



INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION
MESO AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC
COMMISSION



MACHC-Letter 14/2019

November 15, 2019

All MACHC Member States and Observers

Subject/Reference: IHO Council Representation

Dear Colleagues,

The IHO Secretariat has informed Member States ([CL 52/2019 Rev1](#), attached) of the Distribution of Regionally-Based Seats for the IHO Council. The MACHC has been allocated two seats on the Council, with the following Member States eligible:

- Brazil
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Guatemala
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Venezuela

The selection of Council representatives from the MACHC will be an Agenda Item at the upcoming MACHC Conference in December. However, in order to expedite matters at the conference, I am asking those Member States who are eligible and wish to seek one of the MACHC assigned IHO Council Seats, to indicate their interest to the Chair no later than the end of the first day of the MACHC20, December 4 as indicated on the AgendaRev2. Interested Full Member States are welcome to express their interest in advance of this final deadline to the Chair.

Guyana, an Associate Member of MACHC at present, is now a Member of the IHO and will become a Full Member State of the MACHC upon signing the MACHC Statues. This is expected to be completed at the beginning of MACHC20. Thus, Guyana would then also be eligible for selection to the IHO Council and may wish to seek a seat as one of the two MACHC assigned IHO Council Seats.

The procedure of the selection of the MACHC Council representatives is described in the Statutes and will be conducted according to Annex 3 to the [Statutes of MACHC](#) (attached) using the voting forms as shown in Appendix 2.

Sincerely,

Kathryn L. Ries
Deputy Director, Office of Coast Survey, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Chair, MesoAmerican and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission

Attachments

- CL 52/2019

-MACHC Statutes-Annex 3/Council Seat Selection excerpt

Annex 3 to the Statutes of the MACHC

PROCEDURE FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MACHC REPRESENTATIVES TO THE IHO COUNCIL

Designation of MACHC representatives to the IHO Council shall be determined in compliance with IHO General Regulations Articles 2 and 16.

Role and Authority of Representatives to the MACHC in the Council

1. IHO Member States representing the MACHC, shall occupy their seat on the Council for all sessions of the Council throughout the inter-sessional period between Assemblies.
2. All expenses connected with the participation of representatives to the Council shall be defrayed by their respective State, in accordance with IHO General Regulation Article
3. In carrying out their role as a representative of the MACHC to the Council, the elected Member States shall take into account the views of the Member States of the Commission. A standing agenda item during the MACHC Conferences will cover IHO Council matters.

Selection Procedure (see also flowchart Appendix 1)

4. Three months before an ordinary session of the Assembly, the Secretary-General shall inform the Chair of the MACHC of:
 - a. the number of seats allocated to the MACHC, and
 - b. those Member States that are eligible for selection by the MACHC.
5. If the number of Member States eligible for selection to represent the MACHC to the Council is equal to the number of seats on the Council assigned to the MACHC by the Secretary-General under the terms of clause 4 above, then the aforementioned eligible Member States will be designated as representatives of the MACHC.
6. If the number of Member States eligible for selection to represent the MACHC to the Council is greater than the number of seats assigned to the MACHC by the IHO Secretary- General under the terms of clause 4 above, then the Chair of the MACHC will invite those Member States that have been designated as eligible for selection to the Council to indicate if they wish to be considered as candidates for selection.
 - a. If the number of candidate Member States is equal to the number of number of seats on the Council assigned to the MACHC, then these candidate(s) will be designated as representatives of the MACHC.
 - b. If the number of candidate Member States is smaller than the number of seats on the council assigned to the MACHC, the candidate(s), if any, will be automatically designated and will be complemented by the eligible Member State(s) that have not been representatives of the MACHC to the Council for the longest time. If this proves inconclusive, the Chair will designate eligible Members State(s) as representative of the MACHC.
 - c. If the number of candidate Member States is greater than the number of seats on the council assigned to the MACHC, the candidate(s) to represent the MACHC to the Council will be designated through a voting procedure.

Voting Procedure

7. The voting procedure will take place in the three months prior to the Assembly, preferably at a Conference of the MACHC otherwise by correspondence if no MACHC Conference is scheduled.

- a. Each Member State may submit one voting paper marking as many candidate Member States from the list as seats have been assigned to the MACHC (see example of voting paper in Appendix 2).
- b. The quorum for a valid voting procedure is set at 50% of Member States casting their vote. Representatives of the MACHC to the Council are then elected by simple majority. An incomplete or blank voting paper is a valid voting option and does not count against the quorum.
- c. If no quorum is achieved, the voting window is extended for two weeks and the chair invites the missing Member States to cast their vote. The existing votes stand.
- d. If still no quorum has been achieved, the chair designates the representatives of the MACHC to the Council based on the votes cast. In case of a draw the candidate that has not been a representative of the MACHC to the Council for the longest time is designated as representative of the MACHC. If this proves inconclusive the Chair will designate a candidate as representative of the MACHC.

Manning of the representatives

8. The Member States selected to represent the MACHC in the Council are normally represented by the head of the Hydrographic office. Each Member State shall inform the Chair of the MACHC and the Secretary-General of the IHO of the name of its official representative. An alternate may also be designated.

9. Member States representing the MACHC shall inform the Chair of the MACHC and the Secretary-General of any changes in representation, whether permanent or temporary, as soon as practicable.

Voting Procedure

10. The voting procedure will take place in the three months prior to the Assembly, preferably at a Conference of the MACHC otherwise by correspondence if no MACHC Conference is scheduled.

11. Member States representing the MACHC shall inform the Chair of the MACHC and the Secretary-General of any changes in representation, whether permanent or temporary, as soon as practicable.

Meso-American and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC)

Selection of Representative(s) to the

IHO Council

Example of Voting Paper

Part A

Number of Seats on Council allocated to the MACHC: *Chair inserts number in here*

(This is the number of boxes that may be marked below)

Part B

To vote for a candidate State put an 'X' in the adjacent box. The number of boxes that may be marked is shown in Part A above.

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Chair inserts candidate State A in here</i> | <i>Votes indicated with an X here</i> |
| <i>Chair inserts State B in here</i> | <i>Votes indicated with an X here</i> |
| <i>Chair inserts State C in here</i> | <i>Votes indicated with an X here</i> |
| <i>insert other States if appropriate</i> | <i>Votes indicated with an X here</i> |

Member State: Date:

Authorised By: Position:

(signature)

IHO File No. S1/6200

CIRCULAR LETTER 52/2019 Rev1
23 October 2019

NOTICE OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF REGIONALLY-BASED SEATS ON THE IHO COUNCIL

References:

- A. IHO CL No. 33/2019 dated 30 June - *Call for Member States to declare in which Regional Hydrographic Commission (RHC) they wish to be counted for the purpose of determining the number of seats allocated to each RHC in the IHO Council*
- B. General Regulations of the IHO - Article 16 – *Selection of Members of the Council*
- C. 1st Session of the Assembly – Decision 26 – *Endorsement of the Selection Process for the Council*
- D. Finance Regulations of the IHO - Article 6 (a)
- E. IHO ACL No. 08/2019 dated 20 July 2019 - *Preparation of the Table of Tonnages*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Reference A invited those Member States that are members of more than one Regional Hydrographic Commission (RHC) to declare their preference for which RHC they wished to be counted for the purpose of enabling the Secretary-General to allocate the number of seats on the Council assigned to each RHC and to determine the States that are eligible to occupy those seats in each RHC, in accordance with the processes and guidance described in References B and C.
2. The IHO Secretariat thanks the following Member States that are members of more than one RHC for responding to Reference A: Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America.
3. Where a Member State, who is a member of more than one RHC has expressed a preference, this has been taken into account. However, those Member States¹ who have not expressed a preference, the Secretary-General has followed the process in accordance with Reference A, paragraph 5 and Reference C, and has assigned them to the first RHC in which they became a Member State.

Distribution of and eligibility to occupy the regionally-based seats on the IHO
Council

¹ Indonesia, Pakistan and Thailand.

4. The table provided in Annex A shows the resultant distribution of the 20 seats on the Council allocated to the RHCs and those States that are eligible to be selected to occupy those seats.
5. Some RHCs have already selected the States that will occupy the seat(s) allocated to them. Where this is known by the Secretariat, it is shown in the table.
6. In accordance with sub-paragraph (b)(vi) of Reference B, the table in Annex A may be amended up to 3 months before the beginning of the 2nd Session of the Assembly if new States become members of the IHO before that date that is before 21 January 2020. However, it is unlikely that new accessions, if any, will require revising the number of seats allocated to each RHC.

Eligibility to occupy the remaining 10 Seats on the IHO Council that are based on hydrographic interest (tonnage)

7. In accordance with Reference D, the Secretariat will use the table of tonnages provided at Annex A to Reference E, subject to the addition of any new Member States, to determine the remaining 10 seats to be occupied on the Council. The Secretary- General will approach each State on the list which has not already been selected to occupy a seat by the RHCs, in turn and in order of highest tonnage, inviting the State to declare if it wishes to take up one of the 10 seats available based on hydrographic interest (tonnage). This process will continue until all 10 seats have been filled.
8. Noting that sub-paragraph (b)(vii) of Reference B sets the closing date for RHCs to declare the identity of the States that they have selected to occupy the first 20 seats on the Council that are allocated on a regional basis as *before the last day of the Assembly*, the allocation of the remaining 10 seats is dependent upon when the Secretary-General has a complete list of the States that will occupy the regionally based seats. For this reason, Chairs of RHCs are requested to provide the identity of the State(s) that will occupy the seat(s) allocated to their RHCs as soon as it is known. This will enable the allocation of the last 10 seats on the Council to be made earlier than on the penultimate day of the session of the Assembly, subject to the accession up to that date of any new Member State qualifying for one of the 10 seats according to its tonnage.
9. In accordance with Reference E, the table of tonnages that will be used to define the 10 remaining seats is annexed for your convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General

Annex

- A. Table showing the number of seats on the IHO Council distributed on a regional basis and the Member States eligible to occupy those seats.
- B. Table of tonnages in force since 01 January 2018 until 31 December 2020.

Table showing the number of seats on the IHO Council distributed on a regional basis and the Member States eligible to occupy those seats

| Regional Hydrographic Commission (RHC) | Member States (MS) eligible to occupy one of the 20 Council seat(s) allocated to the RHCs (MS that are Members of more than one RHC shown in bold) (MS whose rights are suspended shown in strike through) | Number of MS to be counted in the calculation of the number of seats on a proportional basis | Number of Council seats allocated to the RHC | MS selected by the RHC to occupy the Council seat(s) allocated to the RHC |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| MBSHC | Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France , Georgia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia , Slovenia, Spain , Syria , Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine. | 17 | 3 | |
| EAHC | Brunei Darussalam, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia , Japan, Korea (Rep of), Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand | 10 | 2 | |
| MACHC | Brazil , Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands , Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela. | 10 | 2 | |
| RSAHC | Bahrain, Iran (Islamic Rep. of), Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan , Qatar, Saudi Arabia , United Arab Emirates | 8 | 2 | |
| SWPHC | Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, USA , Vanuatu | 7 | 1 | |
| NIOHC | Bangladesh, Egypt , India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka | 5 | 1 | |
| SAIHC | Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, United Kingdom | 5 | 1 | |
| EAtHC | Cameroon, Morocco , Nigeria, Portugal | 4 | 1 | |
| NSHC | Belgium, Germany , Iceland , Ireland | 4 | 1 | |
| BSHC | Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Sweden | 4 | 1 | |
| SEPRHC | Chile, Colombia , Ecuador, Peru | 4 | 1 | |
| ARHC | Denmark , Norway , Russian Federation , | 3 | 1 | Russian Federation |
| SWAtHC | Argentina, Uruguay | 2 | 1 | Argentina |
| NHC | Finland | 1 | 1 | Finland |
| USCHC | Canada | 1 | 1 | Canada |
| Total | | 85 | 20 | |

| | Table of tonnages (based on table in force since 1 January 2018) | Tonnages |
|----|---|-----------------|
| 1 | CHINA | 97 570 000 |
| 2 | SINGAPORE | 86 352 300 |
| 3 | MALTA | 70 700 000 |
| 4 | UNITED KINGDOM | 48 102 992 |
| 5 | REPUBLIC OF KOREA | 44 384 155 |
| 6 | GREECE | 41 716 093 |
| 7 | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | 25 526 217 |
| 8 | CYPRUS | 22 868 153 |
| 9 | JAPAN | 22 647 157 |
| 10 | NORWAY | 18 330 480 |
| 11 | ITALY | 16 250 171 |
| 12 | DENMARK | 15 604 079 |
| 13 | INDONESIA | 12 944 000 |
| 14 | MALAYSIA | 12 143 950 |
| 15 | INDIA | 11 227 227 2 |