

Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC)
19th Conference – Riga, Latvia
10-12 June 2014
IHB Report

Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO

1. Montenegro became the newest member state of the IHO when the government of Monaco received their instruments of accession to the Convention. IHO membership now stands at 82.

2. Bulgaria, Haiti, Mauritania and Sierra Leone have all received the required number of votes to be accepted as a Member State of the IHO. However, the Government of Monaco has yet to receive their instruments of accession from these countries which will formalise their membership.

3. Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam and Georgia have applied for membership of the IHO. By June 2014, the status of approvals was as follows:

State	Voting Status
Viet Nam	44 of 52 required
Brunei Darussalam	42 of 52 required
Georgia	40 of 54 required

Suspended Member States

4. Serbia, Congo and the Dominican Republic remain suspended. IHB is working with these states to expedite their return to full membership as soon as possible, as is the case for a number of other Member States who have fallen behind on payments of their annual subscription.

Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention

5. By June 2014, 40 of the required 48 approvals to the protocol of amendments to the IHO Convention had been received by the Government of Monaco. The following IHO Member State of the BSHC has not yet indicated its positive support for the Protocol of Amendments:

No response as yet from:
Russian Federation

6. The following IHO Member States of the BSHC have not yet indicated positive support:

State Applying for Membership	No response as yet from:
Viet Nam	Germany
Georgia	Russian Federation

7. The Directing Committee, in cooperation with the Department of External Relations 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.

Regional Applications for Membership of the IHO

8. The Directing Committee, in cooperation with the Department of External Relations of the Government of Monaco, stands ready to assist, through diplomatic or other channels, for membership of the IHO of non-member State in the Baltic Sea region.

INT Chart and ENC Production Coordination - Region E

9. Finland, as INT chart coordinator for Region E, has continued to provide regular updates to S-11 Region E. Member States are encouraged to continue to provide updates to S-11, through Finland as coordinator for INT Region E.

IHO GIS Data Base

10. Work has continued on the development of an 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.

IHO Publicity

11. World Hydrography Day. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2014 is "Hydrography – much more than just nautical charts". The purpose of this theme is to provide Member States and stakeholders with the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of hydrography, particularly in economic terms that appeal both to the public and to politicians and administrators. WHD-2014 will be celebrated in Monaco on 18 June and will be enhanced by the visit of the French Navy survey ship "La Pérouse" and by the hosting of the GEBCO SCUFN meeting at the IHB during the week. Additionally, a supplementary WHD-2014 event organised by the Hydrographer of Malaysia will take place at the same time as the FIG International Congress-2014 which will be held from 16 to 21 June in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in order to raise the profile of hydrography and highlight the IHO activities.

12. 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference. EIHC5 will take place from 6th to 10th October 2014 in the Auditorium Rainier III in Monaco; full details are in IHO CCL 01. Planning and preparations are progressing; a number of Conference Circular Letters have been published detailing various initial administrative matters. Further documents will be published over the coming months. The parallel Industry Exhibition is nearly full with only a few places still available.

13. In addition to discuss in progress and proposals related to the three parts of the IHO Work Programme, four special sessions of the EIHC5 have been allocated to presentations and discussions on topical issues; the selected themes are:

- Theme 1: The place of hydrographic data in a geospatial world
- Theme 2: E-navigation - its impact on the IHO and Member States
- Theme 3: New and emerging technologies (including crowd-sourced bathymetry)
- Theme 4: Capacity Building

14. In addition to the Industry Exhibition, it is intended to hold an IHO Capacity Building Exhibition and poster celebration of ten years of Nippon Foundation IHO-IOC GEBCO scholars. Some of the past scholars and alumni will be invited to provide poster displays of their work projects since graduation; these will be displayed throughout the period of the Conference.

15. International Hydrographic Review. The IHR provides an ideal opportunity to publicise technical and other achievements. An editorial board comprising a representative from each Hydrographic Commission region has been established. GEBCO members are encouraged to submit articles for publication.

16. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the IHB (ihreview@iho.int) with a copy to the Editor (ian.halls1@defence.au.gov).

Capacity Building Programme

18. Notwithstanding the contributions and support from Japan (Nippon Foundation) and the Republic of Korea, funding for the IHO Capacity Building programme remains limited and the IHO and the RHCs will continue the need to explore alternative mechanisms to fulfil their requirements. In many RHCs, the involvement of the commercial sector has provided mutual benefits.

Action Requested of BSHC Member States

19. BSHC Member States are 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;
- **Continue to provide** updates to S-11, through Finland as coordinator for INT Region E;
- **Take any other actions** as considered appropriate.