

THE BLACK AND AZOV SEAS WORKING GROUP

1. STATUS

This Working Group is constituted within the framework of the Mediterranean and the Black Seas Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC).

2. OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the WG shall be to consider the hydrographic, cartographic, navigational and maritime safety information needs (MSI) and requirements of the States in the region and coordinate the appropriate actions.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The WG shall specifically examine the following issues:

- a. Status and needs of hydrographic surveying
- b. Status and needs for the production of paper and electronic navigational charts (ENCs)
- c. Status and needs for the promulgation of MSI
- d. Status of aids to navigation
- e. Capacity building and training needs and requirements
- f. Cooperation arrangements of the States in the region
- g. Coordination of needed actions to implement the above

4. RULES OF PROCEDURE

- a. Members of the WG shall be;
 - (1) The countries bordering the Black and Azov Seas who are members of the IHO
 - (2) The countries bordering the Black and Azov Seas who are not members of the IHO, but who wish to cooperate in the work of the WG
- b. Other Member States of the IHO outside the region may become associate members, if they contribute in the topics of interest to the work of the WG
- c. Associate members shall have the same rights and obligations as the members of the working groups, except the right to vote
- d. Representatives from other international organizations (IMO, IALA, IMSO, IOC etc.) and/or any other experts contributing to the work of the WG may be invited to participate in the meetings with the agreement of the members
- e. Chairman of the WG will be elected among the IHO members of the WG for a period of two years. He may stand for re-election
- f. The representative of the country hosting the meeting will act as Vice Chairman
- g. A representative of the IHO Directing Committee shall participate in the meetings of the WG
- h. The Chairman of the MBSHC, the NAVAREA-III Coordinator and the MEDINTCHART Coordinator will also be invited to participate
- i. The WG will meet the year after the meetings of the MBSHC, between the meetings of the MBSHC or as it may be deemed appropriate by the WG,
- j. Decisions shall be taken by unanimity of the members
- k. The letter of invitation of the meetings, a draft agenda and any required documents will be dispatched by the Chairman three months before the meeting
- l. The minutes of the meetings, decisions and activities of the WG will be sent to the Chairman of the MBSHC, NAVAREA-III Coordinator, MEDINTCHART Coordinator and the IHB in order to be considered as appropriate.