

Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC)

4th Meeting – Portsmouth, NH

29-30 January 2014

IHB Report

Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention

1. Amendments to the Convention on the IHO were approved by the 3rd Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference in May 2005. By August 2013, 39 of the required 48 approvals to the Protocol of Amendments had been received by the Government of Monaco. The following IHO Member State of the ARHC has not yet indicated its positive support:

No response as yet from:
Russian Federation

Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO

2. Bulgaria, Haiti, Mauritania, Montenegro and Sierra Leone have yet to deposit their instruments of accession with the government of Monaco, thereby formally acknowledging membership of the IHO.

3. Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam, and Georgia have applied for membership of the IHO. By August 2013, the status of approvals was as follows:

State	Voting Status
Viet Nam	39 of 52 required
Brunei Darussalam	32 of 52 required
Georgia	33 of 54 required

4. The following IHO Member States of the ARHC have not yet indicated positive support:

State Applying for Membership	No response as yet from:
Viet Nam (applied 2011)	Norway
Brunei Darussalam (applied 2012)	Denmark
Georgia (applied 2013)	Canada Russian Federation

5. The Directing Committee, in cooperation with the representatives of the Government of Monaco, stands ready to assist, through diplomatic or other channels, any States' representatives that may be encountering difficulties in progressing the outstanding approvals through their respective governments.

INT Chart and ENC Production Coordination - Region N

6. Following a decision at ARHC2 to establish a new INT Chart Region N covering the Arctic area with Norway as coordinator, a specific chapter of S-11 Part B on Region N has been prepared at the IHB. As a result, a number of INT charts previously included in Region D (North Atlantic) have been transferred to Region D. A next step should be the extension of the INT and ENC schemes so as to cover areas currently not included, such as the north coasts of Russia and Canada. No new INT chart / edition has been published in Region N since ARHC3.

IHO Membership Application to the Arctic Council

7. Acting on the suggestion of the ARHC, the IHB submitted an application in late 2012 to become an Observer Organization to the Arctic Council. The application was to be considered at the Arctic Council Meeting of Ministers in May 2013. In July, the secretariat of the Arctic council informed the IHO that the Ministers took the decision to recognise six new States as accredited observers to the Arctic Council: China, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea and Singapore. Additionally, the Ministers considered an application from the European Union, but deferred a final decision, with the understanding that the EU may

observe Council proceedings in the meantime until such time as a final decision is made. However, because of a lack of time, the Ministers did not consider the seven applications from other organizations, including the IHO. The secretariat has indicated that the application of the IHO will be considered at the next Ministerial meeting which is due in 2015.

IHO GIS Data Base

8. Work has continued on the development of the IHO GIS data base. The GIS database will have two main parts: a country database and a regional database. The country database will contain all relevant information about the coastal States in the world - similar to the information contained in the IHO Year Book. The regional database will contain geospatial information about the coverage and location of charts, surveys and related information. It is expected that there will be an upload capability that will allow States to keep the relevant information up to date. The regional data base is expected to provide the principal resource for managing international chart coordination, ENC coverage, as well as the identification of survey or charting "hotspots". The countries data base and a beta version of the regional database for Antarctica are now under evaluation.

Action Requested of ARHC-4

9. ARHC-4 is invited to:

- **Note** this report,
- **Report** in-country progress on approving the Amendments to the IHO Convention and approving New Member States, including any difficulties being encountered or IHB assistance required;
- **Support** the development of comprehensive INT and ENC schemes for Region N, under Norway's coordination;
- **Take any other actions** as needed.