

ARCTIC REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (ARHC) 2014-15 REPORT

IRCC7-070

ARHC Report to the Seventh Meeting of the IHO Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC7)

Mexico City, Mexico
June 1-3, 2015

1. **Chair:** Captain First Rank Sergey Travin (Russian Federation)
Co-Chair: Denis Hains (Canada)

2. **Membership:**
Full Members: Canada
Denmark
Norway
Russian Federation
United States of America
Observers: Finland
Iceland

Organizational update:

The ARHC has three subsidiary working groups with chairs as identified:

Operations and Technology Working	Dr. Michael Gonsalves (USA)
Arctic International Charting Coordination Working Group	Evert Flier (Norway)
Strategic Planning Working Group	

For Canada

Michel Goguen was appointed the new regional Director the Central and Arctic Regional Office (Burlington, Ontario):

For the United States

Within the Office of Coast Survey, new division chiefs have assumed positions as follows:

- Marine Chart Division: John Nyberg
- Hydrographic Surveys Division: Captain Eric Berkowitz
- Navigation Services Division: Russell Proctor
- Coast Survey Development Laboratory: Captain Rick Brennan

In 2015, OCS adopted a new Strategic Plan that identifies four organizational goals:

- *Be the Experts:* continuously evolve the capabilities and capacities required to be the authoritative national source of navigation products, coastal mapping data and coastal services
- *Transform Charting:* provide an expanded user base with timely, quality navigation data in media-neutral formats.
- *Innovate Hydrography:* expand capabilities to acquire data from a broad base of sources, improve chart content and use date for multiple purposes
- *Change Navigation:* provide mariners at home and abroad with adaptive and integrated decision support tools that they need for safe and efficient navigation

ARCTIC REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (ARHC) 2014-15 REPORT

3. Meetings:

- a. Since IRCC6:
 - i. Special Session of the ARHC-5 (October 2014; Monaco) documents available at:
http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/ArHC/ArHC_Special_EIHC5/ArHC_Special_EIHC5_Docs.htm
 - ii. Teleconference and email communications of the Operations and Technology Working Group concerning responding to a request of the PAME (Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment) group of the Arctic Council on an assessment of adequacy of charts in the Arctic. (see below)
- b. Next events
 - i. The Joint WMU-IMO-Arctic Council International Conference on Safe and Sustainable Shipping in a Changing Arctic (ShipArc-2015) will be held August 25-27, 2015 in Malmo, Sweden. ARHC is exploring its representation at this meeting.
 - ii. PAME I-2015 recorded the following decision “PAME requests the Secretariat to invite the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC) to submit and update progress on the status of Arctic hydrography and charting, as well as any developments with respect to Arctic Voyage Planning Guides. “ PAME-II 2015 will be held in Tromso, Norway in September 2015.
 - iii. ARHC-5 is slated to be held in approximately October/November 2015, pending confirmation of the Chair.

4. Activities:

- a. Reports
 - i. In response to a request of PAME via correspondence, the OTWG assessed the adequacy of charts in the Arctic and through ARHC Vice Chair, Denis Hains (Canada), presented the Report to PAME-II meeting (September 2014; Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada) documents available at:
http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/ArHC/ArHC_Special_EIHC5/ArHC_Special_EIHC5_Docs.htm
 - ii. The above report was summarized in a subsequent technical paper “*A Risk-based Methodology of Assessing the Adequacy of Charting Products in the Arctic Region: Identifying the Survey Priorities of the Future*” (Gonsalves, Brunt, et. al) and presented at U.S. Hydro Conference (April 2015; National Harbor, Maryland).
- b. Projects
 - i. *Resolving ENC Overlaps*
 - a. WENDWG5 -07 and 08a reported the status of overlaps within each RHC
 - b. The United States and Canada resolved the overlap in the Beaufort Sea in March 2015
 - c. Discussions are ongoing between for the elimination of two ENC overlaps between the United States and Russia
 - d. The remaining overlaps reported to the WENDWG appear to be within the 5 meter tolerance set out in the S-57 Use of the Object Catalogue. These overlaps will be reviewed as part of the next ARHC meeting.

ARCTIC REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (ARHC) 2014-15 REPORT

ii. Arctic Voyage Planning Guide

ARHC Member States agreed to develop and link voyage planning guides for easy access through the web. Canada and Denmark have produced web-based voyage planning guides. The topic and further progress since ARHC-4 will be proposed as an agenda item for ARHC-5.

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

- a. Status of IRCC6 Actions – See Appendix A
- b. ARHC input to IHO Strategic Performance Indicators (SPIs) and IRCC Working-level Performance Indicators (WPIs) will be addressed tentatively at ARHC-5 if this agenda item is agreed when the agenda is developed.

6. Main Items under Consideration:

- a. Developing a comprehensive, authoritative assessment for hydrographic needs in the Arctic Ocean.
- b. Supporting stakeholders understand and access information related to maritime transportation in the Arctic.
- c. Address INT and ENC coverage schemes in Region N.

7. IHO Work Programme relative to ARHC

To be addressed at ARHC-5. ARHC notes no deliverables were identified in IHO Work Programme 2014 for the ARHC.

8. Conclusions and Achievements

- a. The ARHC continues to be an effective body for the Member States. It serves as an important avenue for communication and providing a platform for addressing issues of mutual interest.

9. Actions required from IRCC7

- a. IRCC-7 is invited to take note of this report.

ARCTIC REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (ARHC) 2014-15 REPORT

Appendix A

Status of IRCC-6 actions (relevant of the ARHC)

No	ACTION (AGENDA ITEM)	RESP.	DEADLINE	ARHC Status
IRCC6/01	Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership	RHC Chairs		ARHC member states have approved the applications of Viet Nam and Georgia. ARHC member states are now pursuing support for new memberships per CL 32/2015.
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	ARHC notes no prior deliverables identified in the 2014 Work Program (3.1.1)
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	See Appendix B of the ARHC Report to IRCC-7 (2015) report.
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	The ARHC-5 did not meet in full session in the current reporting period since IRCC-6.
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	NOTE: US INF letter was provided to CBSC (2015) and IRCC-7 on a proposed chart adequacy workshop to be held in summer 2015
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.
IRCC6/40	Facilitate resolution of inconsistencies between paper charts and ENC's and between ENC's from different producers	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Ongoing. May be proposed as an agenda item in ARHC-5.

ARCTIC REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (ARHC) 2014-15 REPORT

No	ACTION (AGENDA ITEM)	RESP.	DEADLINE	ARHC Status
IRCC6/41	Consider opportunities to interact with stakeholders in 2014 and encourage participation in the relevant events	RHC	December 2014	ARHC OTWG engaged with PAME in 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	Ongoing
IRCC6/46	Encourage MSs in their respective regions to use the Risk Assessment methodology to establish Hydrographic Survey priorities	RHC Chairs		<p>See papers delivered at U.S. Hydro (2015) <i>“Nautical Chart Adequacy Evaluation using Publically-Available Data”</i> (A. Klemm)</p> <p>And</p> <p><i>“A Risk-based Methodology of Assessing the Adequacy of Charting Products in the Arctic Region: Identifying the Survey Priorities of the Future”</i> (Gonsalves, Brunt, et al)</p> <p>The latter was based on report of the ARHC OTWG to PAME-II 2014 referenced in the body of this report.</p>