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| **ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS (RHC)** | **2/1997 as amended** | **xx/201x** | **T1.3** |

MACHC SUGGESTIONS

I - Add the following text as paragraph 3 of GENERAL SECTION:

**The IHO has established an Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) with the aim to establish, coordinate and enhance cooperation in hydrographic activities amongst States on a regional basis, and between regions, especially on matters associated with Capacity Building: the World-Wide Navigational Warning System; General Bathymetry and Ocean Mapping, Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures, Education and Training and the implementation of the WEND suitable for the needs of international shipping,**

Comments: The inclusion of this paragraph intents to highlight that RHCs have an important relation with the IRCC, as well as the IRCC deals, on a global level, with the same subject matters as the RHC’s.

II – Alter paragraph 4 of ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS SECTION:

4 RHCs shall provide, in pursuance of the resolutions and recommendations of the IHO, regional coordination with regard to nautical information, **Marine Safety Information (MSI),** hydrographic surveys, production of nautical charts and documents, technical cooperation and capacity building (CB) projects and Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure projects, related to the work of the IHO. RHCs, led by IHO MSs, should enable the exchange of information and consultation among the hydrographic services of all regional coastal States concerned. Geographically adjacent RHCs should liaise with each other to coordinate the provision of hydrographic services. **~~Cooperation among all RHCs, including among those not adjacent, is encouraged and expected.~~ Participation in the IRCC is expected.**

Comments: inclusion of MSI as it is not necessarily the same as nautical information. The last sentence deals with between RHCs, even not adjacent, which is exactly the main aim of the IRCC (“Establish, coordinate and enhance cooperation on hydrographic activities cooperationin hydrographic activities amongst States on a regional basis, and between regions”). Therefore, RHCs, as main stakeholders, should participate in the IRCC meetings. Finally, “Expected” is a too strong word to be used in this context.

III – Alter paragraph 5 of ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS SECTION:

5 RHCs shall assess regularly the status of nautical information, navigational warnings, **MSI,** hydrographic surveying, nautical charting, hydrographic capacity and requirements within their region and provide reports to the work of the relevant IHO subordinated bodies and inputs to relevant IHO publications. **RHCs have a specific responsibility regarding elimination of overlapping ENC data in areas of demonstrable risk to the safety of navigation.**

Comments: inclusion of MSI as it is not necessarily the same as nautical information, as well as the responsibility delegated to the RHCs by Resolution 1/2018.

IV- Alter paragraph 6 of ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS SECTION:

6 As part of the IHO, RHCs shall be properly constituted, follow standard processes and have activities in line with the objectives of the IHO as described in Article II of the Convention on the IHO, **the Strategic Plan as agreed by the Assembly,** and to contribute to the approved IHO Work Programm. **RHCs shall also take into account the outcomes of the IRCC.**

Comments: The relation between IRCC and RHCs needs to be highlighted, as the IRCC WP actions and recommendations afftect the RHCs. The Strategic Plan is agreed by the Assembly and therefore also directs the activities of the RHCs.

IV- Alter paragraph 10 of MEMBERSHIP SECTION:

10 RHC membership may include full Members, and Aassociate Mmembers willing to contribute to the objectives **and the Strategic Plan** of the IHO in the fields of hydrography, nautical charting, nautical information or navigational warnings, marine spatial data infrastructure (MSDI) and related fields in the region concerned. The roles of full members, associated members and observers will be defined by each RHC, in line with the IHO Basic Documents. The invitation procedures for membership will be established by each RHC, following open approachs that are open, inclusive and supportive of a regional coordination role.

Comments: The Strategic Plan is agreed by the Assembly and therefore also directs the activities of the RHCs.