

**16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) and  
HCA Seminar at the XLII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, Prague,  
Czech Republic  
3-5 July 2019**

<b>Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2019</b>	
Tasks § 1.1.2	Maintain relationship with the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM)
§3.2.2	Organize, prepare for and report meetings of Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA)

The 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica took place at the Grandior Hotel in Prague, Czech Republic from 3 to 5 July, for the first time in a landlocked State taking the opportunity of conducting an HCA Seminar at the XLII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), raising the awareness of ATCM delegates on the importance of hydrography. Since the Czech Republic is not an IHO Member, the Secretariat had the organizing role for the event.



**XLII Antarctic Treaty  
Consultative Meeting**  
Prague • Czech Republic • 2019

The Conference was chaired by Dr Mathias Jonas, Secretary-General of the IHO, supported by Assistant Director Yves Guillam, HCA Secretary and Ms Caroline Fontanili (IHO Secretariat). Sixteen delegates from 10 Member States (Australia, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Italy, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, United Kingdom, USA) and one subject matter expert (GEBCO IBCSO Chair), attended the meeting. Apologies were received from several countries who were unable to attend but provided their national reports.



*Participants of the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica*

The HCA reviewed progress since its 15<sup>th</sup> Conference, held in 2018, and received reports from the IHO Member States present. Reports received from Member States not present were delivered by the Secretariat. The reports remarkably demonstrated that numerous HCA members are strengthening their engagement for the Antarctic in terms of new ship's capacity for survey and research, facility infrastructure improvements and investment in new carrier technology such as Autonomous Surface Vessels.

The Chair delivered the Secretariat's Report. He explained the association of the Commission to the relevant IHO bodies, namely IRCC, the IHO Council and the IHO Assembly and provided information on the preparations of the centenary celebrations of the international cooperation in hydrography with the peak event of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IHO in 2021.

The Chair informed HCA members that Turkey is currently in discussion with the IHO regarding membership to the HCA. Turkey has been surveying in Antarctica and has offered to share data with the HCA Hydrographic Priorities Working Group (HPWG) and chart producing countries.

Mr Andy Willett (UKHO), Chair of the HCA Hydrographic Priorities Working Group (HPWG), noted the solid progress in the review of paper chart and ENC schemes for Region M along with the review of maritime shipping routes (MSR) and updating of the survey priorities list. There is currently a proposal to add one new MSR to support new INT charts aligned with IAATO ship statistics. The HPWG Chair noted the use of IAATO real time AIS to monitor vessel locations and deficiencies in navigational coverage. As it was his last meeting, Mr Andy Willett was commended for his outstanding contribution in HCA activities.



The HCA Secretariat discussed the INTToGIS Phase II Project. Upgrades will include Polar Regions (Arctic and Antarctic) with ENC scheme management procedures (S-11 Part A, Ed 3.1.0 refers), CATZOC values and additional AIS traffic density. The HCA Secretariat also informed the participants on the transition in progress for the HCA GIS, from the current quite confidential situation to Quantarctica (<https://quantarctica.npolar.no/>) in which the HCA GIS datasets will be getting the status of "Quantarctica Friendly Dataset" and therefore will be discovered and used by a much wider audience.

The Conference occurred in conjunction with the XLII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting where the IHO was invited to present a seminar on the status and impact of hydrography in Antarctic waters. In the HCA Conference, priority was therefore given to the final preparation of this seminar.

The Secretary-General of the IHO and the National Hydrographers of Chile and the United Kingdom presented papers on international collaboration, safety of navigation and crowd sourced bathymetry. They were strongly supported by some delegations such as Australia, Italy, Norway, Spain and the United States of America. A new Resolution on hydrography initially proposed by Norway and co-sponsored by Italy, New Zealand and the United States, was adopted. This event also enabled re-

engagement with COMNAP and SCAR. One of the lessons learnt from ATCM was the lack of communication within nations to engage and even raise the awareness of IHO activities.

Noting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the IHO Assembly in April 2020, the Chair proposed that the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica be held in 2021. Location is planned to be Monaco, but it was noted that ATCM XLIV 2021 is expected to take place in Paris. The Secretariat will investigate with Shom (France) whether it will be possible to host the HCA Conference back-to-back with the ATCM XLIV.



*HCA Seminar at ATCM XLII*