



International Hydrographic Organization

- ECDIS Stakeholders' Forum -

Captain Robert WARD
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Topics

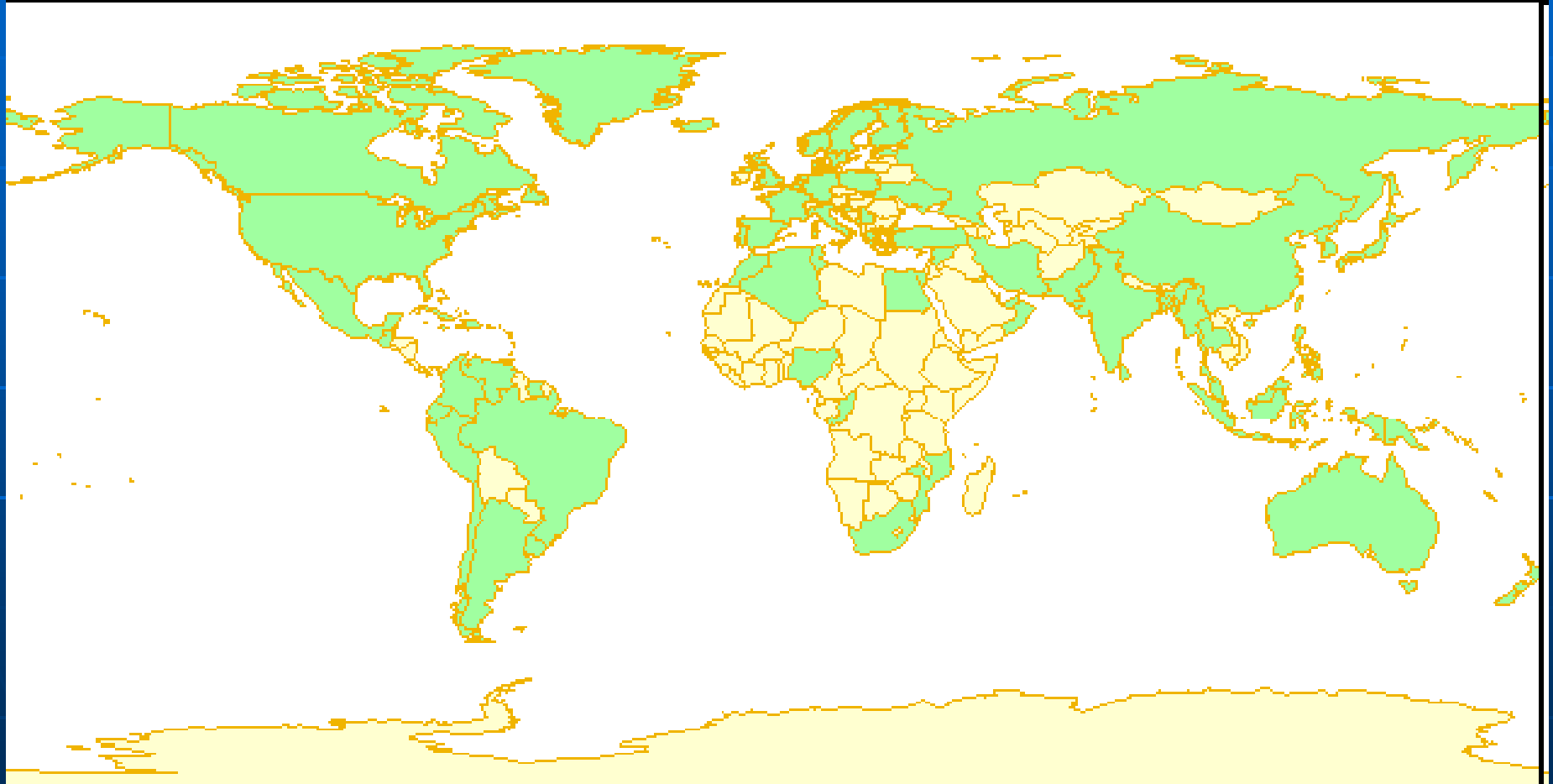
- IHO Structure
- Decision Making Process



80 IHO Member States
(167 IMO Member States)



80 IHO Member States



2 Approvals and 2 Applications Pending: Bulgaria and Mauritania, Cameroon and Sierra Leone



IHO - Objectives

➤ The Objectives of the IHO are:

- coordination of the activities of national hydrographic offices
- greatest possible uniformity of nautical charts and documents
- adoption of reliable and efficient methods for hydrographic surveys
- development of related sciences and techniques



Principal Programmes

- Cooperation among MS and with other International Organizations
- Capacity Building
- Technical



IHO Structure



IHO – Structure - 2008





Regional Hydrographic Commissions





Hierarchy

International Hydrographic Conference

(IHO Work programme, Budget)

↳ Committees

↳ Working Groups

↳ Sub Working Groups



Decision Making

- IHO decisions are made by consulting ALL IHO M/S
- Committees and WGs only make recommendations
- Voting represents government position
- Majorities vary according to subject:
 - $\frac{2}{3}$ of M/S
 - simple majority
- usually means at least 38 affirmative votes required



IHO Participation

- M/S represented by official government delegates
- NGIO's speak for non-government interests and participate as observers
- Technical WG's may invite "technical experts" to participate as observers

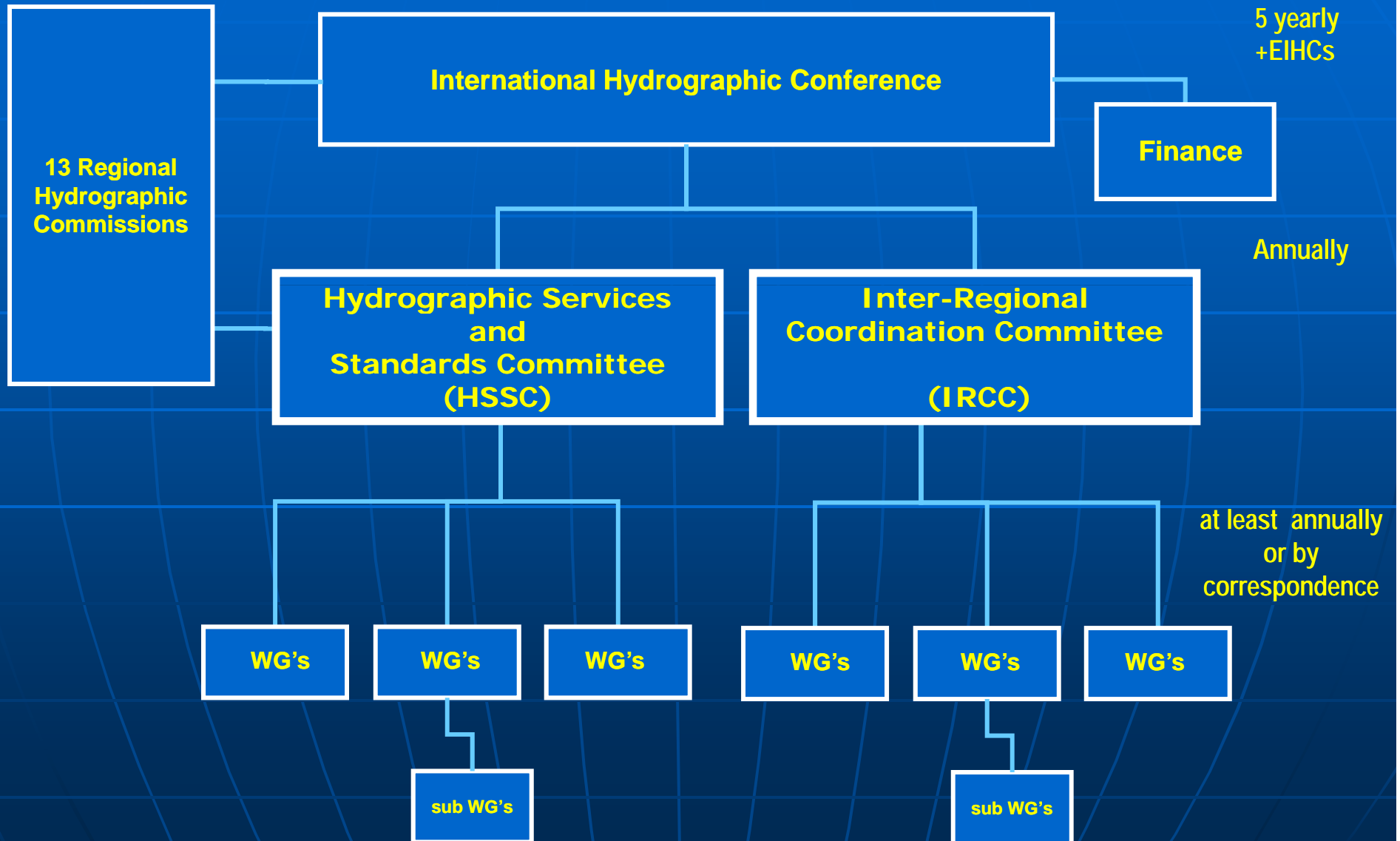


2009 – Transition to a two - Committee Structure

- Hydrographic Specifications and Standards Committee (HSSC)
 - All technical programs, technical WGs,
- Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC)
 - All inter-regional and capacity building programs



Revised IHO – Structure – January 2009





IHO Decision Making - Summary

- Committees and WGs only provide proposals
- Unless decided at a Conference (= General Assembly)
 - ALL Member States are consulted by correspondence
 - At least a 50% positive vote is required (currently 38 votes)
 - Not responding, is in effect = "NO"
- This is normal procedure for many inter-governmental organizations



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