

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

IHO-IRCC8

Abu Dhabi, UAE, 29-31 May 2016

Report of the Meso-American - Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC)

Submitted by: MACHC Chair

Executive Summary: This paper provides a summary report of the work of the Meso-American - Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission since the last meeting of IRCC

1. Chair and Vice-chair:

Chair: Marc van der Donck (NL) from March 2015

Vice-chair: Ricardo Lopez Cruz (MX) from March 2015

2. Membership:

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, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The accession of the Dominican Republic as an Associate Member during the 16th Conference illustrates the current vitality of the MACHC.

3. Meetings:

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

17th Conference: Belem (Brazil), December 2016

4. Working Groups:

- MACHC Integrated Charting Committee
Chair: NOAA (USA); Vice-chair: Brazil
- Marine Economic Infrastructure Programme Committee
Chair: UK; Vice-chair: NGA (USA)
- Capacity Building Committee
Chair: UK; Vice-chair: Brazil

5. Status of relevant IRCC actions

In order to identify the MACHC actions to be taken, they are marked with a colour code.

- Open action items: These action items focus on concrete deliverables.

- Continuous action items: These action items are standing activities/responsibilities not inherent to the responsibilities of the Working Groups (Terms of reference).
- Completed or closed action items: These action items do not need individual review at Commission level. Either they are completed, taken over by events, or do not require further action as they are inherent to the responsibilities of the Working Groups (Terms of Reference).

legend
open item (white)
continuous action (light grey)
completed or closed (light green)

Action identifier	IRCC action description ¹	IRCC status	Actions taken by MACHC
IRCC7/01	Pending applications for IHO membership	permanent	Continuous , national responsibility
IRCC7/02	Ratification of the IHO Convention by pending applicants	permanent	Continuous , MACHC action 15.5.1.1 applies. Add Guatemala and Jamaica besides Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.
IRCC7/03	Participation of stakeholders	permanent	Completed . MACHC action item 15.13.1 applies. Is standing procedure. A wide audience has been invited for 16th MACHC meeting.
IRCC7/04	Suspended Member States	permanent	Continuous , application of the Dominican Republic for Associated Membership was formally accepted at the 16th MACHC meeting
IRCC7/05	Progress reports on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2015 Work Programme	permanent	Continuous . Chairs MACHC WG's and MS to collate updates on the various topics of work programs 1, 2 and 3. Chair MACHC to coordinate. Status as of 31 December 2015 is given in separate document " <i>Meso-American and Caribbean Hydrographic Commission report to IRCC8-2016 on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2015 Work Programme</i> ".
IRCC7/07	Estimated values of Strategic Level Performance Indicators and Working Level Performance Indicators	permanent	Continuous . Chairs of MACHC WG and MS to collate updates on WPI en SPI as indicators. Chair MACHC to coordinate. Estimated values as of 31 December 2015 and target values for 31 December 2017 are given in the separate document " <i>Meso-American and Caribbean Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) report to IRCC8-2016 on estimated values of Strategic Level Performance Indicators and Working Level Performance Indicators</i> ".

¹The action descriptors were shortened for ease of reading. For the full description, reference is made to the IRCC Action list.

Action identifier	IRCC action description ¹	IRCC status	Actions taken by MACHC
IRCC7/08	Attendance of GEBCO Guiding Committee / Bathymetric Regional Project Chairs	permanent	Continuous. Is a standing MACHC agenda item. (DCDB presentation during MACHC16)
IRCC7/09	Promotion and cooperation relating to Satellite Derived Bathymetry	permanent	Continuous, MACHC action items 15.9.1 and 15.9.2 apply. Also agenda cluster on 'Survey and Risk' during MACHC16.
IRCC7/15	Material provided to IHB to promote the achievements of IRCC bodies	permanent	Continuous
IRCC7/17	Encourage English language training	permanent	Continuous
IRCC7/18	Facilitate resolution of inconsistencies between charts	permanent	Completed. MACHC actions 14.2.2 and 14.1.34 apply. Resolution of inconsistencies between paper charts and ENCs is part of ongoing MICC activities.
IRCC7/19	Encourage using risk assessments to establish survey priorities	permanent	Open. MACHC action 16.5.1 applies as a result of a dedicated Risk assessment meeting and the agenda cluster on 'Survey and Risk' during MACHC16.
IRCC/20	Provide input to CBSC to identify funds for CB in the region	Input expected	Completed. MACHC action item 14.3.1 applies. Is standing activity of the CB coordinator to include individual nations efforts.
IRCC7/26	Report on status of procedures to select representatives to the Council	ongoing	Completed. Procedure discussed and agreed at MACHC16.
IRCC7/27a	Task new INT Chart Producer Nations to provide first edition of first INT Chart to MICC	ongoing	Continuous. Findings will include those of the workshop in Monaco to be reported at MACHC17.
IRCC7/27b	Task MICC to manage the review of first edition of first INT Chart of a new INT Chart Producer Nations	ongoing	
IRCC7/27c	Task INT Chart Producer to provide first and new editions of INT Charts to MICC 3 months prior to MACHC Conference	ongoing	
IRCC7/27d	Task MICC to transfer submitted INT charts to IHB	ongoing	
IRCC7/27e	Task MS to update list of online chart catalogues	ongoing	
IRCC7/28	Implement procedure for new editions of INT Charts and report processes for review of first edition of first INT Chart of a new INT Chart Producer Nation		Open.
IRCC7/33	Instruct MICC to investigate improved communication across the regions		Continuous. MACHC action 15.7.2.4 also applies.
IRCC7/41	Consider incorporating hydrography in more comprehensive maritime projects		Open. MACHC action 14.3.1 also applies (standing activity MICC).
IRCC7/42	Invite MS to update C-55 annually	input expected	Continuous. MACHC action 14.1.30 applies.
IRCC7/43	Provide access to IHB to CB promotional material	input expected	Open . At MACHC16 no feedback was given by MS or AMS.
IRCC7/44a	Provide technical visits summary reports	permanent	Completed. Is now part of standing Chair/CB Coordinator instruction, no further MACHC action required.
IRCC7/44b	Provide technical visits full reports	permanent	

Action identifier	IRCC action description ¹	IRCC status	Actions taken by MACHC
IRCC7/44 bis	Provide technical visits full reports for 2014	ongoing	Closed. Not applicable
IRCC7/48	Consider nominating regional MSDIWG representatives	input expected	Completed. The Netherlands as Vice Chair of the MSDIWG also acts as regional representative for the MACHC.
IRCC7/52	Continue supporting GEBCO regional projects	permanent	Continuous. MACHC action 14.1.16 applies. Is also covered by IBCCA project in the MACHC region.
IRCC7/53	Remind HOs of request to give GEBCO access to shallow water bathymetric data		Continuous. MACHC action items 15.3 and 14.1.16 apply.
IRCC7/56	Provide comments on relevance of information overlay services	expected via Action WENDWG5 /01	Open. Action is paused as the issue is still under consideration of the WEND WG (Overlay services as AIO). See also decision 27 agreed at IRRC7.
IRCC7/62	Consider providing IHO representatives at international meetings	input expected	Open.

6. Agenda items

Some relevant items of MACHC16-2015 are:

IHO Bodies and Policy Aspects:

procedure for selecting representatives to the Council; MSI and WWNWS; IBSC.

International Organizations:

Organization of East Caribbean States (OECS); IMO; IALA; The Hydrographic Society of America (THSOA) and its Latin American Chapter; Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH).

Survey and Risk:

Risk Assessment; Satellite Derived Bathymetry.

DTM and SDI:

UN-GGIM; INEGI; GEBCO.

Nautical Charts and Publications:

RENCs; MACHC ENC Online viewer; feedback form Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA); C-55 and IHO GIS; River Charts; S-100.

CapacityBuilding

IALA training programs; FOCAHIMECA; IMarEST.

7. cooperation with other organizations

MACHC strongly benefits from the new Memorandums of Understanding with the OECS and THSOA. See Element 1.1 in separate document "*Meso-American and Caribbean Hydrographic Commission report to IRCC8-2016 on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2015 Work Programme*" for further details.

MACHC benefits greatly from the IHO Capacity Building efforts, as coordinated by the CBSC. MACHC is very grateful to Japan and Korea for their generous contributions to IHO's Capacity Building efforts.

8. Conclusions

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. Risk Assessment methodologies could assist with the best use of the available resources for survey prioritization and chart adequacy assessments.

9. Achievements and lessons learned

Some of the MACHC achievements are:

- the renewed focus on MSDI, lead by the MEIP Working Group;
- the continued interest in the shared application of risk assessment methodologies;
- 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;
- a growing suite of ENCs that better position the needs of shipping in the region;
- an expanded suite of INT charts, most notably in the Pacific Ocean;
- steps towards increased use of Spanish, to increase participation of Latin American Coastal States.

10. Actions required from IRCC

- a. note the report, including the status of the relevant action items;
- b. discuss interregional solutions to mitigate the limited survey capacity;
- c. discuss the pragmatic use of additional working languages to increase participation of developing Coastal States.

11. Acknowledgements

FR, the CBC and the MICC are kindly acknowledged for their useful feedback.

Marc van der Donck, Captain RNLN
MACHC Chair