

SEMINAR
at the
2009 COMNAP Annual Meeting, COMNAP XXI
Punta Arenas, Chile, 03- 06 August 2009

I.- General Information.

The meetings of the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP) are held annually to develop and promote the best practice in managing the support of scientific research in Antarctica. It is a forum to develop practices to improve effectiveness of activities; facilitates and promotes international partnership; motivates information exchange and provides the Antarctic Treaty System with objective and practical, technical and non-political advice drawn from National Antarctic Program's pool of expertise.

In this opportunity, COMNAP invited the IHO/HCA to deliver a set of presentations that in a form of a seminar would refer to the "Importance of Hydrographic Activities in Antarctica".

II.- Participants.

Out of the 29 Countries members of COMNAP, 26 were present with over 150 delegates in total. Four international organizations were also represented. The IHO participated with its HCA Chairman and IHB Director, Captain Hugo Gorziglia, together with RAdm Ian Moncrieff and Commander Enrique Silva, representatives of UK and Chile to the HCA, respectively.

III.- Seminar.

The objective of the seminar was to raise awareness at the operational level on the importance of hydrographic activity in the Antarctica, to achieve a better understanding of COMNAP on the existing risks associated to the present status of charting in the region and to explore ways to jointly improve the situation. The content of the Seminar was as follow:

First Presentation

Title: Hydrography in the Antarctica.
Speaker: **Hugo Gorziglia**, Captain Chilean Navy, former Chilean Hydrographer, Director IHB and Chairman HCA
Content: What is hydrography? Why we need hydrography? What are and why the IHO and HCA exist and what they have been doing. INT Chart Scheme. Hydrographic priorities. SOLAS and the Antarctica. IHO/COMNAP relationship.

Second Presentation

Title: Risks in Antarctic Operations related to Hydrography and Nautical Cartography.
Speaker: **Ian Moncrieff**, Rear Admiral, United Kingdom National Hydrographer, former Commanding Officer of HMS Endurance (the RN Antarctic Patrol Ships) and former Commander of British Forces in the South Atlantic. HCA Vice Chairman.
Content: Antarctic Navigation and its risks. Extant of present coverage in and around the peninsula. Present approach to charting priorities based on observed routes used for different purposes. Work done to date and future work plans. Case studies. Liabilities, Paucity of SAR. How hydrography knowledge reduces the risk. Marine accidents and its impact on the marine environment. Role of hydrography in Antarctic operations. What is needed to operate with greater safety ness? Safe access to remote research areas.

Third Presentation

Title: Practical initiatives to improve hydrography and nautical cartography in Antarctica.
Speaker: **Enrique Silva**, Commander, Head Department of Operations, Chilean Navy Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service, and Chilean representative to the HCA.
Content: A resume of the problems based on previous presentations and the offer of conclusive measures that could be put jointly in place by COMNAP and IHO to improve safety for National Program vessels. IHO contribution to COMNAP to achieve its objectives. Introduction of Guidelines for the Collection and Rendering of Hydrographic Data obtained by "Ships of Opportunity" in Antarctic Water.

The event was very well received by the participants. Two questions were put forward by the attendees. One related to the procedure of making available relevant information affecting safe to navigation and the other referred to the possibility to make processed bathymetric information available, as soon as validated, without needing to wait for the release of a new chart that might take several years.

It was explained that the procedure for handling urgent notice to mariners is clearly regulated and widely known by Captains. The reporting practice of these anomalies does not constitute a problem. With regard to consider advancing processed data, for example through chartlets or new editions of charts, this has the merit of providing confidence to the mariner sailing a particular area. This option shall be explored by HCA considering the long time it takes to complete the surveys and produce a new chart. This matter would be considered for discussion at the next HCA meeting in South Africa, October 2009.

Finally, COMNAP agreed to put in practice the “**IHO Collection and Rendering of Hydrographic Data Form**”, included in the document “**Collection and Rendering of Hydrographic Data obtained by SOO in Antarctic Waters**” submitted by the IHO/HCA and to review and provide comments to the HCA Hydrographic Survey Priority List.

IV.- Other information.

1.- COMNAP is exploring a new way of working and this constitutes a priority for the discussions had. The final outcome would be made available by COMNAP after the meeting.

2.- At the end of this Meeting, Mrs. Michelle Rogan-Finnemore took over Mr. Antoine Guichard as Executive Secretary of COMNAP.



IHO/HCA speakers at the seminar offered to COMNAP on the “Importance of Hydrographic Activities in Antarctica”. From left to right, Captain Gorziglia (IHB Director and HCA Chairman), Rear Admiral Moncrieff (UK National Hydrographer) and Commander Silva (SHOA).