

## Meso-American and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC)

14<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Sint Maarten

9-13 December 2013

### IHB Report

#### Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention

1. Amendments to the Convention on the IHO were approved by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference in May 2005. By October 2013, 39 of the required 48 approvals to the Protocol of Amendments had been received by the Government of Monaco. The following IHO Member States of the MACHC have not yet indicated positive support:

No response as yet from:
Colombia
Guatemala
Jamaica
Trinidad and Tobago
Venezuela

2. Suriname is not required to vote on the Protocol of Amendments because it was suspended at the time that the Protocol was approved by the Conference.

3. The 5<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Hydrographic Conference will instead be held as the first Assembly of the IHO if the remaining nine approvals are received by the Government of Monaco before 6 July 2014.

#### Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO

4. Bulgaria, Haiti, Mauritania, Montenegro and Sierra Leone have all been accepted for membership of the IHO but have yet to deposit their instruments of accession with the government of Monaco, thereby formally acknowledging membership of the IHO.

5. Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam, and Georgia have applied for membership of the IHO. By August 2013, the status of approvals was as follows:

State	Voting Status
Viet Nam	39 of 52 required
Brunei Darussalam	32 of 52 required
Georgia	33 of 54 required

6. The following IHO Member States of the MACHC have not yet indicated positive support:

State Applying for Membership	No response as yet from:
Viet Nam (applied 2011)	Jamaica Suriname Trinidad and Tobago Venezuela
Brunei Darussalam (applied 2012)	Cuba Jamaica Suriname Trinidad and Tobago Venezuela
Georgia (applied 2013)	Cuba Guatemala Jamaica Suriname Trinidad and Tobago

State Applying for Membership	No response as yet from:
	Venezuela

7. The Directing Committee, in cooperation with the Department of External Relations of the Government of Monaco, stands ready to assist, through diplomatic or other channels, any States' representatives that may be encountering difficulties in progressing the outstanding approvals through their respective governments.

### Regional Applications for Membership of the IHO

8. The Directing Committee, in cooperation with the Department of External Relations of the Government of Monaco, stands ready to assist, through diplomatic or other channels, non IHO Member States' representatives from the MACHC region wishing to progress an application for membership of the IHO through their respective governments.

### INT Chart and ENC Production Coordination - Region B

9. USA, as Chair of the MACHC Integrated Charting Committee (MICC) for Region B, has provided updates to S-11 in August 2013, which resulted in a new edition 2.0.4 of S-11 Part B Region B published in November 2013. In the year following MACHC-13, two new INT charts have been published in Region B by Brazil and USA.

### IHO GIS Data Base

10. Work has continued on the development of the IHO GIS data base. The GIS database will have two main parts: a country database and a regional database. The country database will contain all relevant information about the coastal States in the world - similar to the information contained in the IHO Year Book. The regional database will contain geospatial information about the coverage and location of charts, surveys and related information. It is expected that there will be an upload capability that will allow States to keep the relevant information up to date. The regional data base is expected to provide the principal resource for managing international chart coordination, ENC coverage, as well as the identification of survey or charting "hotspots". The countries data base and a beta version of the regional database for Antarctica are now under evaluation.

11. International Hydrographic Review. The IHR provides an ideal opportunity for Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in the region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. The current representative for the MACHC is UK.

12. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the editor (ihreview@iho.int) and (ian.halls1@defence.au.gov).

### Action Requested of MACHC-14

13. MACHC-14 is invited to:

- **Note** this report,
- **Encourage** as appropriate, Colombia, Guatemala, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela to ratify the amendments to the Convention on the IHO;
- **Encourage** as appropriate, Cuba, Guatemala, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela to approve the IHO membership applications of Brunei Darrusalam, Georgia and Viet Nam;
- **Report** in-country progress on approving the Amendments to the IHO Convention and approving New Member States, including any difficulties being encountered or IHB assistance required;
- **Support** the coordination of ENC and INT chart production in Region B, through the MICC
- **Take any other actions** as needed.