

Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (EAtHC)***Commission hydrographique de l'Atlantique orientale***

12th Conference – Lisbon (Portugal) - 14-16 November 2012

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IHO/IHB Matters***Sujets concernant l'OHI / le BHI*****New Directing Committee - Duties and Responsibilities**

1. The new Directing Committee assumed office on 1 September 2012. Details of the allocation of responsibilities were promulgated in IHO Circular Letter (CL) 77 dated 6 August 2012. In summary, Director Mustafa Iptes oversees IHO Programme 3 concerning regional cooperation and capacity building. Director Gilles Bessero oversees Programme 2 - the IHO technical programme and is the IHO Directing Committee representative in the EAtHC.

New IHB Staff Member

2. Mr David Wyatt joined the IHB in April 2012 as an Assistant Director (AD). He replaced Mr Stephen Shipman who had retired after nine years' service at the IHB. Assistant Director Wyatt is a hydrographic surveyor who previously served in the UK Royal Navy, finally retiring in the rank of Commander. AD Wyatt has experience of working in various hydrographic services around the world. As well as service in the UK Hydrographic Service, both at sea and ashore, he has spent two years on an exchange posting to the Australian Hydrographic Service and completed his Navy career as the Hydrographer of Oman.

Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention

3. As of 31 October 2012, 36 of the required 48 approvals to the protocol of amendments to the IHO Convention had been received by the Government of Monaco (no progress since April 2012).

4. The Government of Monaco has received notification of approval of the Protocol of Amendments from all IHO Member States of the EAtHC eligible to respond except Nigeria. Cameroon is not required to accede to the Protocol of amendments since these were adopted before Cameroon joined the IHO.

Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO

5. Haiti, Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam, and Georgia have applied for membership of the IHO. As of 31 October 2012, the status of approvals was as follows:

State	Voting Status
Haiti	51 of 52 required
Viet Nam	29 of 52 required
Brunei Darussalam	27 of 52 required
Georgia	11 of 52 required

6. The following IHO Member States of the EAHC have not yet approved the applications:

State Applying for Membership	No response as yet from:
Haiti (2008)	Morocco
Viet Nam (2011)	Morocco Nigeria Portugal Spain
Brunei Darussalam (2012)	Morocco Nigeria Portugal Spain
Georgia (2012)	France Morocco Nigeria Portugal Spain

Cameroon is not required to approve these applications which were deposited before Cameroon joined the IHO.

7. 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 G

8. The IHB maintains IHO Publication S-11 - Part B - *Catalogue of INT Charts* on the basis of:

- the inputs from the INT regional coordinators (France for Region G),
- the new publications or editions of INT charts forwarded to the IHB in accordance with IHO General Regulation 19, and
- the information provided in Notices to Mariners.

A new edition of Region G Section has just been posted (Edition 2.0.4 - November 2012).

IHO ENC Reference Collection and ENC Availability Catalogue

9. CL 51/2012 dated 18 May reminded Member States to provide their ENCs to the IHB in accordance with IHO General Regulation 19. This will enable the IHB to maintain an authoritative and up to date reference collection of ENCs and also to create a global information catalogue showing all ENCs that are published. The ENC data will be

maintained on a secure stand-alone server and used for internal IHB reference purposes only, it will NOT be provided to any other parties.

10. Responses to CL 51/2012 are as follows:

State	Remarks
Cameroon	Does not produce ENC's
France	ENC's to be provided through Primar
Morocco	Does not produce ENC's
Nigeria	Does not produce ENC's
Portugal	ENC's to be provided through IC-ENC
Spain	ENC's to be provided through IC-ENC

C-55 Updates

11. The latest updated information in C-55 - *Status of Charting and Surveys Worldwide* in the EATHC region is as follows:

Area	C-55 last updated
Benin	2004
Cameroon	2004
Cape Verde	2011
Congo	2004
Côte d'Ivoire	2004
Congo (Democratic Republic of)	2004
Equatorial Guinea	2004
France	2010
Gabon	2004
Gambia	2007
Ghana	2007
Guinea	2004
Guinea Bissau	2004
Liberia	2004
Mauritania	2004
Nigeria	2007
Portugal	2011
Portugal - Azores	2011
Portugal - Madeira	2011
Sao Tome & Principe	2004
Senegal	2004

Area	C-55 last updated
Sierra Leone	2007
Spain - Canary Islands	2011
Spain	2011
Togo	2009
Western Sahara	2009

12. The development of a new framework for C-55 is awaiting the final user requirement statement from IRCC.
13. EAtHC is invited to consider its contribution to the implementation of Decision 17 of the 18th International Hydrographic Conference (IHC) concerning the improvement of survey coverage (text attached in Annex A).

IHO Publicity

14. World Hydrography Day. The proposed theme for World hydrography Day 2013 is “*Hydrography - supporting the blue economy*”. The purpose of this theme is to provide Member States with the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance and the benefits of hydrography, particularly in economic terms that will appeal both the public and to politicians. The IHB will be providing some supporting material on the IHO website beginning in early 2013.

15. International Hydrographic Review. The IHR provides an ideal opportunity for Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in the region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. The representative for the EAtHC is Mr. Olumide Omotoso (Nigeria).

16. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the editor (ihreview@iho.int) and (ian.halls1@defence.au.gov).

Capacity Building Programme

17. Funding for the IHO Capacity Building programme over the next five years is forecast to be somewhat lower than in the last five years. In these circumstances, the IHO and the RHCs will need to explore alternative mechanisms to fulfill their requirements. In other RHCs, the involvement of the commercial sector has provided mutual benefits. This has taken the form of industry representatives attending some or all parts of RHC meetings as observers, and included participation and the provision of equipment and instructors in technical workshops and training, both as part of an RHC meeting and in separate RHC training events.

Sustainability of IHO Work Programme

18. The IHB notes increasing difficulties in progressing some important tasks of the IHO Work Programme due to insufficient participation in the relevant IHO subordinate bodies. The IHB monitors the situation in connection with Decision 6 of the 18th IHC about ensuring the appropriate technical capacity within the IHB and will report to Member States as appropriate.

19. The IHB has initiated, in liaison with the Chairs of IHO Committees and subordinate bodies, the establishment of a three-year rolling schedule of meetings. The objective is to facilitate resource planning, encourage the diversification of venues, and decongest the late spring and late autumn periods. In that perspective the IHB would welcome the views of EAtHC on identifying and harmonizing potential offers of venues within the Region.

Action Requested of EAtHC Member States

20. EAtHC 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 France as coordinator for INT Region G;
- **Continue to forward** to the IHB one copy of each new publication / edition of INT charts;
- **Provide updates** to C-55 as appropriate;
- **Consider** the Commission contribution to the implementation of Decision 17 of the 18th IHC,
- **Consider** the Commission contribution to the establishment of the IHO Long- cast programme, and
- **Take any other actions** as considered appropriate.

Annex A to the IHB Report to EAHC

Decision 17 of the 18th International Hydrographic Commission

The Conference,

Noting :

- (a) the importance of accurate hydrographic data and information for safety at sea, protection of the marine environment and various other maritime activities;
 - (b) the obligation placed on States under SOLAS V/9 for the collection of hydrographic data;
 - (c) the fact that the quantity and coverage of good hydrographic data requires improvement in many parts of the world;
 - (d) the need to improve the rate of acquisition of new, more detailed and accurate data and information;
 - (e) the support that various developing States require to be able to carry out the important task of hydrographic surveying; and
 - (f) the understanding that hydrographic surveying should be a major focus and responsibility of the IHO and all coastal States;
- (g) The XVIIIth International Hydrographic Conference tasks the IRCC and HSSC in cooperation with the Directing Committee to progress whatever actions are required to improve the collection, quality and availability of hydrographic data worldwide, monitor and rectify possible deficiencies and shortcomings, cooperate with other international organizations and stakeholders as necessary, and to keep Member States informed on progress on this issue. Member States are strongly encouraged to address these deficiencies related to maritime safety worldwide, both within the IMO framework and through national channels.