



## IHO HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON ANTARCTICA (HCA)

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### HCA Letter No. 01/2017

#### IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) Extraordinary Meeting, Monaco, 25 April 2017

To: [HCA Members, Observers](#) and Invited Expert Contributors

#### Reference:

- A. [Minutes](#) of the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the IHO HCA.
- B. HCA Letter 2/2016 dated 12 May – *New location for HCA-14*.

1. Due to the various other commitments of the HCA Chair and the Secretary, it has not been possible to identify suitable dates on which to hold the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the HCA (HCA-15) in Wellington, New Zealand, in mid-2017, as originally planned. In considering the potential agenda for HCA-15 and noting that there are no pressing items awaiting decisions, and that the Chair of HCA will change in September this year, it is therefore proposed that the next meeting of the HCA is postponed until 2018.

#### Extraordinary Meeting of the HCA Membership as a side event of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the IHO Assembly

2. In the meantime, and in accordance with Article 9.1 of the HCA Statutes, it is intended to convene a short extraordinary meeting of the HCA on Tuesday 25 April during the lunchtime break of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the IHO Assembly. This will enable HCA Members and Observers to meet briefly this year and to report on any important emerging issues but, particularly, provide an opportunity to consider the participation and involvement of HCA Members and Stakeholders in the hydrography awareness raising event that is likely to take place at the 41<sup>st</sup> Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) to be held in Ecuador in mid-2018. Consideration may also be given to the possibility of convening the next meeting of the HCA in Ecuador in parallel with ATCM-41.

#### Proposed Agenda

3. The proposed draft agenda for the Extraordinary Meeting is as follows:
  - a. Status Report on the List of Decisions and Actions from HCA-14
  - b. Preparations for the HCA seminar to be held along with ATCM in 2018
  - c. Feasibility of convening HCA-15 in parallel with ATCM-41
  - d. Resolution of any short-term issues concerning surveying and charting activities in Region M.

4. Members and Observers of the HCA are invited to submit any input and comment on the draft agenda to the HCA Secretary ([adcs@iho.int](mailto:adcs@iho.int)) **no later than 15 March 2017**. Before proposing any additional items for the agenda, Members and Observers should note that the proposed extraordinary meeting will be for less than two hours.

#### **Registration and Venue**

5. HCA Members, Observers and Invited Expert Contributors participating in IHO-A1 who intend to participate in the extraordinary meeting of the HCA, are kindly invited to register online **no later than 15 March 2017** at: [www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) > IHO Meetings & Events (request a user account if you are not already registered in the system, then register for this event).

6. Depending on the number of participants, the meeting venue will be either Room D in the Auditorium Rainier III, or at the IHO Secretariat with a shuttle return trip service from the Auditorium. A basic working lunch will be provided for the participants.

#### **Next HCA Conference**

7. Notwithstanding the possibility of arranging HCA-15 in parallel with ATCM-41 in Ecuador in 2018, New Zealand remains keen to host HCA-16 in 2019-20. The cooperation and understanding of New Zealand in maintaining its offer to host a meeting of the HCA is highly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Ward', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert WARD  
Secretary-General,  
Chair, HCA