



INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION
MESO AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION



**12th Meso American & Caribbean Sea Hydrographic
Commission Meeting
5th – 9th December 2011
Basseterre, St. Kitts**

**Agenda Item 9
Experience in dealing with maritime disasters in relation
with IHO guidelines – explanatory note.**

At the third meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) in Brazil one of the actions relates to maritime disasters within the RHC's. The IRCC3 action is found below:

Action	List	Responsible	Deadline
IRCC03/19	Report to IRCC4 on: a) Their experience in dealing with maritime disasters in relation with IHO guidelines (TR 1/2005)	RHC's	IRCC4

Delegates at the MACHC meeting are requested to be fully briefed on the subject and be able to inform other delegates of the status of their countries action plan and any experiences in dealing with maritime disasters that they may wish to offer.

For your convenience, a copy of IHO Publication M-3 Resolution Number 1/2005 (K4.5) IHO Response to Disasters is provided at Annex A.

IHO member states need to be aware of the proposal to the 18th IHC by Japan to update M-3 Resolution No.1/2005 (Conference Circular Letters 10 and 10/bis3 – proposal No.1 refer.

Within Annex B can be found an extract from the North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission Points of contact and Disaster Action Plan.

Annex C is a proforma for nations to provide their details to the Chair at the meeting.

Annex A
IHO Publication M-3 Resolution Number 1/2005 (K4.5)
IHO Response to Disasters

1 Introduction

In view of the severe hydrographic impact on Safety of Navigation caused by the 2004 tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean and the consequent need for support; the International Hydrographic Organization, its Member States and Regional Hydrographic Commissions need to put in place procedures and guidelines so as to be able to provide an immediate and appropriate response to any future disaster affecting coastal areas of the world. These procedures and guidelines should aim to ensure the immediate assessment of the damage, its effect on National and International shipping and to inform mariners and other interested parties of that damage, particularly with respect to navigational hazards. They should also identify actions required and support needed to recover from the damage. Actions will be coordinated by the IHB, in co-operation with the relevant Regional Hydrographic Commission(s), Member State(s) and other International Organizations, as appropriate.

It is emphasised that it is very important for coastal States to collect relevant coastal and bathymetric data in their areas of responsibility and to make these available to the relevant databases in order to be used for the establishment, and improvement, of tsunami early warning systems, protection of coastal areas and relevant simulation studies. Any necessary regional cooperation for the collection of shallow and deep-water bathymetry will be coordinated by the IHB in cooperation with other States in the Region and International Organizations as appropriate.

The intention is to describe the procedures and provide guidance to be followed, at National, Regional and International level within the structure of the IHO; it is not to establish or operate disaster warning systems and services.

2 Procedures and Guidelines

a) By Member States:

Each Member State should develop an action plan to be undertaken in the case of a disaster in coastal areas under its jurisdiction. It is very important that each State provides a point of conduct for communication purposes; this should be the Director of the Hydrographic Service or Maritime Safety Agency or other appropriate person familiar with maritime procedures. These plans will contain, as a minimum, the following key elements:

- i) Assess the extent of damage to the coastal area particularly to ports, harbours, straits, approaches, restricted areas etc.
- ii) Assess, in co-operation with other National Agencies, e.g. Lighthouse Authorities, Port Authorities, the extent of damage to navigational aids.
- iii) Undertake preliminary re-surveys, as soon as possible, starting with the navigationally most sensitive areas in order to evaluate the specific effects on shipping and ensure the continuation of support and supplies through maritime channels and ports, marking new dangers where necessary.

- iv) Promulgate warnings and advice to shipping as appropriate through existing channels (NAVTEX, SafetyNET). Co-operate with the NAVAREA Coordinator and other National coordinators so that this information can be made available to the mariners as soon as possible and beyond the area of national jurisdiction.
- v) Inform the Chairman of the Regional Hydrographic Commission and the IHB of the situation, providing details of the damage, actions taken and indicating what support, if any, is needed.
- vi) Assess and define any new hydrographic / cartographic requirements.
- vii) Provide follow up reports to the Chairman of the Regional Commission and the IHB.

b) By Regional Hydrographic Commissions:

The Chairman of the Regional Hydrographic Commission will be responsible for coordinating the actions needed within the Region. In order to achieve this, the RHC should develop a disaster action plan, aimed at supporting States in the area to assess the hydrographic damage, provide support and co-ordinate actions and efforts. These plans will be focused on the following:

- i) Communicating, by the quickest means available, with the focal points of the States in the Region, in order to make an initial evaluation of the extent of the damage.
- ii) Deciding whether a Regional technical task team needs to visit States in the area to support the evaluation of the damage and support needed.
- iii) Deciding, based on the information collected, whether an Extraordinary Meeting of the RHC is needed, in order to discuss in detail the problems, evaluate the damage and respond to requests for support.
- iv) Deciding if the Chairman needs to take a coordinating role in assessing damage, providing support and broadcasting information to mariners.
- v) Informing the IHB on the situation, the actions taken and the need, if any, for external support.
- vi) Monitoring the progress of the actions agreed in the area, keeping Member States in the Region and IHB informed accordingly.
- vii) Including this issue as a permanent Agenda item on RHC meetings in order to monitor the readiness of the Commission to respond to disasters and conducting regular table-top exercises to evaluate the procedures.

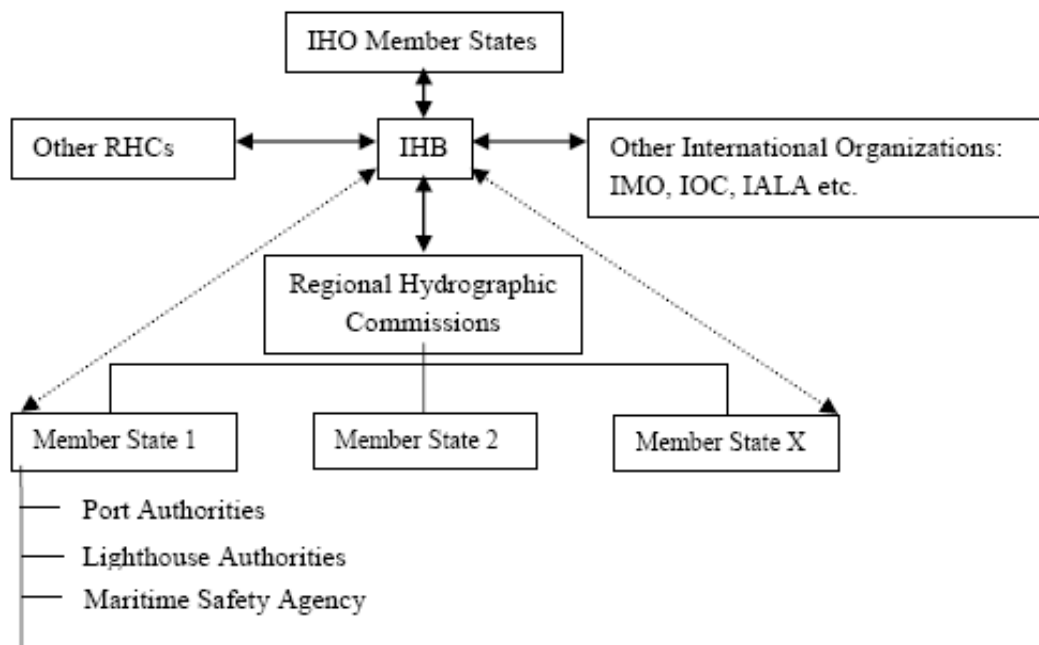
c) By the IHB:

The IHB will co-ordinate the actions required of Member States and Regional Hydrographic Commissions in order to assess damage and will co-operate with other International Organizations as appropriate to co-ordinate any external support required. The IHB will undertake the following tasks:

- i) Communicate with the Chairmen of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions and, where necessary, directly with Member States in the region(s) affected, in order to collect information relating to the scale of the

- damage, actions taken, the support needed and the desirability of a regional meeting.
- ii) Participate as appropriate in meetings organized by the RHC or Member States, to determine problems and the actions required to remedy the situation
 - iii) Co-operate with other International Organizations, informing them of matters affecting the safety of navigation, the needs of Member States, and actions taken and seeking where appropriate, support from these Organizations for the repair of the damage.
 - iv) Invite other International Organizations to participate in Regional Meetings, in order to contribute to the discussions and to the required actions.
 - v) Monitor developments and inform Member States on all issues associated with the damage, actions taken and support needed.
 - vi) Investigate the willingness of Member States to provide support and co-ordinate the appropriate actions with the affected States in close co-operation with the Chairman of the RHC.
 - vii) Participate in discussions at RHC meetings to monitor requirements, develop responses to possible disasters and test the procedures and readiness to respond by tabletop exercises.

IHO Disaster Reaction Organization



Annex B
Extract from the North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission
(NIOHC) Points of contact and Disaster Action Plan.

NIOHC DISASTER PLAN – LIST OF FOCAL POINTS OF CONTACT 2011

Member State	Name	Fax	E-mail
Bangladesh	Captain Mir Imdadul Haque, (H1), psc BN	+088 02 8854270	dhydro@bangladeshnavy.org
India	Rear Admiral B.R. Rao	+91 135 2748373	info@dataone.in

NIOHC DISASTER PLAN – STATUS OF PLANS

Country	Contact	Status of Plans
Bangladesh	Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) Ministry of Food and Disaster Management Disaster Management & Relief Bhaban (4th Floor) 92-93 Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212 Bangladesh Tel 880-2-8859637, 880-2-59634, 880-2-59638 Fax 880-2-8851615 Email dmb@bttb.net.bd	DMB provides immediate response to all types of disasters in areas under the jurisdiction of Bangladesh. Bangladesh is facing natural disasters almost every year and DMB successfully plays active role in managing the situations
India	Commander Ravi Nautiyal Joint Director of Hydrography (International Affairs) National Hydrographic Office 107 - A, Rajpur Road PO Box 75 Dehradun - 248 001 Uttarakhand (State) INDIA Tel 00-91-135-2747365 Fax 00-91-135-2748373	As India had faced the brunt of the tsunami of Dec 04, Government of India (GoI) has since put in place a disaster management organisation which is activated from time to time. However seeing the expanse of the country and the type of natural disasters that can unfold from floods, earthquakes, tsunami etc a National Disaster Management Authority has been established under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The Authority has been asked with preparing responses to various types of disaster. At present it is fine tuning the national response to tsunami and a core group has been set up to formulate guidelines for tsunami warning and mitigation. The Chief Hydrographer to the GoI is a member of this core group. The complete gamut of tsunami warning system in India comes under the ambit of the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Department of Science and Technology who are in constant liaison with the IOC on this issue. Hence the Chief Hydrographer on his own cannot activate the system. The point is however noted for future reference.

Annex C
Proforma for nations to provide their Disaster Plan details.

MACHC DISASTER PLAN – LIST OF FOCAL POINTS OF CONTACT December 2011

Member State	Name	Fax	E-mail

MACHC DISASTER PLAN – STATUS OF PLANS

Country	Contact	Status of Plans