

**FINAL REPORT  
OF THE CONSTITUENT CONFERENCE OF THE  
CARIBBEAN SEA AND THE GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL  
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (CGMHC)  
Havana, May 25-27, 1994**

The Constituent Conference of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico Regional Hydrographic Commission, was held in Havana, Cuba, May 25-27, 1994, under the chair of Captain Juan Fung Riverón, President of the Cuban Hydrographic Institute.

***PARTICIPANTS***

The Conference was attended by the following representatives and guests:

**CUBA :**

Captain Juan Fung Riverón, President of the Cuban Hydrographic Institute, and Commander Angel García Alvarez, Deputy President of the CHI.

**KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS :**

Commodore Egon Bakker, Director of the Hydrographic Service, Royal Netherlands Navy, Kingdom of the Netherlands

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :**

Captain Thomas W. Richards and Mr. Douglas L. Brown, Coast and Geodetic Survey, National Ocean Service, NOAA, United States of America.

**REPUBLIC OF GUYANA :**

Mr. Surujpaul Makardajh, Superintendent of Hydrographic Research, Republic of Guyana

**ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS :**

Captain Jorge Alberto Echánove Guemes, Director of Hydrography, General Directorate of Naval Oceanography, Secretariat of Marine, Estados Unidos Mexicanos.

**CANADA :**

Mr. G. Ross Douglas, Dominion Hydrographer, Canadian Hydrographic Service, observer.

**IHB - MONACO**

Rear Admiral Christian Andreasen, President of the Directing Committee of the IHB, attended as representative of the Bureau.

## *OPENING SESSION*

Rear Admiral Pedro M. Perez Betancourt, Deputy Minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, Chief of the Revolutionary Navy of the Republic of Cuba, attended the opening session of the Conference.

The opening address of the Conference was given by Captain Juan Fung Riverón, who welcomed the participants and urged them to cooperate actively with the new Hydrographic Commission.

On behalf of IHB, Rear Admiral Christian Andreasen officially opened the Constituent Conference of the Commission. He referred in his speech to other Hydrographic Commissions established in the main world maritime regions and to the important role they play. He wished the Commission success in its future work in this important area of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico.

## *WORKING AREA*

During the meeting it was decided that the geographic area covered by the Commission shall be that defined by the IHO INT Charting Scheme Area B and adjoining areas. In this context, it would cover a broad area of various coastal countries, including many islands, in which maritime access and surveys are particularly important.

## *STATUTES*

The main priority was to arrive at a consensus regarding the final draft of the Statutes. They were drawn up on the basis of the experience of existing commissions of other areas and the suggestions and observations of those countries to which the initial draft was sent to, as well as IHB recommendations. A key Article of the Statutes expresses that those countries with hydrographic responsibilities in the region of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico can become Members or Associate Members of the Commission.

The participants approved the Statutes of the Commission (Annex A) and signed them (Annex B). Adherence to the Commission will be pending until after the relevant authorities of the respective countries have been consulted on the issue. The decision to adhere will be sent in writing to the Chair of the Commission.

The participants entrusted the Chair of the Commission with the task of sending the initially adopted Statutes to the countries mentioned in Article 1-b of said Statutes which did not attend the Constituent Conference so as to request their adherence.

## *ELECTRONIC CHARTS*

Captain Thomas W. Richards from the United States of America made a presentation on Electronic Charts based on his country's experience in this field. A contribution to this presentation was made by Rear Admiral Christian Andreasen who gave a briefing on the status of IHO organizational activity concerning this issue, and about the development of Electronic Charts in the different regions.

Commander Angel Garcia Alvarez, on behalf of the Cuban delegation, put forth some ideas about Electronic Charts development in the region of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico on the basis of which the Conference reached the following agreement:

1. To promote:

- ◆ The strategies for the creation and marketing of digital products according to IHO specifications by Hydrographic Offices.
- ◆ The establishment of partnerships, both public and private, to foster Electronic Charting in the region.
- ◆ The exchange of experience among Hydrographic Offices with a view to create digital products according to IHO specifications for the Electronic Chart.

2- To establish a working group, initially under the coordination of the United State of America, to:

- ◆ submit to the next Conference a Project of Cartographic Coverage with Electronic Charts (in small and medium scales) corresponding to a scheme of INT charting
- ◆ analyze ways of implementing and coordinating measures referred to in item 1
- ◆ analyze and recommend ways of organizing the establishment of regional or national compatible data bases, including aspects related to copyright.

3. To hold a Seminar on Electronic Charts and digital data bases during the first quarter of 1995, in Cuba, with the aim of expediting the training of specialists from the area for their creation.

## *TRAINING*

Mr. G. Ross Douglas, from Canada, addressed the subject on training and upgrading of specialists in the fields of Hydrography and Marine Cartography and related disciplines, on the basis of his country's experiences and, in particular, on the new learning techniques developed that could be very useful for the Commission's work.

The statement made by the Cuban delegation regarding the usefulness of combining traditional methods of training of specialists based on scholarships grants for basic courses, with the holding of seminars, workshops, etc., involving the majority of the countries of the region, was welcomed.

The representatives of the Netherlands, the United States of America and IHB stated their willingness to cooperate in attaining support from various sources to contribute to the training of specialists from the region.

Based on the discussions held it was agreed to set up a Working Group and Canada was requested to take charge of it, on an interim basis, to proceed on the following terms of reference:

- ◆ Identify potential sources of training and technical assistance and funding thereof.
- ◆ Seek opportunities for regional hydrographer and cartographer exchange programs.
- ◆ Identify the training requirements of the members of the Commission.
- ◆ Prepare a proposed plan of how the training requirements could be fulfilled for discussion and ratification by the Commission.
- ◆ Facilitate immediate training requirements that have been agreed to by the Commission, e.g. the Electronic Charts Seminar scheduled for the first quarter of 1995.

The delegations from Cuba, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the United States of America agreed to join the Working Group on Training. Any Member or Associate Member country that expresses its intention at a Commission Conference or submits a written request to the Chair of the Commission can become a member of the Working Group.

### *IBCCA PROJECT*

Commander Angel García Alvarez of Cuba, Vicepresident of the IBCCA Project sponsored by IOC-UNESCO made a brief report to the participants on the state of this regional problem and requested the Members of the Commission to supply the hydrographic data required by the countries in charge of the Project sheets and by the Chief Editor.

Likewise, he proposed that the Hydrographic Offices consider the possibility of assuming the responsibility for sheets 1-10 and 1-16 which do not have yet a country in charge.

It was agreed to follow-up this Project and include the item on the next Conference agenda.

## *INTERNATIONAL NAVIGATION CHARTS*

The Conference considered the establishment of a working group to draft a project for the production of a Set of medium and large scale INT Charts of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico.

The participants agreed that the countries of the region should produce INT Charts, without excluding possible involvement of existing producers who have hydrographic responsibilities in the region.

The proposal of establishing a Charting Working Group was adopted by the meeting, and the United States of America was entrusted the task of coordinating this activity.

### *NEXT CONFERENCE VENUE*

The United States of America representative, Captain Thomas W. Richards, proposed his country as the venue for the next Conference, which could be held in Baltimore, Maryland, 28-29 March, 1996.

The USA representative's proposal was accepted, but conditioned to the granting of visas to all Member Countries and Associated Members of the Commission that may duly request them. Captain Thomas W. Richards asked the President of IHB to send a letter to the appropriate US Administration authorities, expressing the importance of this Conference and urging them to facilitate the attendance of all Member and Associate Member Countries to the Conference.

### *DEMONSTRATIONS BY THE CUBAN HYDROGRAPHIC INSTITUTE*

The delegates at the Conference participated in a hydrographic survey organized by the Cuban Hydrographic Institute with its vessels and technical personnel, at "Marina Hemingway", Havana, where the technical capabilities and software that the Institute has available for hydrographic data acquisition and processing were demonstrated.

Likewise, the delegates visited the Center for Production of Nautical Charts and Publications of the Cuban Hydrographic Institute, also located in the City of Havana, where the use of automated systems for Chart production was explained. Delegates were given a tour of the Center.

### *CLOSING SESSION*

On behalf of the visiting delegations, Commodore Egon Bakker thanked the Cuban Delegation for their gracious hospitality during the Commission Conference. The closing speech of the Conference was given by Rear Admiral Christian Andreasen, President of the Directing Committee of the International Hydrographic Bureau.

**STATUTES  
OF THE REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION OF THE  
CARIBBEAN SEA AND THE GULF OF MEXICO  
(CGMHC)**

**ARTICLE 1: *OF THE COMMISSION***

- a) The Regional Hydrographic Commission of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico hereinafter referred to as "The Commission" has been constituted in conformity with the Administrative Resolution T1.2 of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), included as Annex I, and shall be governed according to these Statutes.
- b) The geographic area covered by the Commission shall be that defined by the IHO INT Charting Scheme Area B, included as Annex II.

**ARTICLE 2: *OF THE MEMBERS***

- a) The Members of the Commission are the States with hydrographic responsibilities in the Region of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico, members of the IHO, whose representatives, in charge of Hydrography and Navigation in their respective national spheres, are signatories of the present Statutes.
- b) The countries bordering the Region of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico which are not members of the IHO, but would wish to cooperate in the activities carried out by the Commission and whose representatives are signatories to the current Statutes, are acknowledged as Associate Members. They are represented by their national authorities responsible for Hydrography and Navigation.
- c) The Associate Members are valued for their coordination of regional hydrographic and navigation matters and have the same rights and obligations as the Members of the Commission except the right to vote or to host a Conference.

### **ARTICLE 3: *OF THE OBJECTIVES***

a) The Commission shall have an advisory, scientific and technological character; it shall not exert any authority on the Hydrographic Services or institutions responsible for Hydrography and Navigation of the Member countries and activities shall not extend to matters concerning international political issues.

b) The objectives of the Commission are:

1) To promote technical cooperation in the domain of Hydrographic Surveying, Marine Cartography and Nautical Information.

2) To examine, in its area, those matters of general interest to which the IHO is dedicated, avoiding all interference in the issues pertaining to the International Hydrographic Bureau and in any other Commission established by the IHO.

3) To stimulate the Members and Associate Members, to expand the hydrographic activities in the Region and try to encourage them to seek advice and technical assistance from the IHB and other organizations in order to strengthen their hydrographic capabilities.

4) To facilitate the exchange of information related to surveys, research and/or scientific and technical development to assist in planning and organizing the hydrographic activities in the widest sense of the objective.

5) To carry out studies as a working group of the IHO when deemed necessary.

### **ARTICLE 4: *OF THE PARTICIPATION***

a) The Members and the Associate Members of the Commission undertake to participate of their own will, on all possible occasions, whether in the form of counselor or assistant, in the hydrographic programs requiring joint actions, but without prejudice to or interference with their national activities.

b) The Commission may set up small committees of Members and Associate Members for the study and implementation of projects.

c) Experts from countries not Members of the Commission shall be invited to participate in the Conference as observers and/or advisers, by the Chair, previously agreed by the majority of the Members.

d) An invitation to participate in the Conference shall always be sent to the Directing Committee of the International Hydrographic Bureau, as well as to coordinators of INT-Chart Regional Groups A and C1.

#### **ARTICLE 5: OF THE ORDINARY CONFERENCE**

a) The Commission shall meet in Ordinary Conference in the country of one of its Members at least twice between two successive Ordinary International Hydrographic Conferences.

b) The Members and the Associate Members preferably shall be represented in the Conferences by the Directors of the Hydrographic Services or by the Chiefs of the national institutions responsible for hydrography and navigation.

c) The presence of at least one-half (1/2) of the Members of the Commission shall constitute the necessary quorum to hold the meeting.

d) Those Countries that are not Members or Associate Members of the Commission may send representatives of the national authorities in charge of hydrography and navigation to attend the meetings as observers. Observers can participate in the discussions but shall not have voting rights.

e) The host country may limit the number of participants to not more than two per country pending the availability of facilities.

#### **ARTICLE 6: OF THE SEATS OF THE CONFERENCES**

a) The seats of the Ordinary Conferences shall be established on a rotational basis, therefore those Members desirous of hosting the following Conference shall put forward their candidatures. Priority shall be given to a country which has not yet hosted a Conference or to the one which had not done so for the longest time. In cases of equal priority, a secret ballot shall be held with the decision being taken by a simple majority of Members present.

b) When the scheduled Organizer is unable to organize the Conference, he shall communicate said decision to the President of the Commission with at least six (6) months advance notice, with the objective of coordinating the seat of the next Conference, granting priority as agreed in Article 6a.

c) The host country will assist with the arrangement of authorizations and visas, so as to facilitate the attendance of Members and Associate Members of the Commission.



## **ARTICLE 7: *OF THE CHAIR***

- a)** The Conferences of the Commission shall be presided over by the Chair. This person shall be the representative of the country in which the Conference takes place and shall remain in office until the beginning of the next Conference.
- b)** In the interval between Conferences, the Chair shall assume the Secretariat of the Commission and shall see that all matters arising are addressed by mail. The Chair shall also prepare a complete report on the activities performed by the Commission from the last Conference and shall submit it as the first item of the Agenda for the next Conference.
- c)** The Chair of the next Conference shall be responsible for its Organization, therefore the country shall incur payments of the local administrative expenses due to the hosting of said Conference.
- d)** In case the Chair of a Conference is replaced from office at the relevant Service, the successor shall become the new Chair.

## **ARTICLE 8: *OF THE AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE***

- a)** The proposals considered by the Members, which should be included in the Agenda of a Conference, should be sent to the Chair for the next Conference at least four (4) months in advance of the date agreed for the commencement of the Conference.
- b)** The Chair for the next Conference shall prepare the Provisional Agenda with the rest of the Members at least two (2) months before its opening.
- c)** The Agenda shall be adopted by the Commission at the beginning of each Conference.
- d)** The Commission can modify, during the Conference, the order of discussion of the different items of the Agenda.
- e)** Proposals of any Member or Associate Member, which are not considered in the Agenda, shall be submitted to the Chair, and with the agreement of the Members then shall be included in the Agenda for their debate.

## **ARTICLE 9: *OF CORRESPONDENCE***

- a)** The Chair each day shall prepare a written text of the decisions taken on each item of the Agenda and shall see to its distribution to all the Members present for the next day.

b) At the end of the Conference, the Chair shall read the text of the resolutions and decisions taken which shall be adopted in virtue of the regulations of Article 10 of the current Statutes.

c) The Chair shall send, within two months after the closing of the Conference, one (1) copy of the Draft Report regarding the discussions and decisions taken during the Conference to each of the Members for its approval. The Members shall send back one copy amended by them within two months after its receipt. Any objection shall be resolved by correspondence. A copy of the Final Report shall be provided to each Member. A signature page shall be circulated to obtain final approval.

d) A copy of the Final Report of the Conference shall be sent to the Associate Members and Observers.

#### **ARTICLE 10: *OF RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS.***

a) The resolutions and decisions of the Conference shall be adopted by the simple majority of its Members, votes in favor shall be indicated by a show of hand.

In case of an equal number of votes (tie), a second vote shall take place after listening to the recommendations of the Delegate of the IHB.

b) In case that a Member considers that a subject of the Agenda should be adopted unanimously, this shall be indicated at the beginning of the Conference.

c) Each Member has only one vote.

d) All the resolutions and decisions shall come into operation after adoption of the final report of the Conference.

#### **ARTICLE 11: *OF THE EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCES***

a) The Chair may convene an Extraordinary Conference of the Members of the Commission when its representatives are meeting for the Conference of the IHO.

b) In the case of urgent materials, which cannot be treated by correspondence nor can be delayed for the next Conference, the Chair, in agreement with the Members may convene an Extraordinary Conference which shall be held in the place deemed most appropriate.

c) Regulations of Article 7 are not applicable to those meetings defined in paragraphs (a) and (b) already mentioned; the Chair shall be responsible for its organization and direction and shall remain in office until the holding of the next Conference.

#### **ARTICLE 12: *OF EXPENSES***

a) Expenses for travel tickets and accommodations of delegates, including those of the Representative of the Directing Committee of the Bureau shall be defrayed by their respective countries and by the Bureau.

#### **ARTICLE 13: *OF THE MODIFICATION OF THE STATUTES.***

a) The modification of the Statutes requires the approval of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Members of the Commission.

b) If modifications to the present Statutes are proposed during a Conference, and they do not receive the approval of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Members as required, the Chair shall submit the proposal(s) by mail to all Members. Final approval shall be subject to the provisions of Article 13 a. Modifications to the Statutes shall then appear in the report of the Conference.

#### **ARTICLE 14: *OF THE LANGUAGES OF THE COMMISSION***

a) The working languages of the Commission are Spanish and English.

b) The final report shall be drawn up in one of the working languages, as selected by general agreement. It is intended that the report be produced in both working languages through assistance of a Member of the other working language.

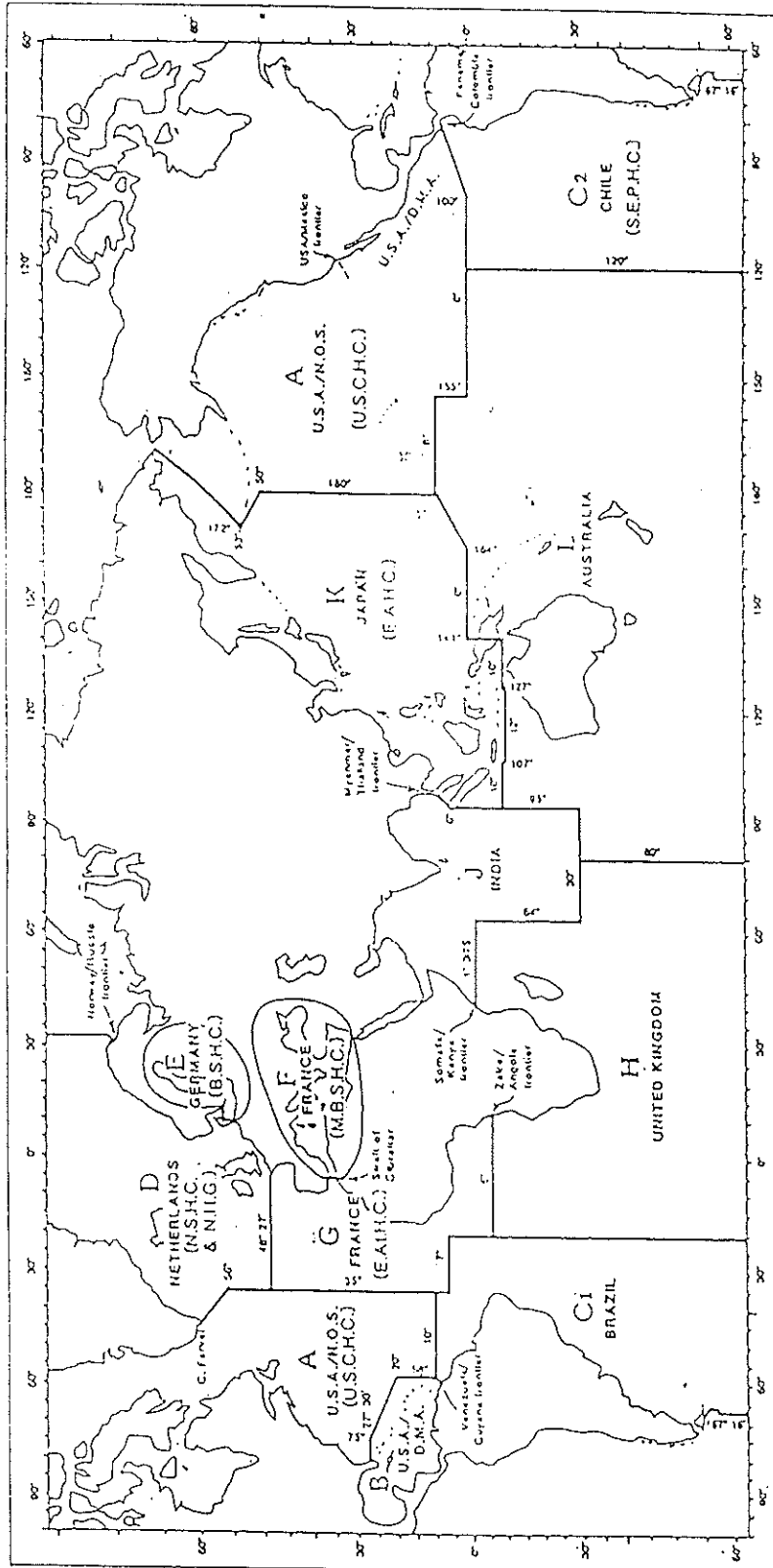
#### **ARTICLE 15: *OF DISSEMINATION OF DECISIONS***

a) All and every decision that the Commission may deem necessary to communicate to the Member States of the IHO shall be duly reported to the IHB for its further dissemination.

**T 1.2 Establishment of regional hydrographic commissions**



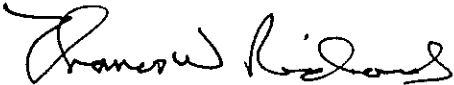
1. It is resolved that the IHB shall encourage member states having common regional problems of charting, research, or data collecting, to form regional commissions to co-operate in the solution of those problems and the undertaking of surveys and other projects.
2. Such commissions shall endeavor not to become separate groups within the IHO and they shall not duplicate the work of the Bureau.
3. It is further resolved that any proceedings of such commissions which might be of interest to all Member States shall be brought to the attention of the Bureau.
4. It is resolved that any such commission shall be properly constituted and constituted and that it shall be concerned solely with matters pertaining to the field of hidrography, which is held to include descriptive oceanography.
5. It is recommended that where appropriate conditions prevail such regional commissions shall be asked to undertake suitable studies of IHO working groups.
6. A representative of the IHB ought to be invited to attend meetings of regional commissions.

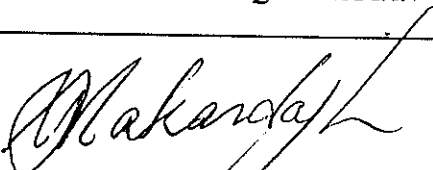
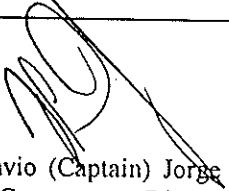
ANNEX 2



APROBACION PRELIMINAR DE LOS ESTATUTOS DE LA COMISION HIDROGRAFICA DEL MAR CARIBE Y EL GOLFO DE MEXICO - 27 DE MAYO DE 1994, PENDIENTE DE LA ADHESION DE LAS AUTORIDADES COMPETENTES DE LOS PAISES RESPECTIVOS.

PRELIMINARY ADOPTION OF THE STATUTES OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION OF THE CARIBBEAN SEA AND THE GULF OF MEXICO - MAY 27, 1994, PENDING THE APPROVAL FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES RELEVANT AUTHORITIES.

<i>PAIS - COUNTRY</i>	<i>REPRESENTANTE QUE FIRMAN</i>	<i>CONDICION DEL PAIS STATUS OF THE COUNTRY</i>
<p>República de Cuba Republic of Cuba</p>	 Capitán de Navio (Captain) Juan Fung Riverón Presidente Instituto Cubano Hidrografía President, Cuban Hydrographic Institute	<p>Miembro Member</p>
<p>Reino de Holanda Kingdom of the Netherlands</p>	 Comodoro (Commodore) EGON BAKKER Jefe del Servicio Hidrográfico de la Marina Real Holandesa. Chief Hydrographic Service, Royal Netherlands Navy	<p>Miembro Member</p>
<p>Estados Unidos de América United States of America</p>	 Capitán de Navio (Captain) Thomas W. Richards Jefe de la División de Cartas Marinas, Estudios Costeros y Geodésicos, Servicio Nacional Oceánico, Administración Nacional del Océano y la Atmósfera. Chief, Nautical Charting Division, Coast and Geodetic Survey, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	<p>Miembro Member</p>

PAIS - COUNTRY	REPRESENTANTE QUE FIRMAN	CONDICION DEL PAIS STATUS OF THE COUNTRY
República de Guyana Republic of Guyana	 Señor (Mr.) Suruppaul Makardajh, Superintendente de Investigaciones Hidrográficas, Oficina Hidrográfica, Ministerio de Transporte y Puertos. Superintendent, Hydrographic Research, Hydrographic Office, Transport and Harbours Department	Miembro Asociado Associate Member
Estados Unidos Mexicanos	 Capitán de Navio (Captain) Jorge Alberto Echánove Guenes, Director de Hidrografía, Dirección General de Oceanografía Naval, Secretaría de Marina. Director of Hydrography, General Directorate of Naval Oceanography, Secretariat of Marine	Miembro Asociado Associate Member