



INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION  
MESO AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION



MACHC Letter 08/2015

Date, 8 May 2015

To: Rear Admiral Tom Karten  
Chair IRCC

Mr. Mustafa Iptes  
Director IHB

**Subject: MACHC report to IRCC 7**

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached the MACHC report to the 7<sup>th</sup> IRCC in Mexico City.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marc C. J. van der Donck'.

*Captain RNLN Marc C. J. van der Donck*  
Director Netherlands Hydrographic Office  
Hydrographer of the Royal Netherlands Navy  
Chairman, Meso American & Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission

CC. Dr. Parry S.L. Oei  
Vice Chair IRCC

Mr. A. Costa Neves  
Assistant Director IHB

**Meso-American and Caribbean Hydrographic Commission (MACHC)  
Report to the 7th IRCC meeting, 2015**

Submitted by the Hydrographic Service of the Royal Netherlands Navy,

**1. Chair**

**Chair:**

Michel Amafo (SR): until March 13, 2015

Marc van der Donck (NL): March 13, 2015 until present

**Vice-Chair:**

Peter Kortenoeven (NL): until September 12, 2014

Marc van der Donck (NL): September 12, 2014 until March 13, 2015

Manuel Ricardo Lopez Cruz (MX): March 13, 2015 until present

**2. Membership**

Full members: Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, France, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela.

Associate members: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The accession of Costa Rica and Saint Vincent & the Grenadines as associate members during the 15th Conference illustrates the current vitality of the MACHC.

**3. Meetings:**

15th Conference: Manzanillo (MX), 10-13 December 2014

16th Conference: Saint John's (Antigua & Barbuda), 8-12 December 2015

**4. Current MACHC Working Groups:**

a) MACHC Integrated Charting Committee

Chair: NOAA (USA)

Vice-chair: Brazil

b) Marine Economic Infrastructure Program Committee

Chair: UK

vice-chair: NGA (USA)

c) Capacity Building Committee

Chair: UK

**5. Status of IRCC action (relevant for the MACHC)**

This Section is identical to the report that was submitted to chair IRCC by chair MACHC on January 13, 2015, except for editorial changes.

<b>Action identifier</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Actions taken</b>	<b>Status</b>
IRCC6/01	Pending applications for IHO membership	MS were encouraged to inform the IHB.	completed
IRCC6/02	Ratification of the IHO Convention by pending applicants	MS were encouraged to inform the IHB.	completed
IRCC6/03	Participation of stakeholders	Stakeholders and organizations are invited to attend MACHC conferences	completed
IRCC6/04	Suspended Member States	At MACHC conferences this item is highlighted by the IHB president.	completed
IRCC6/05	Progress reports on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2014 Work Program	<i>The reports of the MACHC committees, as reported to president IHB by chair MACHC on 16 February 2015, are given in Annex A, B, and C respectively.</i>	partly completed
IRCC6/07	Estimated values of Strategic Level Performance Indicators and Working Level Performance Indicators		not available
IRCC6/08	Attendance of GEBCO Guiding Committee / Bathymetric Regional Project Chairs	GEBCO was invited to MACHC Conference.	completed
IRCC6/09	Promotion and cooperation relating to Satellite Derived Bathymetry	Discussed at MACHC Conference.	completed
IRCC6/15	Material provided to IHB to promote the achievements of IRCC bodies	The results of the Capacity Building events are reported to IHB.	completed
IRCC6/16	Promotion of the achievements of IRCC bodies		not reported

**6. Agenda Items:**

NTR

**7. MACHC Cooperation with other organizations:**

Cooperation with other organizations is generally at good. Especially the work towards a Memorandum of Understanding between IHO and the Organisation of East Caribbean States has the potential to consolidate and strengthen the process of regional cooperation and integration, and to ensure the efficient and effective development and coordination of hydrographic and nautical charting programs, in accordance with the obligations of international treaties.

## **8. Conclusions and achievements:**

Like every other region, the limited survey capacity needs to be dealt with. The MACHC MS share the task of following developments towards the operationalization of new acquisition techniques. Improving coverage of the MACHC region with paper and digital charts receives considerable attention.

## **9. Achievements and lessons learned:**

Due to considerable efforts of the International Hydrographic Bureau and several MS, the membership of MACHC is growing. Some of the MACHC achievements are:

- the renewed focus on MSDI, led by the MEIP Committee;
- the interest for risk assessment methodologies, in close cooperation with the OECS;
- the ENC Online initiative, in which several MS allow online access to their ENCs of the MACHC region;
- the organization of a series of successful capacity building events, in English and Spanish;
- strong participation of industry during the past Conference.

The chairmanship of the Maritime Authority of Suriname during the past two Conferences deserves a compliment.

## **10. Action required from IRCC7:**

None

*Captain RNLN Marc C. J. van der Donck*  
Director Netherlands Hydrographic Office  
Hydrographer of the Royal Netherlands Navy  
Chairman MACHC

**Annex A: Overall status of the work programme of MICC**

Current goals and priorities	Current or expected gaps and needs	Comments
Achieve full ENC coverage in MACHC	Gaps are being addressed/no additional needs required	Of the 799 current and planned ENCs required to meet WEND principles for adequate ENC coverage, 665 are currently published and available (83%)
Update INT Chart Catalogue	No additional needs required	

**Annex B: Overall status of the work programme of MEIP**  
 Compiled by Chris Thorne - e-mail address: Chris.Thorne@UKHO.gov.uk

Current goals and priorities	Current or expected gaps and needs	Comments
The MEIP was given a direction at the 15th MACHC meeting in December 2014. The aim was to "piggy back" on the NOAA ENC on line viewer.		The MEIP Chair, MEIP vice Chair and NOAA met in January 2015 to discuss population of a base layer within the viewer. We are planning to achieve this by the end of February 2015, at which time we intend to contact all MS to inform them of progress and encourage them to make larger scale data available.

Update of 24 April 2015: The base layers have now been populated with .000 files from US and GB cells. MEIP Chair has also already received permission from Netherlands and Mexico to include some of their larger scale ENC .000 files in the on line viewer. A Members States letter was sent out in March to encourage all members t consider making their ENCs available.

**Annex C: Overall status of the work programme of CBC**  
 Compiled by J Bryant - e-mail address: jeff.bryant@ukho.gov.uk

Current goals and priorities	Current or expected gaps and needs	Comments
The MACHC has a five year plan for its CB activities, the priority to ensure all coastal states reach Phase 1 status. Other activities reinforce Phases 2 and 3.	No gaps	The requirement to deliver capacity building activities in Spanish is being met. E.g. Hydro course in Hydrography delivered in Nicaragua in Sep/Oct 2014 and short courses sent to Mexico for translation