

15th Conference of the Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (EAtHC)

Lagos, Nigeria

17 to 19 October 2018

Chairman's report

1. This report covers the activities of the EAtHC since its conference in Cádiz in October 18-20, 2016.

General Characteristics of the region

2. The area covered by the work of the Commission coincides with charting region G and NAVAREA II area. Maritime traffic is particularly intensive, in the approach of English Channel/ La Manche Channel, the North Sea and Mediterranean Sea. Maritime traffic grows from and to ports in West and Central Africa. Maritime security is an important issue for some areas of the region as the Gulf of Guinea, resulting in new requirements for navigation from the coastal states.
3. Hydrography and nautical charting of the region are not completely satisfactory, as revealed by the examination of the IHO PUBLICATION C55. The development of hydrographic capacity is a priority for this region.
4. Nowadays, there are six coastal states as members: Cameroon, France, Morocco, Nigeria, Portugal, Spain ; Benin, Cabo Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo as associate members, and Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, São Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, UK, USA as observers.

New members and bilateral agreements

5. Zero candidatures have received to become a member or associate member.
6. Nine coastal states of the region have signed the statutes of the commission, and they are associate members. The chair are encouraged to sign up the statutes to the observers (eleven).
7. Seven coastal (Morocco, Togo, Benin, Senegal, Congo, Cabo Verde and Gambia) states have bilateral agreement with other states (France, Portugal, UK) in the region, and seven in progress (Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Liberia), concerning the provision of hydrographic services as defined by the Regulation V/9 of the SOLAS Convention.

Main activities since the last conference of the EAtHC

8. The Protocol of Amendments to the Convention of the IHO was approved in 2005, and entered into force on November 8, 2016, together with the new associated editions of the basic documents of the Organization.

9. In accordance with the revised governance structure that entered into force on 8 November 2016, the first session of the Assembly of the International Hydrographic Organization was held in the Rainier III Auditorium in Monaco, from 24 to 28 April 2017. The Assembly replaces the International Hydrographic Conference that met previously every five years. The session was attended by just under 350 representatives from 77 of the 87 Member States of the IHO, together with 12 non-Member States. In addition, 28 representatives from observer international, regional or national organizations took part in the discussions.
10. The first meeting of the IHO Council (C-1) took place from 17 to 19 October 2017 at the IHO Secretariat in Monaco. The meeting was chaired by Rear Admiral Shepard M. SMITH (United States of America). Admiral (Retired) Luiz Fernando PALMER Fonseca (Brazil) served as Vice-Chair. The Meeting was attended by 65 representatives from 27 Council Members and representatives of Member States.

The summary report of C-1, together with the list of decisions and actions arising from the meeting as well as any other working documents associated with the meeting, are available from the Council page of the IHO website, at section C-1.

11. The second meeting of the IHO Council (C-2) took place from 9 to 11 October 2018 at London. The meeting was chaired by Rear Admiral Shepard M. SMITH (United States of America). The Meeting was attended by 40% of IHO Members and Council Members.

A brief report will be given during the Conference: Docs EAtHC15-03.4 Report of the 2nd IHO Council.

Others activities since the last conference of the EAtHC (October 2016)

12. Cooperation with the European Commission - the EU initiatives in the maritime sector have a growing influence on the hydrographic activity of member States. The IHO has recognized its importance, for example with regard to standardization, improved hydrographic knowledge of European waters, role of hydrography in European policies, including in the field of international cooperation. Under the MoU signed in 2012 by the IHO and the European Commission at the XVIII International Hydrographic Conference, a working group, originally created as part of the North Sea Hydrographic Commission, has been enlarged, and placed under the inter-regional coordination committee (IRCC) of the IHO. France represent EAtHC to this "network IHO-EU" (circular letter EAtHC No. 03/2014, dated 29/04/2014), and Portugal and Spain attended the last plenary session of IENWG, 27-28 February in Brussels.
13. INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE (IRCC) reports will be presented in a specific report (EAtHC15-07.1 and 3).
14. The 9th meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) was hosted by the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS). The meeting took place at the Fairmount Château Laurier Hotel in Ottawa, Canada from 6 to 10 November 2017. The Director General of CHS, Mr. Denis Hains, opened the meeting and welcomed participants to Ottawa. The meeting was chaired by Acting Chair of the HSSC Mr. Mike

Prince, Australia, and attended by 56 representatives from 22 Member States, the IHO Secretariat and six international organizations accredited as observers.

The most significant item affecting HSSC was the task of adding an annex to IHO Resolution 2/2007 – Principles and Procedures for Making Changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications – providing guidance on the procedure for conducting impact studies.

It was noted that the Council tasked HSSC to establish a prioritized list of work items that need Special Project funding: the three requests made at HSSC-9 (development of the S-101 Portrayal Catalogue and Portrayal Catalogue Builder, creation of S-58 datasets, development of S-127 – Traffic Management – product specification), were approved for funding.

The Hydrographic Surveys Project Team (HSPT) reported that a number of the limitations in the current version of S-44 – IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys - were identified at its first meeting and a questionnaire had been produced which was intended to gauge the views of users and stakeholders. The Committee encouraged the HSPT to pursue its work under the proposed course of actions which includes the development of a matrix approach for the next Edition of S-44. The submission of Ed. 6 of S-44 for endorsement by HSSC is targeted in 2019-2020.

The HSSC benefited in particular from the informative report by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), and from the user perspective provided by INTERTANKO. The awareness report provided by the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) was welcomed and further actions covering cables data release, associated surveys, and the charting of cables were identified.

15. The 10th HSSC meeting took place at the Leibnitz-Institute for Baltic Sea Research in Warnemünde (IOW), Germany, from 15 to 17 May 2018. Rear Admiral Luigi Sinapi (Italy), the Chair of the HSSC, opened the meeting and invited Dr Mathias Jonas, the Secretary-General of the IHO and Mr. Thomas Dehling, the National Hydrographer of Germany, to provide opening addresses. The meeting was attended by 72 participants from 26 Member States, 11 stakeholder organizations, and the IHO Secretariat.

Based on the decisions made at HSSC-10, the main items to be reported to C-2 are:

- a. The progress made on the work programme for the top priority items selected by the IHO Council in 2017.
- b. The status report on the revision process of IHO Resolution 2/2007 (Principles and Procedures for Making Changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications) which includes a new review cycle for working groups and project teams for the development phase of Product Specifications and an annex providing some guidance on the conduction of an impact.
- c. The need for strategic discussions and guidance on the development, the implementation and the provision of future S-100 based products.
- d. The S-100 Working Group highlighted the extensions included in the next edition of the S-100 Framework Standard. HSSC endorsement for Edition 4.0.0 of S-100 will be sought by HSSC Letter, after which Member States approval will be sought by IHO Circular Letter (IHO CL). Edition 2.0.0 of S-102 (Bathymetric

Surface), and Edition 1.0.0 of S-122 (Marine Protected Areas) and S-123 (Radio Services) Product Specifications were endorsed by the HSSC for circulation by IHO CL to Member States seeking their approval.

- e. The meeting agreed that Edition 1.0.0 of S-101 (ENC), S-111 (Surface Currents) and S-121 (Maritime Limits and Boundaries) Product Specifications will be distributed, for evaluation and testing, under the terms of a new process that will be included into the proposed amendments to IHO Resolution 2/2007 that are in preparation.
- f. The meeting noted the progress made by the Data Quality Working Group with the development of a Data Quality Checklist for S-100 Product Specifications.
- g. New Edition 6.1.0 of S-58 (ENC Validation Checks), containing several corrections, was endorsed by the HSSC for circulation by IHO CL to Member States seeking their approval.
- h. With the support to be provided by the other HSSC Working Groups, the Nautical Information Provision Working Group (NIPWG) was tasked to coordinate the responses for the description of Maritime Services in the remit of the IHO, in preparation of the 2nd meeting of the Harmonization Group on Data Modelling (HGDM) planned to be held at the IMO Headquarters in London, United Kingdom, from 29 October to 2 November 2018.

NAVAREA II

16. Coordination of the dissemination of information on maritime security in the area NAVAREA II. This activity is the subject of a specific report (EAtHC15-07.5 report).

Capacity Building

17. The diversity of maritime issues and the variety of needs met by hydrography and nautical charting necessitate close coordination of the different administrations in the prioritization and implementation of hydrographic programmes. The coordinator of capacity building has participated in two meetings of the Capacity Building SubCommittee. The development and monitoring of the IHO Capacity Building annual programmes, the review of the strategy of the IHO in this area has been a main focus of both meetings (see documents EAtHC15-08.1A, B and C).

Charting

18. The purpose of IHO C-55 is to provide base data for governments and supporting international organizations as they consider the best means by which to implement responsibilities set out in Chapter V, Regulation 9, of the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention. It also informs IHO input to the United Nations Global Maritime Assessment.

The significance of hydrographic effort to safe use of the sea, national economic prosperity, and protection of the marine environment is elaborated in IHO Publication M-2. That publication identifies three core capabilities, the status of which is assessed in the three sections of the C-55 data-base: Hydrographic Surveying, Nautical Charting and Provision of Maritime Safety Information (MSI). It is requested that you update your data and submit to the IHO Secretariat.

19. The progress of coverage with modern surveys is slow in a large part of the region. Coastal States are encouraged to identify the surveys done by other organizations in waters under their jurisdiction and to consider the communication of the results to the charting authorities, for the benefit of all mariners.
20. The progress of international charting coverage in the region G (paper and electronic) is addressed in a specific report (see documents EAtHC15-07.1 and EAtHC15-07.3).
21. By Circular Letter 19/2018, 15 February 2018, ADOPTION OF AN IHO RESOLUTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF OVERLAPPING ENC DATA IN AREAS OF DEMONSTRABLE RISK TO THE SAFETY OF NAVIGATION. The proposed IHO Resolution has been adopted and will be included in the next edition of Publication M-3 – Resolutions of the IHO.

First session of the Assembly of the IHO

The Assembly examined 13 proposals and several reports tabled by Member States, by subordinate organs and by the Secretary-General. The Assembly agreed 30 decisions including the approval of the Work Programme and Budget of the Organization for the next three-year period.

An important item on the Agenda of the Assembly was the election of the Secretary-General and Directors for the forthcoming period. The elections took place on Friday 28 April: Dr Mathias Jonas (Germany) was elected as the next Secretary-General and Captain Abraham Kampfer (South Africa) was elected as a Director for the period 2017-2023. Director Mustafa Iptes (Turkey) was re-elected as a Director for the period 2017-2020. All will take up their posts on 1 September 2017.

During the Assembly was selected the Chairs of Regional HCs to occupy seats on the Council allocated to their RHC. Spain is the representative state by EAtHC in accordance with to identify the States selected to occupy seats on the Council allocated to their RHC

DECISIONS OF THE 1st SESSION OF THE IHO ASSEMBLY: the following decisions stand out

- a. The Assembly approved the revisions to IHO Resolution 12/2002: The Organization shall prepare three plans to guide its work: 1. The Strategic Plan that shall be for a rolling 6-year period, and shall be reviewed at each ordinary session of the Assembly. 2. The 3-year Work Programme that shall commence in the year following an ordinary session of the Assembly and be reviewed and revised annually by the Council. 3. The 3-year Budget that shall commence in the year following an ordinary session of the Assembly and be reviewed and revised annually by the Council.
- b. The Assembly approved the proposed revisions to the IHO Strategic Plan (A.1/WP1/03).
- c. The Assembly tasked the Council to conduct a comprehensive review of the Strategic Plan and to provide a draft revised Plan, as appropriate, in time for the consideration of the 2nd ordinary session of the Assembly (A-2). The Council is empowered to establish a working group for this discrete purpose.
- d. The Assembly tasked the Secretary-General to facilitate an informal consultation process regarding the future of S-23 among interested Member States, including determining mutually agreed modalities of work and to report the result of the consultations to the Assembly at the next ordinary session (A-2).
- e. The Assembly approved several revised IHO Resolutions.

- f. The Assembly urged Member States to ensure consistency between their paper and digital charts and publications through the provision of the appropriate updates.
- g. The Assembly urged Member States to ensure that the information on national arrangements related to the use of ECDIS are kept current.
- h. The Assembly directed the IRCC to take into account e-learning in the IHO Capacity Building Strategy and to consider using e-learning in its Capacity Building activities.
- i. The Assembly tasked the IRCC to encourage the Regional Hydrographic Commissions to consider using satellite derived bathymetry and risk assessment methodologies in uncharted or poorly charted areas in their respective regions as a way of developing survey priority areas as part of attracting donor funding.
- j. The Assembly agreed the following procedure for the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the IHO Council for the period 2017-2020.
- k. Member States resolve that, in addition to fulfilling their international obligations to provide hydrographic information in support of safety of navigation, they should also consider implementing mechanisms that encourage the widest possible availability of all hydrographic and particularly bathymetric data, so as to support the sustainable development, management and governance of the marine environment.
- l. Confirmed that the Council is empowered to approve the financial statements and any recommendations for the previous year and the budget estimates and the associated annual work programme for each forthcoming year.
- m. The Assembly reviewed and endorsed the selection process for the Council and approved the composition of the Council for the period 2017-2020.
- n. The Assembly agreed in principle to host its second session from 19 to 25 April 2020 in Monaco, subject to confirmation in due course by the Secretary-General, in liaison with the Government of His Serene Highness the Prince of Monaco

1st Meeting of the IHO Council

The Council Members reviewed the general tasks, responsibilities and scope of empowerment of this new body of the Organization.

- a. The Council identified needs for clarification to be brought to the Assembly A-2 regarding the operational control of the subsidiaries, namely HSSC and IRCC in view of their routine approval process for their respective proposals. The Council decided to propose to the Member States to pursue, until A-2, the procedure that was in force before the establishment of the Council, for approving the recommendations made by HSSC and IRCC, at the appreciation of HSSC and IRCC Chairs.
- b. The Council identified another possible conflict between the IHO Convention (Reference G) and the Council Rules of Procedure (Reference I) with regards to the functions of the Council because there is no statement within the applying paragraphs of the Convention that it is a function of the Council to review, to consider or to take any other action on proposals put to it by Member States or by the Secretary-General.
- c. The discussion resulted in the joint interpretation of the intentions of Basic Documents of the Organization that the Council is empowered to accept and take actions on proposals put to it by Member States or by the Secretary-General. The Council decided to continue with this practice as applied in the course of C-1 but to seek final clarification on this issue from A-2 as well.

d. In response to a Proposal Decision 3 of the first session of the Assembly tasked the Council to conduct a comprehensive review of the Strategic Plan and to provide a draft revised Plan, as appropriate, in time for the consideration of the 2nd ordinary meeting of the Assembly (A-2). The Council was empowered by the Assembly to establish a working group for this specific purpose.

e. The Council decided to establish the Strategic Plan Review Working Group (SPRWG), endorsed the draft TORs developed by the Council drafting group and proposed the future SPRWG to include communication strategies as part of the way and means of their anticipated results. The Council endorsed the nomination of the office bearers of the SPRWG, namely Bruno FRACHON (France) for the position of Chair, Shigeru NAKABAYASHI (Japan) for the position of Vice-Chair and Douglas BRUNT (Canada) for the position of the Secretary.

f. Prior to subsequent approval of the Member States by the same Circular Letter, C-1 endorsed:

- Proposed new IHO Resolution to address issues related to the existence of overlapping ENC data;
- Proposed the revocation of IHO Resolution 1/1992 – Monitoring of INT Charts;
- Proposed the withdrawal of IHO Publication B-7 GEBCO Guidelines

g. Based on the report of the IRCC chair, C-1 endorsed the proposal for increasing the capacity building support at the IHO Secretariat and tasked the Secretary-General to further investigate and report on the feasibility of recruiting a new regular staff member at the Secretariat and to install an interim solution on short term as a matter of urgency.

h. C-1 invited IRCC to consider enlargement of the scope of the Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry Working Group to develop liaison strategies with potential professional crowd source contributors. In this context, Norway was encouraged to submit a proposal to the appropriate IRCC working groups for the contribution of sounding data extracted from ENC to the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry in support of the Seabed 2030 initiative.

i. C-1 endorsed the proposals made by the Secretary-General and two Directors on the key priorities in the IHO 2018 work programme.

j. On reflection of the presented key priorities and budget deliberations, C-1:

- encouraged the Member States and the Secretariat to consider the engagement with the UN-GGIM Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information as a relevant priority;
- invited the Secretariat to provide its proposed annual work programme key priorities in time with other supporting documents for future meetings of the Council;
- supported the aspirations of the Secretariat to earn savings from the operational costs in favour of the special project fund for contract support, namely:

Conclusion – Actions for EAtHC

Members, associates members and observers EAtHC are invited to:

- Note this report;
- Make additions as may be necessary;
- Take any other action as deemed appropriate.