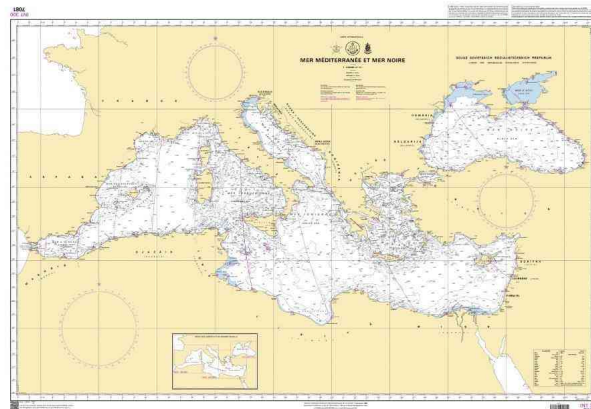


# MEDITERRANEAN & BLACK SEAS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (MBSHC)

MBSHC report to IRCC8

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates 29-30 June 2016

## General background



1. The Mediterranean and Black Seas are semi-enclosed seas, bordered by more than 20 nations with a strong maritime tradition. Since a long time, maritime navigation is a key component of their economy and their culture. Furthermore, the role of the Mediterranean Sea for the transit of goods between Asia, Europe and the East coast of America gives this maritime region a global perspective: 25 % of the world shipping sails through this maritime area representing 1 % of the area the world ocean. Since the last meeting of the IRCC, the opening of the new Suez Canal is a clear signal of the continuing importance of the area for the global shipping.
2. New challenges for hydrography in the region are arising, with development of new sectors of the maritime economy, like cruising, deep offshore oil & gas, which induce further requirements for a better knowledge of the hydrography of the region. These needs are strengthened by the simultaneous concern for better understanding the specific environmental challenges of these semi-enclosed seas. A complex geography, including narrow sea basins bordered by several countries, impacts strongly the hydrographic issues, especially in coordination of charting.
3. These stakes and the historical maritime tropism of the bordering nations explain that this region has a high rate of IHO membership.

## Structure of the commission

4. Chair: captain (PhD) Erhan GEZGİN (Turkey) until the 2nd of July 2016, then ingénieur général Bruno FRACHON (France).
5. Membership has not evolved since IRCC-7:
  - *Members (20)*: Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia (suspended), Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine.
  - *Associate Members (6)*: Bulgaria, Israel, Malta, Palestinian Authority, United Kingdom, United States of America.
  - *Observers*: Albania, Germany, Lebanon, DINMA, IOC, IC-ENC, PRIMAR, IHB.
6. The IHO membership of Bulgaria, approved by IHO members, is awaiting the deposit of the instrument of accession. IHB support has been requested by the Navy Hydrographic Service to assist in the procedure.
7. An International Charting Coordination Working Group for the charting region F has been set up by the MBSHC. It is chaired by France, and reports to the MBSHC.
8. A permanent working group is dealing with specific subjects related to the Black and Azov Seas (BASWG).
9. Rules of Procedures for MBSHC selection for the future IHO Council were approved by the Commission at its last conference, in June 2015, circulated through the summary report of the conference, and included in a revised version of MBSHC Statutes.

## Meetings

10. The period between two conferences is usually two years. One conference, the 19th, has been organized since IRCC-7, in Batumi, Georgia, June 30th – July 2nd 2016. Next conference will be organized in Montenegro, July 4-6th 2017.
11. Work of the region F ICCWG is mainly organized by correspondence. Side meetings have been held in the margin of the 19th MBSHC Conference. A face-to-face meeting could be necessary during the coming International Hydrographic Conference / IHO Assembly.
12. The 13th meeting of Black and Azov Seas Working Group (BASWG) was held in Istanbul (Turkey) on May 3-4th 2016 with the participation of all BASWG Member States except the Russian Federation. For the first time, the Regional Charting Coordinator was invited to a BASWG meeting, giving opportunity of addressing some of the pending charting issues in the area. The next BASWG meeting will take place in Constanța (Romania) in May 2018. Turkey was reappointed as Chair of the BASWG for a two years term.

## Status of IRCC actions relevant to the MBSHC

No	ACTION (AGENDA ITEM)	STATUS
IRCC7/01 <i>Permanent</i>	Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership	4 applications (including Malta) have received 11/20 approval from MBSHC Members
IRCC7/02 <i>Permanent</i>	Continue to engage pending applicants in their region to encourage the ratification of the IHO Convention	Missing ratification from Croatia, Egypt, Romania, Syria
IRCC7/03 <i>Permanent</i>	Consider the participation of stakeholders at the RHC conferences	Industry stakeholders (Seven Cs, Caris, EOMAP) and RENCs (IC-ENC, PRIMAR) have participated to MBSHC19
IRCC7/04 <i>Permanent</i>	Continue to engage suspended Member States (MSs) in their region to encourage their re-admission to the IHO	No action has been undertaken with regard to Serbia, due to its land-locked situation
IRCC7/05 <i>Permanent</i>	Provide the IRCC Chair with progress reports on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2015 Work Programme	Sent to IHB 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2016
IRCC7/07 <i>Permanent</i>	Provide to the IRCC Chair the estimated values of SPIs and agreed WPIs as of 31 December 2015 and target values for 31 December 2017, complemented by the comments on the difficulties encountered and suggestions for a way forward	Sent to IHB 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2016
IRCC7/08 <i>Permanent</i>	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	No GEBCO representatives to MBSHC19. GEBCO will be invited to MBSHC20 in 2017
IRCC7/09 <i>Permanent</i>	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	Industry invited to MBSHC19 to present SDB in shallow waters
IRCC7/18 <i>Permanent</i>	Facilitate resolution of important inconsistencies between paper charts and ENCs and between ENCs from different producers as identified by the RENCs or otherwise.	Handling of the overlapping on UB1, and consequences on UB2, on-going
IRCC7/20	Provide input to CBSC on how to identify possible sources of funding to support capacity building efforts and programmes across the regions	NTR
IRCC7/26	Report to IRCC on the status of the RHC procedures for selecting their respective representatives to the Council	Rules now included in MBSHC Statutes. Practical implementation will be specified by MBSHC Chair in due course.

No	ACTION (AGENDA ITEM)	STATUS
IRCC7/27	<p>a) New INT Chart Producer Nations to provide first edition INT chart to ICCWG for review ...</p> <p>b) INT Chart Coordinators/ICCWGs to manage the review of the first edition INT charts produced by new INT Chart Producer Nations ..., provide feedback to the Producer and to report progress to the next RHC meeting;</p> <p>c) All INT Chart Producer Nations to provide first edition and new edition INT charts to ICCWG 3 months prior to every RHC meeting to enable ICCWG to validate current INT chart Scheme;</p> <p>d) All editions of INT charts submitted under action 27 a) and b) to be subsequently transferred to the IHB;</p> <p>e) Member States to provide an update of the list of on-line chart catalogues...</p>	<p>Implementation of IRCC7 decisions on INT Chart coordination agreed by the Region F ICCWG.</p> <p>Deputy chart coordinator took part to the dedicated workshop in Monaco on the April 25<sup>th</sup>. The outcomes of that workshop were reported at the BASWG13 meeting.</p>
IRCC7/28	implement procedures approved by Decision 3 and to report their processes for the review of first edition INT Charts produced by new Producer Nations to IRCC	New GE INT to be sent soon to ICCWG chair for review.
IRCC7/33	instruct the ICCWG Coordinators to investigate ways to improve communication across the regions and report back to IRCC	<p>Eastwards: coordination with Region J (including Red Sea and Suez Canal) discussed at NIOHC16, based on lessons learned from inclusion of new INT charts covering the Suez Canal in Region J charting scheme.</p> <p>Westwards: same RCC for both regions F &amp; G.</p>
IRCC7/41	consider incorporating hydrography in more comprehensive maritime projects as a way of raising awareness and funds from Donor agencies and to report progress to IRCC	The European commission is funding several project dealing with hydrographic knowledge, including M&BS region: none is dealing with capacity building
IRCC7/42	invite Member States to update C-55 annually including reports of "no changes")	A devoted portal for survey status is under work (ES)
IRCC7/44 bis	provide full reports for those TVs undertaken in 2014 that have not yet been submitted to the IHB	Lebanon and Israel reports provided. Georgia pending
IRCC7/48	Consider nominating regional representatives on the MSDIWG	Pending action
IRCC7/52 <i>Permanent</i>	continue supporting GEBCO regional projects and report back to IRCC	NTR.
IRCC7/53	remind HO's of the standing request to provide GEBCO with access to existing shallow water bathymetric data, at whatever resolution is permissible by the country and to report progress to IRCC	See beneath §17

### Regional INT Chart/ENC schemes coordination

13. At its 19th conference, the MBSHC endorsed the recommendations issued at IRCC7 regarding the revision and monitoring of INT Chart. MBSHC19 discussed best practices as way forward to solve issues related to the coordination of charts production in the region. After consideration of several approaches and examples, MBSHC Members agreed that technical discussions would be carried out bilaterally, with the purpose of exploiting those practical approaches. After the 19th MBSHC, it appeared that production of new ENCs in the eastern Mediterranean could entail modification of the existing INT charts scheme, the rationale of which is under discussion. Therefore, bilateral/trilateral technical discussions are on-going with the support and follow-up of the Regional Charting Coordinator, especially for co-production issues localized in Aegean Sea and Black Sea. Besides, a half-day ICCWG meeting will be arranged prior to the MBSHC20, and another during the forthcoming IHC/Assembly in 2017. Some sub-regional questions on the eastern part of the Black Sea have been addressed during the next meeting of the Black and Azov Sea Working Group in May 2016.
14. Regarding the Regional ENC coverage, the ICCWG side-meetings held in the margin of MBSHC19 addressed the lack of progress on the resolution of UB1 overlapping cases, potentially leading to a disparate UB1 scheme, non-consistent with the small scale INT charts scheme covering the region. Furthermore, the persistency of some UB1 overlapping cases induces some domino effect, which impacts the issue of UB2 overlapping cases, preventing the ICCWG from properly addressing the UB2-3 schemes. The MBSHC asked all ENC producer nations concerned by those UB1 overlaps to liaise with each other under the coordination of Italy and to report back to RCC on the resolution of those overlapping cases. The proposal of focusing on larger scale usage bands, UB4-5-6, was approved as a way forward on the approval of ENC schemes in the region. Work on these larger scales is on-going.

### Capacity building activities

15. A MSI training course has been organized in Istanbul on October 20-22nd 2015.
16. Technical visits to Albania and Montenegro are scheduled for second semester of 2016, and a high level visit by IHB director to Lebanon. The ENC production course submitted for the 2016 CBWP will take place in 2016, at a data and place yet to be determined.
17. For the 2017 CBWP, a request has been submitted for a 5-days workshop on technical aspects of maritime boundaries in 2017. The submission will be discussed in the CBSC14..

## Other Achievements

18. MBSHC19 discussed the stakes and feasibility of a Common Bathymetric Database for this region with regards of the forthcoming call for the third phase of the European project EMODnet. Following up MBSHC19, Member States were invited by circular letter MBSHC 02-2015 to provide the MBSHC Chair with their position on the role that MBSHC MS should take in this project. for MBSHC.
19. Increase participation by non-Member States: during MBSHC19, IHB and Iran gave an informative focus on the hydrographic activities in the Caspian Sea. MBSHC agreed to invite Caspian Sea coastal States at MBSHC20 in 2017 and to invite them to the MSI workshop (P07 iaw 2015 CBWP). Following up that decision, Azerbaijan attended the MSI course in Istanbul in October 2015.

## Actions required from IRCC8:

20. The IRCC is invited to take note of this report.