

**Meso-American and Caribbean Hydrographic Commission (MACHC)
Report to the 7th IRCC meeting, 2015**

Submitted by the Hydrographic Service of the Royal Netherlands Navy,

1. Chair

Chair:

Michel Amafo (SR): until March 13, 2015

Marc van der Donck (NL): March 13, 2015 until present

Vice-Chair:

Peter Kortenoeven (NL): until September 12, 2014

Marc van der Donck (NL): September 12, 2014 until March 13, 2015

Manuel Ricardo Lopez Cruz (MX): March 13, 2015 until present

2. Membership

Full members: Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, France, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela.

Associate members: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The accession of Costa Rica and Saint Vincent & the Grenadines as associate members during the 15th Conference illustrates the current vitality of the MACHC.

3. Meetings:

15th Conference: Manzanillo (MX), 10-13 December 2014

16th Conference: Saint John's (Antigua & Barbuda), 8-12 December 2015

4. Current MACHC Working Groups:

- a) MACHC Integrated Charting Committee
Chair: NOAA (USA)
Vice-chair: Brazil
- b) Marine Economic Infrastructure Program Committee
Chair: UK
vice-chair: NGA (USA)
- c) Capacity Building Committee
Chair: UK

5. Status of IRCC action (relevant for the MACHC)

This Section is identical to the report that was submitted to chair IRCC by chair MACHC on January 13, 2015, except for editorial changes.

| Action identifier | Topic | Actions taken | Status |
|-------------------|---|---|------------------|
| IRCC6/01 | Pending applications for IHO membership | MS were encouraged to inform the IHB. | completed |
| IRCC6/02 | Ratification of the IHO Convention by pending applicants | MS were encouraged to inform the IHB. | completed |
| IRCC6/03 | Participation of stakeholders | Stakeholders and organizations are invited to attend MACHC conferences | completed |
| IRCC6/04 | Suspended Member States | At MACHC conferences this item is highlighted by the IHB president. | completed |
| IRCC6/05 | Progress reports on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2014 Work Program | <i>The reports of the MACHC committees, as reported to president IHB by chair MACHC on 16 February 2015, are given in Annex A, B, and C respectively.</i> | partly completed |
| IRCC6/07 | Estimated values of Strategic Level Performance Indicators and Working Level Performance Indicators | | not available |
| IRCC6/08 | Attendance of GEBCO Guiding Committee / Bathymetric Regional Project Chairs | GEBCO was invited to MACHC Conference. | completed |
| IRCC6/09 | Promotion and cooperation relating to Satellite Derived Bathymetry | Discussed at MACHC Conference. | completed |
| IRCC6/15 | Material provided to IHB to promote the achievements of IRCC bodies | The results of the Capacity Building events are reported to IHB. | completed |
| IRCC6/16 | Promotion of the achievements of IRCC bodies | | not reported |

6. Agenda Items:

NTR

7. MACHC Cooperation with other organizations:

Cooperation with other organizations is generally at good. Especially the work towards a Memorandum of Understanding between IHO and the Organisation of East Caribbean States has the potential to consolidate and strengthen the process of regional cooperation and integration, and to ensure the efficient and effective development and coordination of hydrographic and nautical charting programs, in accordance with the obligations of international treaties.

8. Conclusions and achievements:

Like every other region, the limited survey capacity needs to be dealt with. The MACHC MS share the task of following developments towards the operationalization of new acquisition techniques. Improving coverage of the MACHC region with paper and digital charts receives considerable attention.

9. Achievements and lessons learned:

Due to considerable efforts of the International Hydrographic Bureau and several MS, the membership of MACHC is growing. Some of the MACHC achievements are:

- the renewed focus on MSDI, led by the MEIP Committee;
- the interest for risk assessment methodologies, in close cooperation with the OECS;
- the ENC Online initiative, in which several MS allow online access to their ENCs of the MACHC region;
- the organization of a series of successful capacity building events, in English and Spanish;
- strong participation of industry during the past Conference.

The chairmanship of the Maritime Authority of Suriname during the past two Conferences deserves a compliment.

10. Action required from IRCC7:

None

Captain RNLN Marc C. J. van der Donck
Director Netherlands Hydrographic Office
Hydrographer of the Royal Netherlands Navy
Chairman MACHC

Annex A: Overall status of the work programme of MICC

| Current goals and priorities | Current or expected gaps and needs | Comments |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Achieve full ENC coverage in MACHC | Gaps are being addressed/no additional needs required | Of the 799 current and planned ENCs required to meet WEND principles for adequate ENC coverage, 665 are currently published and available (83%) |
| Update INT Chart Catalogue | No additional needs required | |
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Annex B: Overall status of the work programme of MEIP

Compiled by Chris Thorne - e-mail address: Chris.Thorne@UKHO.gov.uk

| Current goals and priorities | Current or expected gaps and needs | Comments |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| <p>The MEIP was given a direction at the 15th MACHC meeting in December 2014. The aim was to "piggy back" on the NOAA ENC on line viewer.</p> | | <p>The MEIP Chair, MEIP vice Chair and NOAA met in January 2015 to discuss population of a base layer within the viewer. We are planning to achieve this by the end of February 2015, at which time we intend to contact all MS to inform them of progress and encourage them to make larger scale data available.</p> |
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Update of 24 April 2015: The base layers have now been populated with .000 files from US and GB cells. MEIP Chair has also already received permission from Netherlands and Mexico to include some of their larger scale ENC .000 files in the on line viewer. A Members States letter was sent out in March to encourage all members t consider making their ENCs available.

Annex C: Overall status of the work programme of CBC
 Compiled by J Bryant - e-mail address: jeff.bryant@ukho.gov.uk

| Current goals and priorities | Current or expected gaps and needs | Comments |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| The MACHC has a five year plan for its CB activities, the priority to ensure all coastal states reach Phase 1 status. Other activities reinforce Phases 2 and 3. | No gaps | The requirement to deliver capacity building activities in Spanish is being met. E.g. Hydro course in Hydrography delivered in Nicaragua in Sep/Oct 2014 and short courses sent to Mexico for translation |
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