



MACHC Letter 06/2016

Date, 26 April 2016

To: Member States

Subject: Preparation for IRCC8

Dear colleagues,

I am currently preparing to represent our region during IRCC8 in Abu Dhabi, 29 to 31 May. The meeting documents are/will be available at www.iho.int. I invite you to provide me with your thoughts on those if so desired, keeping each other abreast. In paragraph 5 of the MACHC report to IRCC8 I have already formulated the actions taken by the MACHC in response to the IRRC actions that are applicable to our region (enclosed for your convenience).

There is one new document that especially deserves our attention. It concerns a paper submitted by the Japanese Hydrographic Office on behalf of the East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC). It invites IRCC8 to request IBSC to reconsider the Cat. A syllabus for Hydrographic Surveyors that already hold a Cat. B certification. Japan sent out an email with their paper to all chairs of regional hydrographic commissions and asks for support. I am currently inclined to provide such support on behalf of our region.

The FIG/IHO/ICA Standards of Competence are an important element to build and maintain our hydrographic capacities. The IBSC certification program contributes to the attraction of our profession. The future of all our hydrographic offices depends on our ability to attract talented staff and to stimulate their continuous growth, for example from Cat. B to Cat. A surveyor. I agree with EAHC that the current Cat. B/Cat. A structure potentially creates unnecessary obstacles for Cat. B surveyors to reach Cat. A status. Their proposal still aims for the same professional standards (end terms), but offers a more flexible and efficient way to reach them. In that sense, it complements the current structure nicely.

Please find attached the paper as an enclosure to this letter. Could you study the paper and give me feedback on it, if any? I will include your feedback in my contributions to IRCC8.

Yours sincerely,

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Traducción de cortesía en español

Estimados Colegas,

Actualmente estoy preparando para representar a nuestra región durante IRCC8 en Abu Dabi, de 29 a 31 de mayo. Los documentos de la reunión están / estarán disponibles en www.iho.int. Los invito a que incluya sus pensamientos en los que, si se desea, mantenerse mutuamente al corriente. En el párrafo 5 del informe MACHC a IRCC8 ya he formulado las acciones tomadas por el MACHC en respuesta a las acciones IRCC que son aplicables a nuestra región (adjunta para su conveniencia).

Hay un nuevo documento que merece nuestra atención especial. Se refiere a un documento presentado por la Oficina Hidrográfica japonesa en nombre de la Comisión Hidrográfica de Asia Oriental (EAHC). Se invita a solicitar IRCC8 IBSC a reconsiderar la categoría A programa de estudios para Hidrógrafos que ya ejercen una certificación de la categoría B. Japón enviará un correo electrónico con su papel a todos los presidentes de las comisiones hidrográficas regionales y pide apoyo. Actualmente estoy inclinado a prestar ese apoyo en nombre de nuestra región.

Las Normas de la FIG / OHI / ACI de la competencia son un elemento importante para construir y mantener nuestras capacidades hidrográficas. El programa de certificación IBSC contribuye a la atracción de nuestra profesión. El futuro de todos nuestros servicios hidrográficos depende de nuestra capacidad para atraer personal con talento y estimular su crecimiento continuo, por la categoría B a categoría A topógrafos. Estoy de acuerdo con la EAHC que la estructura actual categoría B/A potencialmente crea obstáculos innecesarios caso de los técnicos de la categoría B para llegar a la categoría A de estado. Su propuesta sigue teniendo como objetivo para los mismos estándares profesionales (condiciones finales), pero ofrece una manera más flexible y eficiente para llegar a ellos. En ese sentido, se complementa muy bien la estructura actual.

Se adjunta el documento como un recinto a esta carta. Podría estudiar el papel y me dé la regeneración en él, en su caso? Voy a incluir sus comentarios en mis contribuciones a IRCC8.

Tuyo sinceramente,



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.: Mr. Robert Ward (President IHB)
Mr. Alberto Costa Neves (Assistant Director IHB)

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Meso-American and Caribbean Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) report to IRCC8-2016

Submitted by the Hydrographic Service of the Royal Netherlands Navy, 11 February 2016

1. chair and vice-chair:

chair: Marc van der Donck (NL) from March 2015

vice-chair: Ricardo Lopez Cruz (MX) from March 2015

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, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The accession of the Dominican Republic as an associate member during the 16th Conference illustrates the current vitality of the MACHC.

3. meetings:

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

17th Conference: Belem (Brazil), December 2016

4. Working Groups:

- MACHC Integrated Charting Committee
chair: NOAA (USA); vice-chair: Brazil
- Marine Economic Infrastructure Programme Committee
chair: UK; vice-chair: NGA (USA)
- Capacity Building Committee
chair: UK; vice-chair: Brazil

5. Status of relevant IRCC actions

In order to identify the MACHC actions to be taken, they are marked with a colour code.

- Open action items: These action items focus on concrete deliverables.
- Continuous action items: These action items are standing activities/responsibilities not inherent to the responsibilities of the Working Groups (Terms of reference).
- Completed or closed action items: These action item do not need individual review at Commission level. Either they are completed, taken over by events, or do not require further action as they are inherent to the responsibilities of the Working Groups (Terms of Reference).

legend
open item (white)
continuous action (light grey)
completed or closed (light green)

ANNEX A to MACHC Letter 06/2016

Action identifier	IRCC action description¹	IRCC status	Actions taken by MACHC
IRCC7/01	Pending applications for IHO membership	permanent	Continuous , national responsibility
IRCC7/02	Ratification of the IHO Convention by pending applicants	permanent	Continuous , MACHC action 15.5.1.1 applies. Add Guatemala and Jamaica besides Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.
IRCC7/03	Participation of stakeholders	permanent	Completed . MACHC action item 15.13.1 applies. Is standing procedure. A wide audience has been invited for 16th MACHC meeting.
IRCC7/04	Suspended Member States	permanent	Continuous , application of the Dominican Republic for Associated Membership was formally accepted at the 16th MACHC meeting
IRCC7/05	Progress reports on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2015 Work Programme	permanent	Continuous . Chairs MACHC WG's and MS to collate updates on the various topics of work programs 1, 2 and 3. Chair MACHC to coordinate. Status as of 31 December 2015 is given in separate document " <i>Meso-American and Caribbean Hydrographic Commission report to IRCC8-2016 on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2015 Work Programme</i> ".
IRCC7/07	Estimated values of Strategic Level Performance Indicators and Working Level Performance Indicators	permanent	Continuous . Chairs of MACHC WG and MS to collate updates on WPI en SPI as indicators. Chair MACHC to coordinate. Estimated values as of 31 December 2015 and target values for 31 December 2017 are given in the separate document " <i>Meso-American and Caribbean Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) report to IRCC8-2016 on estimated values of Strategic Level Performance Indicators and Working Level Performance Indicators</i> ".
IRCC7/08	Attendance of GEBCO Guiding Committee / Bathymetric Regional Project Chairs	permanent	Continuous . Is a standing MACHC agenda item. (DCDB presentation during MACHC16)
IRCC7/09	Promotion and cooperation relating to Satellite Derived Bathymetry	permanent	Continuous , MACHC action items 15.9.1 and 15.9.2 apply. Also agenda cluster on 'Survey and Risk' during MACHC16.
IRCC7/15	Material provided to IHB to promote the achievements of IRCC bodies	permanent	Continuous
IRCC7/17	Encourage English language training	permanent	Continuous
IRCC7/18	Facilitate resolution of inconsistencies between charts	permanent	Completed . MACHC actions 14.2.2 and 14.1.34 apply. Resolution of inconsistencies between paper charts and ENCs is part of ongoing MICC activities.

¹The action descriptors were shortened for ease of reading. For the full description, reference is made to the IRCC Action list.

ANNEX A to MACHC Letter 06/2016

Action identifier	IRCC action description¹	IRCC status	Actions taken by MACHC
IRCC7/19	Encourage using risk assessments to establish survey priorities	permanent	Open. MACHC action 16.5.1 applies as a result of a dedicated Risk assessment meeting and the agenda cluster on 'Survey and Risk' during MACHC16.
IRCC/20	Provide input to CBSC to identify funds for CB in the region	Input expected	Completed. MACHC action item 14.3.1 applies. Is standing activity of the CB coordinator to include individual nations efforts.
IRCC7/26	Report on status of procedures to select representatives to the Council	ongoing	Completed. Procedure discussed and agreed at MACHC16.
IRCC7/27a	Task new INT Chart Producer Nations to provide first edition of first INT Chart to MICC	ongoing	Continuous. Findings will include those of the workshop in Monaco to be reported at MACHC17.
IRCC7/27b	Task MICC to manage the review of first edition of first INT Chart of a new INT Chart Producer Nations	ongoing	
IRCC7/27c	Task INT Chart Producer to provide first and new editions of INT Charts to MICC 3 months prior to MACHC Conference	ongoing	
IRCC7/27d	Task MICC to transfer submitted INT charts to IHB	ongoing	
IRCC7/27e	Task MS to update list of online chart catalogues	ongoing	
IRCC7/28	Implement procedure for new editions of INT Charts and report processes for review of first edition of first INT Chart of a new INT Chart Producer Nation		Open.
IRCC7/33	Instruct MICC to investigate improved communication across the regions		Continuous. MACHC action 15.7.2.4 also applies.
IRCC7/41	Consider incorporating hydrography in more comprehensive maritime projects		Open. MACHC action 14.3.1 also applies (standing activity MICC).
IRCC7/42	Invite MS to update C-55 annually	input expected	Continuous. MACHC action 14.1.30 applies.
IRCC7/43	Provide access to IHB to CB promotional material	input expected	Open . At MACHC16 no feedback was given by MS or AMS.
IRCC7/44a	Provide technical visits summary reports	permanent	Completed. Is now part of standing Chair/CB Coordinator instruction, no further MACHC action required.
IRCC7/44b	Provide technical visits full reports	permanent	
IRCC7/44 bis	Provide technical visits full reports for 2014	ongoing	Closed. Not applicable
IRCC7/48	Consider nominating regional MSDIWG representatives	input expected	Completed. The Netherlands as Vice Chair of the MSDIWG also acts as regional representative for the MACHC.
IRCC7/52	Continue supporting GEBCO regional projects	permanent	Continuous. MACHC action 14.1.16 applies. Is also covered by IBCCA project in the MACHC region.
IRCC7/53	Remind HOs of request to give GEBCO access to shallow water bathymetric data		Continuous. MACHC action items 15.3 and 14.1.16 apply.
IRCC7/56	Provide comments on relevance of information overlay services	expected via Action WENDWG5 /01	Open. Action is paused as the issue is still under consideration of the WEND WG (Overlay services as AIO). See also decision 27 agreed at IRRC7.

Action identifier	IRCC action description ¹	IRCC status	Actions taken by MACHC
IRCC7/62	Consider providing IHO representatives at international meetings	input expected	Open.

6. Agenda items

Some relevant items of MACHC16-2015 are:

IHO Bodies and Policy Aspects:

procedure for selecting representatives to the Council; MSI and WWNWS; IBSC.

International Organizations:

Organization of East Caribbean States (OECS); IMO; IALA; The Hydrographic Society of America (THSOA) and its Latin American Chapter; Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH).

Survey and Risk:

Risk Assessment; Satellite Derived Bathymetry.

DTM and SDI:

UN-GGIM; INEGI; GEBCO.

Nautical Charts and Publications:

RENCs; MACHC ENC Online viewer; feedback form Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA); C-55 and IHO GIS; River Charts; S-100.

CapacityBuilding

IALA training programs; FOCAHIMECA; IMarEST.

7. cooperation with other organizations

MACHC strongly benefits from the new Memorandums of Understanding with the OECS and THSOA. See Element 1.1 in separate document "*Meso-American and Caribbean Hydrographic Commission report to IRCC8-2016 on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2015 Work Programme*" for further details.

MACHC benefits greatly from the IHO Capacity Building efforts, as coordinated by the CBSC. MACHC is very grateful to Japan and Korea for their generous contributions to IHO's Capacity Building efforts.

8. Conclusions

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. Risk Assessment methodologies could assist with the best use of the available resources for survey prioritization and chart adequacy assessments.

9. Achievements and lessons learned

Some of the MACHC achievements are:

- the renewed focus on MSDI, lead by the MEIP Working Group;

- the continued interest in the shared application of risk assessment methodologies;
- 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;
- a growing suite of ENCs that better position the needs of shipping in the region;
- an expanded suite of INT charts, most notably in the Pacific Ocean;
- steps towards increased use of Spanish, to increase participation of Latin American Coastal States.

10. Actions required from IRCC

- a. note the report, including the status of the relevant action items;
- b. discuss interregional solutions to mitigate the limited survey capacity;
- c. discuss the pragmatic use of additional working languages to increase participation of developing Coastal States.

11. Acknowledgements

FR, the CBC and the MICC are kindly acknowledged for their useful feedback.

Marc van der Donck, Captain RNLN
MACHC Chair

**8th Meeting of Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC8),
Abu Dhabi, UAE, 29 - 31 May 2016**

Paper for Consideration by IRCC8

Submitted by :	Japan
Executed Summary:	This paper invites a consideration by IRCC8 to request IBSC to discuss syllabus of Cat. A for Hydrographic Surveyors for the Cat. B holder.
Related Documents:	IHO Publication S-5, Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors
Related Project:	IBSC

Introduction

1. Syllabus of the Category A and B for Hydrographic Surveyors has been discussed and reviewed by FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC). The recommended syllabus by IBSC has been published as the IHO Publication S-5, Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors.
2. IBSC has been reviewing a proposed training program and scheme submitted by Hydrographic Offices, institutions and learned bodies to recognize it Category A or B. As of October 2015, there are 30 training programmes have been recognized in 26 countries as Category B for Hydrographic Surveyors and 21 training programmes for Category A in 16 countries.
3. Minimum duration of certifying programme for the IBSC Categories are presently requested as below;

Category B should be in the order of twenty four (24) weeks (without exemptions sought). In case exemptions are sought, this period can be reduced accordingly, but no less than sixteen (16) weeks.

Category A should be one (1) year: two full semesters plus field training.

Discussion

4. IBSC doesn't consider at present that Category B is as a pre-requisite for Category A. But, in cases where a Category A programme is preceded immediately prior by a Category B programme then time frames for the Category A programme may take into account the time devoted to the Category B programme.
5. In the present IBSC scheme, every applicant, even if he/she has the certification of Category B, should finish all curriculum of the Category A programme with other applicants who might not have any knowledge and skill on hydrographic survey. Normally, the Category B holder is a leading surveyor in each organization. Therefore it can be hard for applying organization to send him/her to the Category A programme for 1 year or longer, though there is a need to foster him/her as the Category A hydrographic surveyor.

Conclusion and Recommendation

6. In this context, it should be proposed to develop a Syllabus of Category A for Category B holder with shorter period than the present Category A programme possibly for twenty four weeks as its minimum duration.
7. Field work experience for more than two or three years could be requested to applicant for this proposed programme. Having this requirement for applicant, it would be expected another advantage that hydrographic surveyor who has completed this training programme would be one with the same practical ability as other surveyor who has completed a normal Category A

programme has.

Justification and Impacts

8. The 3rd East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC) Steering Committee Meeting, Solo, Central Java, Indonesia, 24-26 February reviewed and discussed the necessity to create syllabus of Cat. A for Hydrographic Surveyors for the Cat. B holder and agreed to submit this proposal to the next meeting of Inter-Regional Coordination Committee in Abu Dhabi, UAE, 29 - 31 May 2016.

Action required of IRCC8

9. The IRCC8 is invited to:
 - a. Note this paper,
 - b. Discuss a necessity to create syllabus of Cat. A for Hydrographic Surveyors for the Cat. B holder by IBSC and,
 - c. Agree to request IBSC of the discussion on this issue.
