

EASTERN ATLANTIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (EA_tHC)

EAtHC report IRCC8
Abu Dhabi, UAE, 29-31 May 2016

1. Chair:

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

Vice-Chair: According to the status of the EA_tHC, 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 EA_tHC 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 EA_tHC Cadiz, Spain (18-20 October 2016).

4. Current EA_tHC Working Groups :

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

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

No	Action	Resp	Deadline	Status- EA _t HC
IRCC7/01	Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership	RHC Chairs	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2015	Ongoing communication to EA _t HC members. The importance and benefits of growing the membership of the IHO was communicated. 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. Republic of Congo has sent to IHB a Letter of application to IHO membership.
IRCC7/02	Continue to engage pending	RHC	Report to IRCC	The Government of Monaco has

	applicants in their region to encourage the ratification of the IHO Convention	Chairs	Chair Dec 2015	received notification of approval of the Protocol of Amendments from all IHO Member States of the EAHC 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.
IRCC7/03	Consider the participation of stakeholders at the RHC conferences	RHC Chairs	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2015	Some of the stakeholders have taken part to some of the commission debates in the last Conference, they will be invited to the next Conference.
IRCC7/04	Continue to engage suspended Member States (MSs) in their region to encourage their re-admission to the IHO	EAHC MACHC MBSHC	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2015	To encourage its reinsertion in the IHO, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been informed of the last and the forecoming EAHC. A specific letter will be sent by the EAHC Chair to remind DRC to participate to 14 th EAHC meeting. Two observers from DRC attended the 5 th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference, in Monaco 2014.
IRCC7/05	Provide the IRCC Chair with progress reports on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2015 Work Programme	RHCs and IRCC subsidiary organs	Jan 2016	Done.
IRCC7/07	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	RHC Chairs	Jan 2016	Done.
IRCC7/08	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	RHCs / GEBCO	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2015	GEBCO will be invited to the next EAHC meeting on october 2016 and it is a regular agenda item for EAHC Conferences.
IRCC7/09	Encourage MSs and representatives of industry and academia to promote and to work together to ensure that the best possible	RHC Chairs	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2015	This issue has and will be included in the agenda of the last and the following meetings.

	use is made of Satellite Derived Bathymetry			
IRCC7/15	Provide material to the IHB to promote the achievements of IRCC bodies	RHC Chairs and subsidiary bodies	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2015	EAtHC Chairmanship encourages MSs to provide referenced material to promote achievements on a national level.
IRCC7/17	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	IRCC8	Done. Regional CB Coordinateur sensibilized the Coastal States on the english level requirements to apply IHO funded course while disseminating the calls for nomination.
IRCC7/18	Facilitate resolution of important inconsistencies between paper charts and ENC's and between ENC's from different producers as identified by the RENCs or otherwise	RHC Chairs	IRCC8	Done. Every ENC is derived from the corresponding INT chart. No pending overlaps to report in the EAtHC region.
IRCC7/19	Encourage MSs in their respective regions to use the Risk Assessment methodology to establish Hydrographic Survey priorities	RHC Chairs	IRCC8	It will be discussed in the next 14th EAtHC meeting (18th to 20th October 2016).
IRCC7/20	Provide input to CBSC on how to identify possible sources of funding to support capacity building efforts and programmes across the regions	IRCC Members	CBSC14	Done through the HydroMAOC definition study that will be presented at the CBSC14 Conference.
IRCC7/26	Report to IRCC on the status of the RHC procedures for selecting their respective representatives to the Council	RHC Chairs	IRCC8	A draft prepared by EAtHC Chair, it will be discussed in the next 14 th EAtHC meeting (18 th to 20 th October 2016).
IRCC7/27	To task: a) New INT Chart Producer Nations to provide first edition INT chart to Regional INT Chart Coordinator (or ICCWG) for review as soon as convenient during the production cycle; b) INT Chart Coordinators/ICCWGs to manage the review of the first edition INT charts produced by new INT Chart	RHC Chairs	October 2015	-To be considered at the next EAtHC meeting in October. Since IRCC7, no new INT producer nation activities to be reported by the Regional Charting Coordinator. - The new rules of management of Chart INT will be presented in the next 14th EAtHC; - The INT catalog updates of the region will be made directly from the portal INTtoGIS.

	<p>Producer Nations to check their compliance with IHO standards, 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 Regional INT Chart Coordinator (or ICCWG) 3 months prior to every RHC meeting to enable Regional INT Chart Coordinator (or 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 to be included in the IHB reference collection for internal use; and</p> <p>e) Member States to provide an update of the list of on-line chart catalogues, either directly or systematically when updating the Yearbook.</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	RHCs	IRCC8	To be considered at the next EAthC meeting in October. Since IRCC7, no new INT producer nation activities to be reported by the Regional Charting Coordinator.
IRCC7/33	instruct the ICCWG Coordinators to investigate ways to improve communication across the regions and report back to IRCC	RHC Chairs	IRCC8	It will be discussed in the next 14 th EAthC meeting (18 th to 20 th October 2016).
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	RHCs	IRCC8	<p>A letter was sent by the EAthC chairman to the Management Association of Ports of West Africa and Central (PMAWCA) to consider including special session on hydrographic capacity as an agenda item for discussion at its 37th Annual Council (2015). MOWCA was informed about this initiative.</p> <p>This aspect has been considered with the HydroMAOC definition study that</p>

				will be presented at the CBSC14.
IRCC7/42	Invite Member States to update C-55 annually including reports of "no changes")	RHCs	July 2015	It will be discussed in the next 14 th EAHC meeting (18 th to 20 th October 2016).
IRCC7/43	Provide access to the IHB to any of their relevant promotional material on CB and to consider using the posters displayed at the EIHC 5 CB exhibition	RHCs	August 2015	It will be discussed in the next 14 th EAHC meeting (18 th to 20 th October 2016).
IRCC7/44	Provide: a) an initial summary report on Technical Visits (TV) within two weeks of the visit; and b) full reports are expected within three months of completion of a TV	RHC Chairs and CB Co- ordinator s	a) Two weeks after the TV b) Three months after the TV	A technical visit to Liberia was performed by IHB from 3 to 5 th February 2016, report done by IHB.
IRCC7/44 bis	Provide full reports for those TVs undertaken in 2014 that have not yet been submitted to the IHB	RHC Chairs and CB Co- ordinator s	July 2015	A technical visit to Liberia was performed by IHB from 3 to 5 th February 2016, report done by IHB.
IRCC7/48	Consider nominating regional representatives on the MSDIWG	RHCs	December 2015	It will be discussed in the next 14 th EAHC meeting (18 th to 20 th October 2016).
IRCC7/52	Continue supporting GEBCO regional projects and report back to IRCC	RHCs	IRCC8	It will be discussed in the next 14 th EAHC meeting (18 th to 20 th October 2016).
IRCC7/53	Remind HO 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	RHC Chairs	IRCC8	It will be discussed in the next 14 th EAHC meeting (18 th to 20 th October 2016).
IRCC7/56	Provide comments on doc. WENDWG5-04B (Relevance of information overlay services and their status in the global IHO ENC programme) to IRCC	RHCs	IRCC8	//
IRCC7/62	Consider providing representatives of the IHO at the international meetings listed in doc. IRCC-10B on relations with stakeholders and to inform the IHB	RHCs	as soon as volunteers are identified	//

6. Agenda Items:

Task numbers refer to IHO WP for 2015 (see IHO CL 82/2014).

IHO Work Programme 1 – "Corporate Affairs"

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

Task 1.1.4: EAtHC MS are involved in several projects of DG Mare: EMODNet ; tendering for the future Coastal Mapping project; interaction about the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive.

Task 1.1.6 : Some EAtHC MS attended the Hydro2015 conference in South Africa 23-25 November.

Task 1.1.8: IALA will be invited to the 14th EAtHC Conference 2016 to present their activities and tools 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.

Task 1.1.14: Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (UNESCO-IOC) will be invited to participate at the 14th EAtHC Conference 2016.

Task 1.1.20: CL about cooperation between the Maritime Organization of West and Central Africa (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 has represented EAtHC to the meeting of IRCC7 in Mexico (2015).

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

Task 3.1.6 : EAtHC was represented in the MBSHC last conference (France).

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 (3-5th March 2015- Singapore).

Task 3.1.18: Industry participation is common and appreciated during the open session of EAtHC Conferences.

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: 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. Republic of Congo has sent to IHB a Letter of application to IHO membership on 22.05.2015.

Task 3.2.2.2: See Status- EAtHC (action IRCC7/04) in paragraph 5.

Task 3.2.11: See Status- EAtHC (action IRCC7/01) 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: The Coordinator of international charting schemes for the region G (G-ICCWG) (France) has represented EAtHC to the 13th meeting of the capacity building sub-committee (27-29th may 2015- Mexico).

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 3.3.8: 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: A letter was sent by the EAtHC chairman to the Management Association of Ports of West Africa and Central (PMAWCA) to consider including special session on hydrographic capacity as an agenda item for discussion at its 37th Annual Council (2015). MOWCA was informed about this initiative.

Task 3.4.1: A high-level to MOWCA and a technical visit to Liberia (scheduled in 2015) has been postponed and added to the IHO CB Work Programme for 2016 (IHO Technical Visit to Liberia (3-5 February 2016)).

Element 3.5 Capacity Building Provision

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

Task 3.6.4: Regional ENC Centres (RENCs). All existing ENCs on the area are provided through RENCs. INT Charts are managed by the Region G International Chart Coordination Working Group.

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 :

Some points achieved:

- IHO Technical Visit to Liberia (3-5 February 2016);
- Some actions taken by Côte d'Ivoire to develop its capabilities in hydrography and nautical charting by creation of a Coordination Center of marine Hydrography and Cartography;
- Good participation of industry in the last conference;
- The definition study for a long term capacity building project with the beginning of the analysis part (SWOT) in order to design the main development axes of the regional project that will lead to concrete proposals with eventually funding perspective.

All the components of the Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission try strangely hard to develop their potentialities regarding hydrography, oceanography and nautical charting, as well as any other working axe relative to the different working programs specified by the IHO and other concerned International Organizations. The regional coordination within the EAAtHC always remains fruitful except some ways of improvement such as MSI dissemination and strong governance of hydrography. 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 of the region.

10. Actions required from the IRCC8:

IRCC members are invited:

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

CV Abdelouahed DIHAJI
EAAtHC's Chairman