

Report on the status of the proposed Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission

This report is to inform the Regional Hydrographic Commissions of discussions and intentions of Arctic Ocean coastal Member States to initiate collaborative efforts in hydrography for the Arctic Ocean region.

In June 2009 at the International Hydrographic Conference in Monaco Canada, Denmark, Norway, Russian Federation and United States met for informal discussions to determine the level of interest in forming a RHC for the Arctic Ocean Region.

General interest was expressed at the scientific/hydrographic level and all five Member States acknowledged that approvals would be required from the respective governments.

Canada was asked to draft an initial set of Statutes which would be used by each Hydrographic Office to engage appropriate levels of government. These initial Statutes were circulated in August 2009.

In February 2010 the same five Arctic coastal Member States met at the IALA offices in Paris to evaluate and discuss the future marking of Arctic Polar routes. Each of the five Hydrographic Offices participated in this meeting and took the opportunity to again discuss progress on the draft Statutes of the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission. It was at this IALA meeting that a face to face meeting in Fall 2010 was proposed in order to advance discussions on this important initiative. Canada has extended an offer to host this meeting in Ottawa October 5-7, 2010.

It should be noted that the International Hydrographic Bureau and in particular the IHB President Admiral Maratos has been exceptionally supportive and encouraging throughout this process and for that we extend our heartfelt appreciation.

This concludes the report on the Status of the proposed ARHC.