

10<sup>th</sup> Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) Meeting  
British Antarctic Survey (BAS), Cambridge,  
United Kingdom, 20-22 September 2010

REFERENCES RELATED TO IHO THAT APPEAR IN THE ATCM XXXIII REPORT

**Item 4: Operation of the Antarctic Treaty System: Reports by Parties, Observers and Experts**

(32) The representative of the International Hydrographic Organization introduced IP 51, the IHO report *Cooperation in Hydrographic Surveying and Charting of Antarctic Waters*. He highlighted the outcome of the Seminar on Hydrography at the Annual Meeting of COMNAP held in Punta Arenas, Chile in August 2009, where two initiatives were proposed and adopted by COMNAP. IHO emphasized the convenience of addressing environmental and scientific issues in addition to safety of navigation issues and noted that only 67 out of 102 International Nautical Charts have been so far produced. IHO recalled that, despite the willingness expressed by Antarctic Treaty representatives at different meetings, hydrographic surveys and production of nautical charts of Antarctica were not, in practice, being given the required priority. This was reflected in the reports analysed at the last HCA meeting where only 7 out of 23 HCA Members reported that some systematic hydrographic surveys were conducted in the last season. He referred also to the IHO contribution to the ATME held in New Zealand in December 2009. Finally he noted that the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the HCA would be held from 20-22 September 2010, in Cambridge, United Kingdom.

(33) While thanking IHO for its Report, Argentina noted that South Georgia should not be included in Annex B since that territory is not within the Antarctic Treaty Area.

(34) The United Kingdom stated that it considered that the focus for hydrographic work must remain on the needs of mariners for safe operation, but certainly agreed that there is room for greater coordination on hydrographic and scientific information on Antarctica as highlighted in WP 11 *Forwarding of hydrographic data collected during the IPY*.

(35) New Zealand acknowledged IHO's important contributions at the Antarctic Treaty Meeting of Experts (ATME) on Ship-borne Tourism in the Antarctic Treaty Area. Chile noted the lack of priority and rapid fulfilment of nautical chart priorities by Parties.

**Item 10: The International Polar Year 2007-2008**

(211) Uruguay introduced WP 11 *Forwarding of hydrographic data collected during the IPY*. Uruguay noted the importance of the work of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) with respect to improving the collection of hydrographic data and charting in the Antarctic region. Uruguay also noted that the IMO and other organisations, including SCAR and COMNAP, had also called for improved hydrographic and bathymetric data in the Antarctic region. Uruguay proposed that the ATCM adopt a Resolution urging governments to ensure that hydrographic and bathymetric data collected during the IPY be forwarded by the National Antarctic Programmes to the national hydrographic services using formats developed to this end by the HCA, and to give the HCA access to the inventory of relevant data so that it can be considered for producing international nautical charts.

(212) Sweden urged Consultative Parties that have collected hydrographic and bathymetric data in the Antarctic Treaty area as part of the preparation of their submissions to the UN Commission on

the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) to make such data available and also to convey relevant data from such surveys to the HCA.

(213) Several Parties noted that the request should be limited to data relevant to the work of the HCA.

(214) COMNAP noted that it had been working with the HCA on data submission guidelines and referred Parties to IP 51 *Report by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) on "Cooperation in hydrographic surveying and charting of Antarctic waters"*. Annex B to this IP included the IHO Collection and Rendering of Hydrographic Data Form, which Parties might find useful for the submission of data by ships of opportunity.

(215) The United States thanked Uruguay for its work on promoting hydrographic information sharing. As a strong proponent of navigational safety of operations in the Antarctic, the United States supported the recommendation. The United States also noted the importance of standardization between scientific data and hydrographic mapping.

**(216)** Several Parties and ASOC also supported the proposal by Uruguay. After some discussion on the kind of data to be submitted, and stressing the importance of using a common format for reporting hydrographic and bathymetric data to the HCA, the Meeting adopted **Resolution 2 (see Part II, section 1, page XXX Not yet ready)**.

(217) The Meeting considered Recommendation 4 of the ATME on Ship-borne Tourism: *That the Treaty Parties should continue to contribute to hydrographic surveying and charting information and consider advising vessels intending to operate in the Antarctic Treaty area that many areas have not been surveyed to modern standards*, and ATME Recommendation 17: *The IHO-HCA should continue to be invited to annual ATCMs to report the status of hydrographic survey and nautical chart production in Antarctic waters. Parties also agreed that, as appropriate, the ATCM should be represented at IHO-HCA meetings. Where an IHO-HCA meeting was to be held in a country that was also a Consultative Party, then that Consultative Party should consider attending the HCA meeting*.

(218) The United Kingdom noted the relevance of Recommendations 4 and 17 to hydrographic charting and the provision of data. The United Kingdom considered it was important for the HCA to continue to be invited to attend the ATCM. The United Kingdom further noted that the HCA will meet in Cambridge, UK in September 2010.

(219) COMNAP informed the Meeting that it has and will continue to send observers if invited to the IHO-HCA meetings, consistent with Recommendation 17.

(220) New Zealand noted that in Antarctica less than one percent of the sea area within the 200 metre contour, which includes the areas most frequently visited by those passenger ships which make landings, had been adequately surveyed to meet the needs of contemporary shipping.

(221) The Meeting endorsed ATME Recommendations 4 and 17, noting the majority of the Southern Ocean remains unsurveyed.

(222) Uruguay reiterated that the data contained in its WP 11 contribute to regional safety, SAR, environmental protection and scientific exploration, noting IAATO operators also make a worthwhile contribution when submitting data in the IHO agreed format. While thanking IHO for its Report, Argentina noted that South Georgia should not be included in Annex B since that territory is not within the Antarctic Treaty Area.

## **Item 19: Preparation of the 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

### *a. Date and place*

(534) The Meeting welcomed the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Argentina to host the ATCM XXXIV in Buenos Aires from 20 June to 1 July 2011.

(535) For future planning, the Meeting took note of the following likely timetable of upcoming ATCMs:

- 2012: Australia
- 2013: Belgium

*b. Invitation of international and non-governmental organisations*

(539) In accordance with established practice, the Meeting agreed that the following organisations having scientific or technical interest in Antarctica should be invited to send experts to attend ATCM XXXIV: the ACAP Secretariat, ASOC, IAATO, IHO, IMO, IOC, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), IUCN, UNEP, WMO and WTO.

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