

## **STATUTES OF THE IHO HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON ANTARCTICA (HCA)**

(As approved at HCA-14, Tromsø, Norway – 28-30 June 2016)

Notes: HCA Statutes were adopted at the 3rd HCA Conference, IHB, Monaco, 8-10 September 2003. They were revised at the 7<sup>th</sup> HCA Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 3-5 October 2007. A further revision of Article 3 (adding a mission statement) and 6.1 was agreed at the 12<sup>th</sup> HCA Conference, Montevideo, Uruguay, 10-12 October 2012. Articles 1.2 and 3.6 were reviewed at the 13<sup>th</sup> HCA Conference, Cádiz, Spain, 3-5 December 2013. Article 4.1 was reviewed at the 14<sup>th</sup> HCA Conference, Tromsø, Norway, 28-30 June 2016 with some other editorial changes to align with the new IHO Convention.

### Article 1

#### **GENERAL**

- 1.1 The IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (hereinafter referred to as “HCA”) is a special Hydrographic Commission of the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO). The HCA is established in conformity with IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended “*Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC)*” (Appendix A) and shall be governed according to these statutes.
- 1.2 The HCA is the coordinating body for hydrographic surveying and nautical charting matters in International Region M. The geographic limits of this region are illustrated at Appendix B.

### Article 2

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

- 2.1 Membership of the HCA is open to any IHO Member State whose government has acceded to the Antarctic Treaty and which contributes resources and/or data to IHO INT Chart and ENC coverage of Region M (see Appendix B) and which becomes a signatory to the Statutes of the HCA.
- 2.2 Associate Membership is open to any non-IHO Member State whose government has acceded to the Antarctic Treaty and which contributes resources and/or data to IHO INT Chart and ENC coverage of Region M, and which becomes a signatory to the Statutes of the HCA. Associate Members may take part in the discussions but shall not have voting rights, except as contained in Articles 4.2 and 4.3.
- 2.3 Observer status in the HCA is open to any other IHO Member State, to the representatives of any national or international organisation, and to individual experts, having professional involvement in hydrographic surveying or nautical charting in Region M either by contributing to those activities, or by providing support to those activities, or as users of derived products. The participation of Observers in any activity of the HCA will be subject to the prior approval of the Chair of the HCA. The Observers may take part in the discussions but shall not have voting rights.

## Article 3

### **AIMS**

The mission of the HCA is:

“To achieve the improvement of the quality, coverage and availability of nautical charting and other hydrographic information and services covering the region”.

This mission will be achieved by the following aims:

- 3.1 To promote technical co-operation in the domain of hydrographic surveying, marine cartography, and nautical information within the region.
- 3.2 To stimulate the Members, Associate Members and Observers forming the HCA to widen hydrographic activity in the region in accordance with Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) Resolutions 5 of 2008 and 2014 (Appendices C and D), and to encourage them to seek technical advice and assistance from the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) / Secretariat of the IHO in establishing and strengthening their hydrographic capabilities in order to promote safe navigation in the region.
- 3.3 To facilitate the exchange of information between Hydrographic Authorities and with other organisations concerning surveys, research or scientific, technical and operational developments, to aid in the planning and organization of hydrographic activities in the widest sense of the term.
- 3.4 To encourage Members, Associate Members and Observers forming the HCA to participate actively, of their own free will, on all possible occasions – whether in the form of advice or of assistance – in those hydrographic programmes requiring concerted action, but without prejudice to or interference with their national activities.
- 3.5 To examine the implications, in its area of interest, of matters of general interest with which the IHO is concerned, avoiding any interference with the prerogatives of the IHB and of any other Regional Commissions set up by the IHO.
- 3.6 To coordinate INT chart and ENC schemes for the region and to monitor their suitability.
- 3.7 To define the needs for new surveys and if necessary to develop co-operative approaches to meet those needs.
- 3.8 To facilitate the provision and wide dissemination of information for scientific purposes (for example through the GEBCO programme).
- 3.9 To establish working groups to carry out studies, when considered appropriate.
- 3.10 To develop an annual report of the status and plans for hydrographic surveys in the region, including updating and amplifying relevant IHO Publications.

- 3.11 The HCA may appoint working groups of Members and Associate Members interested in particular projects with the object of examining and executing such projects.

#### Article 4

##### **CONFERENCES**

- 4.1 The HCA shall meet in plenary conference in the country of one of its Members or Associate Members, or such other venue as may be selected, at least twice between two successive ordinary sessions of the International Hydrographic Conference (IHC) / IHO Assembly.
- 4.2 At the end of each conference the Members and Associate Members desirous of hosting the following conference shall put forward their candidatures. Priority shall be given to a country that has not yet hosted a conference, or to the one that did so the longest time ago. In cases of equal priority a vote shall be held, the decision being taken by a simple majority of Members and Associate Members present.
- 4.3 If it is in the interest of the HCA, and agreed upon by a simple majority of Members and Associate Members, an alternative venue may be selected.
- 4.4 Members and Associate Members shall be represented at conferences by heads of Hydrographic Services or their nominees or, where such services do not exist, by heads of national authorities responsible for hydrography and navigation. They may be accompanied by advisors, but it is most desirable that their number be kept to a minimum.
- 4.5 The presence of a third (1/3) of the Members of the HCA shall constitute a quorum at all conferences.

#### Article 5

##### **CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND SECRETARIAT**

- 5.1 The activities of the Committee shall be conducted by the Chair, who shall be a Director of the IHB appointed by the President of the Directing Committee of the IHB / by the Secretary General of the IHO. The Chair shall also preside over the conference.
- 5.2 The Chair shall be assisted by a Vice-Chair from a Member State of the HCA. The Vice-Chair shall be elected at the beginning of each conference by a simple majority of those Members present.
- 5.3 The IHB/Secretariat of the IHO shall provide the Secretariat for the Commission regarding all questions to be dealt with by correspondence. The Chair will prepare a Provisional Agenda for the next conference and will present, as the first item, his report on the activities of the Commission since the last conference.
- 5.4 The Chair will report the activities and future plans of the HCA to the relevant bodies of the IHO. Between sessions, reports of studies or other activities, which may be considered of

general interest to all Member States, should be reported through the Chair to the IHB/Secretariat of the IHO for general dissemination.

## Article 6

### **ORGANISATIONS OF CONFERENCES**

- 6.1 The Chair shall issue invitations at least six months before the conference.
- 6.2 Proposals to be included in the agenda of a conference shall be sent to the Chair and Secretary at least four months before the date fixed for the opening of the conference.
- 6.3 The Chair shall prepare the Provisional Agenda in consultation with the Vice-Chair and host nation, and forward it to the participants at least eight weeks before the opening of the conference.
- 6.4 The Chair shall be responsible for the organisation of the conference, in conjunction with the Vice-Chair and host nation.
- 6.5 The host nation shall provide the Rapporteur and the secretarial facilities for the conference.
- 6.6 The host nation shall be responsible for the expenses of the conference except those expenses described in Article 6.8 below.
- 6.7 The host nation will assist with the arrangement of authorisations and visas, so as to facilitate attendance at the conference.
- 6.8 All expenses connected with the participation of the Chair and the delegates in the conference shall be defrayed by their respective organizations.

## Article 7

### **CONFERENCE AGENDA**

- 7.1 The Agenda shall be adopted by the HCA at the beginning of each conference.
- 7.2 The HCA may modify in the course of the conference the order in which Agenda items are to be discussed.

## Article 8

### **DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

- 8.1 Decisions taken during each conference should be prepared in written form by the Chair and presented the next day to the participants present.

- 8.2 At the end of the conference, the Chair shall circulate the decisions taken during the conference. These decisions shall be adopted by means of a simple majority of the members present. Votes in favour shall be indicated by a show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested by any Member present. However, when the Chair, or a majority of Members present, decide that the decision so requires, the decision shall be made by correspondence. Such decision will be approved by a simple majority of the Members who have responded by the due date, provided that the number of votes received is at least equal to the quorum indicated in Article 4.5.
- 8.3 Only Members are entitled to vote, each having the right to one vote. The exception to this rule is found at Articles 4.2 and 4.3.
- 8.4 All decisions become operative immediately, except in the case where a Member objects and asks that the matter be referred to the IHO. However, such a procedure shall not be applicable to the provisions of articles 4.2 and 4.3, concerning the hosting of conferences.
- 8.5 The Chair shall dispatch within one month of the close of the conference a copy of the Summary Report containing the discussions, decisions and recommendations of the conference for verification or comment, to each Member, Associate Member and Observer. Comments are to reach the Chair within one month of the receipt of the Summary Report. The final version of the Minutes shall be forwarded within four months of the close of the Conference.
- 8.6 Any decision, which may be of interest to the Member States of the IHO as a whole, shall be brought to the attention of the IHB / Secretariat of the IHO. This fact shall be mentioned as part of the text of the decisions reached.

## Article 9

### **EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS**

- 9.1 The Chair may call a meeting of the Members and Associate Members of the HCA when their representatives are assembled for a session of the IHC/ IHO Assembly, inviting others qualified to attend as Observers.
- 9.2 In the case of urgent matters, which cannot be treated by correspondence and which cannot be postponed until the next conference, the Chair, or a majority decision of the conference may request that an extraordinary meeting be held in a place considered most appropriate.
- 9.3 The provisions applicable to the conference shall apply to all extraordinary meetings.
- 9.4 When these extraordinary meetings do not include all Members, the decisions reached shall be reported by correspondence.

## Article 10

### **STATUTES**

- 10.1 The IHB / Secretariat of the IHO shall be the custodian of these Statutes.
- 10.2 Members of the HCA may propose amendments to the Statutes. The Chair shall submit the proposal(s) by correspondence to all Members for voting. A simple majority of Members of HCA is required for approval. If an amendment is approved, the Chair will update the Statutes and circulate them to all Members, Associate Members and Observers.
- 10.3 Updated versions of the IHO and ATCM resolutions will be added to the Statutes, as appropriate, by the Chair without the approval of the Members of the HCA. The changes would not constitute formal amendments to the Statutes.

## Article 11

### **LANGUAGE OF THE HCA**

- 11.1 The working language of the HCA shall be English.

Approved by the Commission at the IHB, Monaco, September 2003.  
Amendments approved at the HCA-7, Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 2007.  
Amendments approved at the HCA-12 Montevideo, Uruguay, October 2012  
Amendments approved at the HCA-13 Cádiz, Spain, December 2013  
Amendments approved at the HCA-14 Tromsø, Norway, June 2016

**Annex:** Signature Pages

### **Appendices:**

- A. Resolution 2/1997 of the IHO, as amended
- B. Geographic Limits of IHO INT Chart Region M
- C. Resolution 5 of the 31<sup>st</sup> Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting 2008
- D. Resolution 5 of the 37<sup>th</sup> Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting 2014

**Annex to the HCA Statutes**


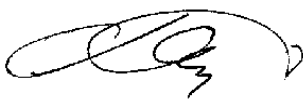
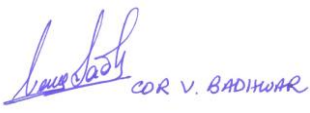





**Signature Pages** *(Updated to 28 June 2016)*

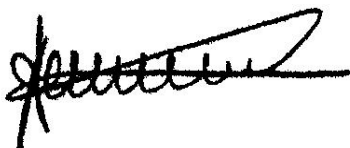
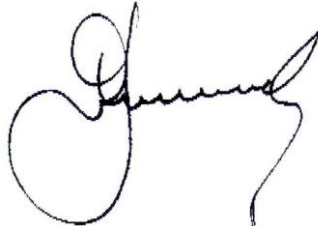
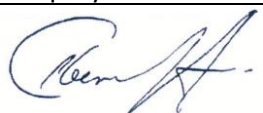


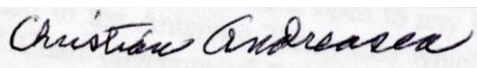
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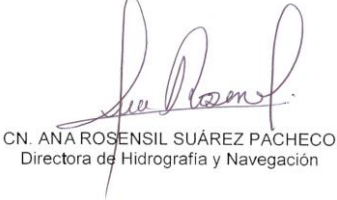
**MEMBERS**

COUNTRY	SIGNATORY	DATE OF SIGNATURE
Argentina	 Capt. Miguel Enrique CLEMENTS Director SHN	29 March 2004
Australia	 Capt. Bruce KAFER Director AHS	9 September 2003
Brazil	 Vadm. Edison LAWRENCE Mariath Dantas Director DHN	6 November 2006
Chile	 Capt. Pablo SALZMANN Pineda Acting Director SHOA	27 February 2004
China	 Capt. LIU Gongchen Executive Director-General, China MSA	1 June 2005
Colombia	 <small>ON BEHALF OF CHIEF DIRECTOR            Lieutenant Commander Gustavo Adolfo GUTIERREZ LEONES            Head of Hydrographic CIOH-DIMAR</small>	28 June 2016
Ecuador	 <small>CPTG-EM Mario PROAÑO Silva            DIRECTOR DEL INSTITUTO            OCEANOGRÁFICO DE LA ARMADA</small>	5 July 2006
France	 IGA Yves DESNOES Director SHOM	7 April 2004



Germany	 Dr. Peter EHLERS President BSH	2 September 2004
Greece	 Commodore A. SKLAVIDIS Director HNHS	26 August 2004
India	 Cdr. V. BADHWAR	9 September 2003
Italy	 Cdr. Paolo LUSIANI	5 August 2003
Japan	 Dr. Shigeru KATO Director JHOD	2 September 2008
Korea (Rep. of)	 Mr. Ye-Jong WOO Director General NORI	7 November 2008
New Zealand	 Mr. John SPITTAL Chief Topographer/Hydrographer LINZ	23 August 2004
Norway	 Mr. Frode KLEPSVIK Director NHS	10 September 2003

Peru	 Radm Augusto ZEGARRA Director DHN	31 October 2007
Poland		
Russian Federation	 Radm. Boris FRIDMAN Deputy Chief HDNO	27 August 2004
South Africa	 Capt. Abri KAMPFER Director SANHO	27 October 2003
Spain	 Capt. Fernando QUIROS Cebriá Director IHM	17 December 2003
Ukraine		
United Kingdom	 Dr. D. Wynford WILLIAMS Director UKHO	17 September 2003
USA	 Radm. Christian ANDREASEN Chief Hydrographer, NGA	11 May 2007

<p>Uruguay</p>	 <p>Capitán de Navio (CG) Orestes PEREYRA Jefe del Servicio de Oceanografía Hidrografía y Meteorología de la Armada</p>	<p>28 August 2008</p>
<p>Venezuela</p>	 <p>CN. ANA ROSENSIL SUÁREZ PACHECO Directora de Hidrografía y Navegación</p>	<p>6 February 2009</p>

**RESOLUTION 2/1997 OF THE IHO, AS AMENDED**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS (RHC)**

1.- It is resolved that the IHB shall encourage Member States having common regional interests in data collecting or nautical charting to form Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) to cooperate in the undertaking of surveys and other projects. As part of IHO, the RHC shall complement the work of the Bureau.

2.- RHCs are intended to provide, in pursuance of the resolutions and recommendations of the IHO, regional co-ordination with regard to nautical information, hydrographic surveys, production of nautical charts and documents, training, technical cooperation and hydrographic capacity building projects. They (RHC) should enable the exchange of information and consultation between the hydrographic services concerned. Geographically adjacent RHCs should liaise with each other.

2 bis Where Capacity Building is required in a region, RHCs are recommended to establish an internal body to deal with CB matters and to designate a focal point to ensure continuity in the CB process. This part-time allocation to assist RHCs should come primarily and ideally from an HO within the region. If that is not possible then the RHC might agree to request support from another RHC or an HO that might wish to take that responsibility.

These regional contact points, the responsibilities of which should be given directly and in detail by the RHC concerned, shall have the support of the RHCs; shall be nominated having in mind the importance of continuity; shall be in permanent contact with the corresponding RHC Chairman as well as with the CBC Chairman. Ideally should be a CBC member with access to RHC meetings.

In the absence of any other viable alternative and despite its limited human resources availability a request of support could be requested to the IHB.

3.- RHCs shall be properly constituted and have activities in line with the objectives of the IHO as described in Article II of the Convention on the IHO and in accordance with the approved IHO Work Programme. Geographical areas of the RHC will normally coincide with INT chart regions, modified as appropriate to meet regional requirements and special circumstances. There are special provisions for Region M (Antarctica) because of its special status.

4.- RHC membership may include full members, associate members, and observers, all willing to contribute to the safety of navigation in the fields of hydrography, nautical charting, nautical information or navigational warnings in the region concerned. The roles of full members, associated members and observers will be defined by each RHC.

Full membership is reserved for IHO Member States within the region who sign the statutes of the RHC.

Associate membership is available to other IHO Members States or States of the region who are non-IHO members, both being signatories of the statutes of the RHC.

Other States and International Organizations active in the region concerned may be invited by the RHC to participate as observers.

The invitation procedures should be established by each RHC.

5.- The working languages used by the RHC shall be agreed upon by their members and designated to ensure the best communication between participants. The reports and IHO documents relating to RHC activities shall be in at least one of the official languages of the IHO. For correspondence with the Bureau, one of the official languages of the IHO shall be used.

6.- A representative of the Bureau shall be invited to attend meetings of RHCs.

6bis.- RHCs shall assess regularly the hydrographic capacity and requirements within their region.

7.- Chairs of RHCs shall report to the I.H. Conference on RHC activities, hydrographic capacity and requirements within their region, future plans and the agreed key targets that support RHC tasks detailed in the IHO Work Programme. The Chairs of RHC's shall also submit an annual report to the IHB indicating progress made against the agreed key targets in the IHO Work Programme for general dissemination. Between sessions of the IHC, reports of studies or other activities, which may be considered of general interest to all IHO Member States, shall be sent by Chairs of RHCs to the Bureau for general dissemination.

8.- The following structure is to be used for National Reports made to those RHCs that wish to receive such reports:

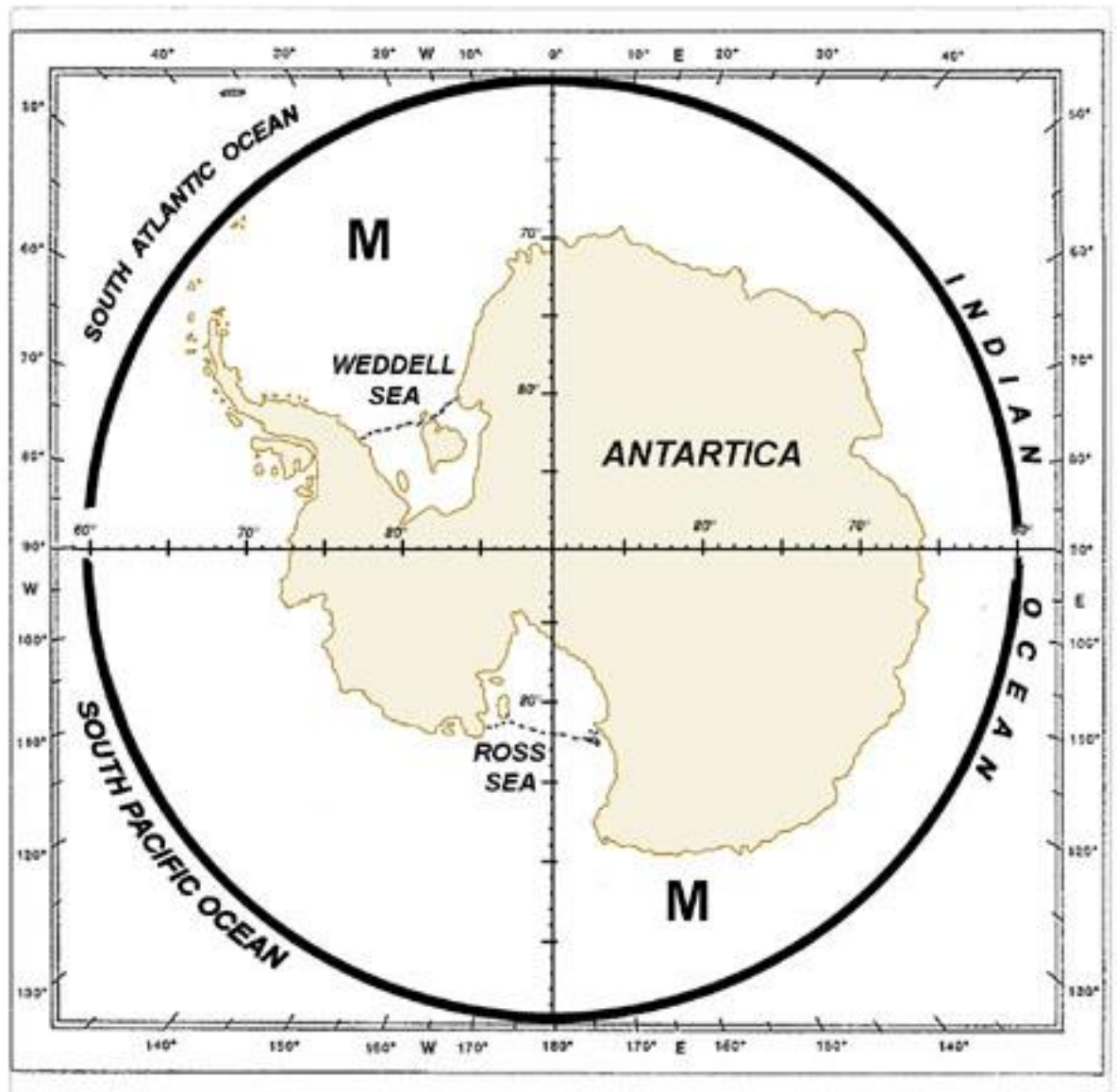
#### **Structure for National Reports to Regional Hydrographic Commissions**

Executive summary

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Hydrographic Office / Service: | General, including updates for the IHO Yearbook<br>e.g.reorganization   |
| 2. Surveys:                       | Coverage of new surveys.<br>New technologies and /or equipment.<br>New ships<br>Problems encountered  |
| 3. New charts & updates:          | ENCs<br>ENC Distribution method<br>RNCs<br>INT charts<br>National paper charts<br>Other charts, e.g. for pleasure craft<br>Problems encountered |
| 4 New publications & updates:     | New Publications<br>Updated publications<br>Means of delivery, e.g. paper, digital<br>Problems encountered                                      |
| 5. MSI                            | Existing infrastructure for transmission<br>New infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan<br>Problems encountered                     |
- Note : Use the WWNWS template for this section

6. C-55	Latest update (Tables)
7. Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer of and/or demand for Capacity Building</li> <li>Training received, needed, offered</li> <li>Status of national, bilateral, multilateral or regional development projects with hydrographic component. (In progress, planned, under evaluation or study)</li> <li>Definition of bids to IHOCBC</li> </ul>
8. Oceanographic activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General</li> <li>GEBCO/IBC's activities</li> <li>Tide gauge network</li> <li>New equipment</li> <li>Problems encountered</li> </ul>
9. Other activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation in IHO Working Groups</li> <li>Meteorological data collection</li> <li>Geospatial studies</li> <li>Disaster prevention</li> <li>Environmental protection</li> <li>Astronomical observations</li> <li>Magnetic/Gravity surveys</li> <li>International</li> <li>Etc.</li> </ul>
10. Conclusions	

GEOGRAPHIC LIMITS OF IHO INT CHART REGION M



**31st Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), Kyiv, Ukraine, 01-13 June 2008**

**Resolution 5 (2008)**

**IMPROVING HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYING AND CHARTING TO SUPPORT SAFETY OF NAVIGATION  
IN THE ANTARCTIC REGION**

The Representatives,

*Considering* that reliable hydrographic data and nautical charts are essential to safe maritime operations;

*Noting* the increase in marine traffic, particularly tourist vessels, in the Antarctic region;

*Concerned* about the increased risk of harm to ships, persons and the environment in inadequately charted waters in the region;

*Noting* that the collection of accurate survey data will improve navigational safety and support scientific research;

*Recognising* the role of the International Hydrographic Organization Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) in the coordination of hydrographic charting in the Antarctic region and the value of cooperating with relevant expert bodies;

**Recommend** that their Governments:

1. cooperate with the HCA to improve hydrographic surveying and charting in the Antarctic region, including working to:
  - a. clarify HCA requirements for the collection of hydrographic data of sufficient quality for use in the development of electronic navigation charts, and
  - b. identify priority areas for the collection of additional hydrographic and bathymetric data;
2. encourage their national programme vessels and other vessels, as appropriate, to collect hydrographic and bathymetric data on all Antarctic voyages, as practicable;
3. forward any Antarctic hydrographic and bathymetric data collected to the relevant international chart producer for charting action; and
4. endeavour to find additional resources towards improving hydrographic surveying and charting in the Antarctic region.



**37th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), Brasilia, Brazil, 28 April - 07 May 2014**

**Resolution 5 (2014)**

**Strengthening Cooperation in Hydrographic Surveying and Charting of Antarctic Waters**

The Representatives,

*Considering* that reliable hydrographic data and nautical charts are essential to safe maritime operations;

*Noting* the increase in marine traffic, particularly tourist vessels, in the Antarctic region;

*Concerned* about the increased risk of harm to ships, persons and the environment in inadequately charted waters in the region;

*Noting* that the collection of accurate survey data will improve navigational safety and support scientific research;

*Recognising* the role of the International Hydrographic Organization Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) in the coordination of hydrographic surveying and nautical charting in the Antarctic region, and the value of cooperating with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and other relevant expert bodies;

*Recalling* Recommendation XV-19 (1989), Resolution 1 (1995), Resolution 3(2003), Resolution 5 (2008) and Resolution 2 (2010), which encouraged cooperation on hydrographic surveying and charting of Antarctic waters;

**Recommend** that the Parties:

1. support and promote contacts and liaison between national Antarctic programs and national hydrographic offices;

2. increase their mutual cooperation in the hydrographic surveying and charting of Antarctic waters in order to contribute to safety of navigation, safeguarding life at sea, protection of the Antarctic environment, support of scientific activities, and furtherance of responsible economic activity; collaborating within, as appropriate, the framework(s) of national Antarctic programs, national hydrographic offices, the HCA and the International Chart scheme;

3. co-ordinate their hydrographic surveying and charting activities through the HCA and cooperate with it to:

a. clarify requirements for the collection of hydrographic data of sufficient quality and accuracy for use in the development of electronic and paper navigational charts, being cognisant of the emerging challenges and opportunities faced in the digital navigation era;

b. identify priority areas for the collection of additional hydrographic and bathymetric data;

c. complete their inventory of data holdings and give high importance to liaison between Parties on future planned hydrographic surveys in order to avoid duplication of effort; and

4. encourage national Antarctic program vessels and all other vessels operating in the Antarctic Treaty area to collect hydrographic and bathymetric data including passage soundings on all Antarctic voyages, as practicable; to forward any hydrographic and bathymetric data collected to the relevant international chart producer for charting action; and to endeavour to find additional resources to improve hydrographic surveying and charting in the Antarctic region.