHO/IMO/IAEA to improve the Capacity Building efforts of these organizations.

Task 1.1.12: Mandatory IMO Audit Scheme was discussed at the last meeting, and concluded by the invitation of Member States of IMO which have not yet volunteered to be audited to do so as soon as they are ready. Morocco has hosted and celebrated the World Maritime Day in Tangier from 27th to 29th of October 2014.

Task 1.1.14: Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (UNESCO-IOC) has been participated at the 13th EAtHC Conference in September 2014 in Morocco.

Task 1.1.20: During the 13th EAtHC Conference, the representative of the Maritime Organization of West and Central Africa (MOWCA) made a presentation on his Organization in terms of organisation, operation, missions, and activities. A draft of memorandum of understanding between MOWCA and IHO was submitted for Member States to approve by correspondence procedure.

Element 1.2 Information Management.

Task 1.2.4.1: During the 13th EAthC, the Coastal States were asked to report regularly to IHB all information relevant for updating the status of hydrographic services and capabilities, including the provision of the list of POCs for the IHO Yearbook. IHO Yearbook to be updated by EAthC once a year. IHB to add the date of the update for every Coastal State. No changes need to be reported as well.

IHO Work Programme 2 - "Services and Standards"

Element 2.3 Nautical Cartography

Task 2.3.2.6: Since the last EAthC conference, IHB and the CHATINTCHART Coordinator have pooled their efforts to make the S-11 Region G (CHATINTCHART) catalogue update process more efficient. From now, the CHATINTCHART catalogue structure is compliant with S-11 format and every inputs/updates provided by charting authorities will be only addressed to the Regional Coordinator before transmission to the IHB. A Change of format of the Region G ICC WG/CHATINTCHART catalogue, which is now also available in kml and pdf format.

IHO Work Programme 3 – " Inter Regional Coordination and Support"

Element 3.0 Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC)

Task 3.0.1: EAthC chairman have represented EAthC to the last meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) of the IHO in 2014 (Paris).

Element 3.1 Co-operation with Member States and attendance at relevant meetings

Task 3.1.17: the Coordinator of International Charting schemes for the region G (G-ICCWG), (France) has represented EAthC to fifth meeting of the WEND Working Group in Singapore (March 2015).

Task 3.1.18: In the 13th EAthC Conference, a several industry stakeholders have taken part to some of the commission debates. The participation of representatives of industry at the EAthC conferences was effective. It has participated to the understanding of hydrographic problems of the region and has allowed the exchange of complementary points of view on the actions taken.

Task 3.1.19: Members awareness has been raised about the request regarding the providing of national focal points response to marine disaster. In order to develop the assessment of the impact of marine disasters in the region, the members of the commission agreed to:

- Identify stakeholders/networks/sectors vulnerable to Marine Disasters issues;
- Define a common framework in line with both IHO and IOC mandates;
- Adopt a strategy to be used in a IHO-IOC awareness program;
- Organize an IHO-IOC regional workshop on marine disasters.

Element 3.2 Increase participation by non-Member States.

Task 3.2.2: All countries in the region are members/observers of EAthC. 52% participation rate at the 13th EAthC (Casablanca, 2014) despite of the Ebola crisis, increase participation of delegates [51 participants (37 in 12th EAthC)] and the participation of 1 new observer (Angola).

Task 3.2.2.1: See Status- EAtHC (action IRCC6/02) in paragraph 5.

Task 3.2.2.2: See Status- EAtHC (action IRCC6/04) in paragraph 5.

Task 3.2.11: See Status- EAtHC (action IRCC6/01) in paragraph 5.

Task 3.2.12.1: The Government of Monaco has received notification of approval of the Protocol of Amendments from all IHO Member States of the EAtHC eligible to respond except Nigeria. Cameroon is not required to accede to the Protocol of Amendments since these were adopted before Cameroon joined the IHO.

Element 3.3 Capacity Building Management

Task 3.3.1.4: France performs the coordination of the dissemination of information on maritime security in the area Navarea II. This activity was the subject of a specific report (list of documents EAtHC13-07.4A report). If the status of Navtex stations has improved, the list of national contacts for Navarea II is still incomplete, complicating the task of the Navarea coordinator. The creation of a common web portal could likely facilitate the updating of these points of contact, while providing the capability to report information on maritime safety in a collaborative and responsive manner. All concerned Coastal States to identify all NAVTEX projects POCs, and respond to questions raised by IMO NAVTEX Panel in cooperation with the NAVAREA II co-ordinator.

Task 3.3.3: The coordinator of Capacity Building has participated in two meetings of the Capacity Building Sub Committee (see report CBSC12-05C released by mail on 2014 and available on the IHO website at http://iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/CBC/CBSC12/CBSC12-05C-EAtHC_report.pdf).

Task 3.3.8: The importance of developing regional capacity training has been discussed several times, at the 12th and 13th conferences of the EAtHC and at the seminary of Pointe-Noire in November 2013. Two orientations seem to emerge, on which it would be helpful to have the views of the commission:

- Need to train hydrographer-assistants, to leverage the potential trained at the B and A level;
- Interest of having an English speaking training centre and French speaking one (the question of a Portuguese speaking centre is to be considered with the SAIHC).

Element 3.4 Capacity Building Assessment

Task 3.4.1: A high-level technical visit to Liberia will be proposed to be added to the IHO CB Work Program for 2016 (Not done in 2014).

Element 3.5 Capacity Building Provision

Task 3.5.1: To assist in the assessment of the importance of hydrography in the development of the maritime economy, a high-level seminar on aids to navigation, hydrography and nautical charting were jointly organized by the IMO, IHO and IALA for the benefit of officials responsible for implementing the safety of navigation in Accra (Ghana) in April 2014 (English speaking seminar).

Task 3.5.2: The MSI workshop for French speaking countries of the region, part of the IHO's Capacity Building 2014 annual programme has been hosted at the « Académie Régionale des Sciences et Techniques de la Mer » in Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire) from 16th to 18th December 2014. Besides, another high level meeting with MOWCA will be included to this annual program as well. In

November, the 11th plenary session was hosted by Libreville (Gabon), of the Group on Earth Observation (GEO).

Task 3.5.6: The EAtHC commission kept on raising awareness of coastal States on the need to clarify and fulfil their SOLAS responsibilities by establishing bilateral agreements with charting authorities.

Element 3.6 Coordination of Global Surveying and Charting

Task 3.6.1.1: A permanent action has been approved at the last meeting for not IHO members to set up a table of national responsibilities (MSI, surveys, charts) based by default on the current charting authorities, in order to update C-55 database.

Task 3.6.3.1: The ENC coverage in region G continues to improve. Since the 12th EAtHC conference, over 48 new cells were produced on the region G (usage bands 4 and 5). Dissemination of ENC in the past two years has improved through the convergence of licensing rules of both Regional ENC Centres (RENCs). All existing ENCs on the area are provided through RENCs.

Task 3.6.4.1: The charting coordinator for the region was invited to consider the specifications of the IHO GIS "INToGIS" when available, to propose to EAtHC members the adjustments necessary to make the most of this GIS regarding maintenance of the chart catalogues of region G.

Element 3.7 Maritime Safety Information

Task 3.7.1: Based on the crucial need to consolidate contact management in the region for that purpose and the decision adopted by the commission to request MSI points of contact update from every Coastal State in the region, the commission, in coordination with the NAVAREA II Coordinator, continued on many occasions to urge Coastal States to update their MSI contacts, arguing the fact that some MSI contact details were still erroneous. This statement led the commission to consider the searching of new means of MSI dissemination in the frame of its cooperation between the maritime sub-regional bodies and the hydrographic community.

7. Cooperation with other organizations:

See Element 1.1 in paragraph 6 (Agenda items) .

8. /9. Conclusions, achievements and lessons learned :

All the components of the Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission continue to develop and to increase their capacities regarding hydrography, oceanography and nautical charting, as well as other working axes relative to the different working programs specified by the IHO and other International Organizations in this field.

In order to improve the hydrographic surveying coverage in the region, the EAtHC Chairman recommends the Coastal States to define their objectives based on a list of priorities. Also, in order to enable updating nautical documents and charts, the Coastal States were kindly requested to exchange all collected data.

The regional coordination within the EAtHC always remains fruitful; an improvement in MSI dissemination and real governance of hydrography has been noted. Also, the cooperation with any sub-regional maritime organization such as MOWCA remains very beneficial and promising, and this can surely improve and bring to successful results for developing the maritime strategy in the region.

10. Actions required from the IRCC7:

IRCC members are invited:

- To note this report;
- To fulfil as possible as the needs of the EAHC.

CV Abdelouahed DIHAJI
EAHC's Chairman