

**Mediterranean and Black Sea Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC)**

**18th Conference – Istanbul, Turkey**

**25-27 September 2013**

**IHB Report**

**Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention**

1. Amendments to the Convention on the IHO were approved by the 3rd Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference in May 2005. By September 2013, 39 of the required 48 approvals to the been Protocol of Amendments had received by the Government of Monaco. The following IHO Member State of the MBSHC has not yet indicated its positive support for the Protocol of Amendments:

<b>No response as yet from:</b>
Algeria
Croatia
Egypt
Romania
Russian Federation
Serbia
Syria
Turkey
Ukraine

2. The amendments to the Convention will enter force three months after the necessary majority of approvals is received by the Government of Monaco. This means that if the remaining nine approvals are received by the Government of Monaco before 6 July 2014, then the first Assembly of the IHO could be held in October 2014 instead of the Extraordinary Hydrographic Conference.

3. Since the last meeting, the required majority of IHO Member States has approved the membership of Montenegro and Haiti. Haiti and Montenegro together with Bulgaria, Mauritania and Sierra Leone have yet to deposit their instruments of accession with the government of Monaco, to formally become Member States of the IHO.

**Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO 5th**

4. Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam, and Georgia have applied for membership of the IHO. By September 2013, the status of approvals was as follows:

<b>State</b>	<b>Voting Status</b>
Viet Nam	39 of 52 required
Brunei Darussalam	32 of 52 required
Georgia	33 of 54 required

5. The following IHO Member States of the MBSHC have not yet indicated positive support:

<b>State Applying for Membership</b>	<b>No response as yet from:</b>
Viet Nam	Algeria Cyprus Egypt Greece Italy Morocco Serbia Slovenia Spain Syria Ukraine
Brunei Darussalam	Algeria Egypt Greece Italy Monaco Romania Serbia Slovenia Spain Syria Tunisia Ukraine
Georgia	Algeria Egypt Italy Monaco Morocco

<b>State Applying for Membership</b>	<b>No response as yet from:</b>
	Russian Federation Serbia Slovenia Spain Syria Tunisia

6. The Directing Committee, in cooperation with the Department of External Relations of the Government of Monaco, stands ready to assist, through diplomatic or other channels, any States' representatives that may be encountering difficulties in progressing the outstanding approvals through their respective governments.

#### **Regional Applications for Membership of the IHO**

7. The Directing Committee, in cooperation with the Department of External Relations of the Government of Monaco, stands ready to assist, through diplomatic or other channels, for membership of the IHO of non-member States in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region.

#### **INT Chart and ENC Production Coordination - Region F**

8. France, as INT coordinator for Region F, has continued to provide regular updates to S-11 Region E. Member States are encouraged to continue to provide updates to S-11, through France as coordinator for INT Region E.

#### **IHO GIS Data Base**

9. Work has continued on the development of the IHO GIS data base. The GIS database will have two main parts: a country database and a regional database. The country database will contain all relevant information about the coastal States in the world - similar to the information contained in the IHO Year Book. The regional database will contain geospatial information about the coverage and location of charts, surveys and related information. It is expected that there will be an upload capability that will allow States to keep the relevant information up to date. The regional data base is expected to provide the principal resource for managing international chart coordination, ENC coverage, as well as the identification of survey or charting "hotspots". The countries data base and a beta version of the regional database for Antarctica are now under evaluation.

## **IHO Publicity**

10. World Hydrography Day. The proposed theme for World hydrography Day (WHD) 2013 is "Hydrography - supporting the blue economy". The purpose of this theme is to provide Member States with the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance and the benefits of hydrography, particularly in economic terms that will appeal both the public and to politicians. The IHB has provided some supporting material on the IHO website regarding the theme for WHD.

11. International Hydrographic Review. The IHR provides an ideal opportunity for Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in the region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. There is no any representative from the MBSHC for International Hydrographic Review editorial board. MBSHC is kindly invited to designate a representative for IHR editorial board.

12. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the editor (ihreview@iho.int) and (ian.halls1@defence.au.gov).

## **Capacity Building Programme**

13. Funding for the IHO Capacity Building (CB) programme over the next five years is forecast to be somewhat lower than in the last five years. In these circumstances, the IHO and the RHCs will need to explore alternative mechanisms to meet CB requirements. It is suggested that the MBSHC members review their involvement in the provision of CB support.

## **Sustainability of IHO Work Programme**

14. The IHB notes increasing difficulties in progressing some important tasks of the IHO Work Programme due to insufficient participation in the relevant IHO subordinate bodies. The IHB monitors the situation in connection with Decision 6 of the XVIIIth IHC about ensuring the appropriate technical capacity within the IHB and will report to Member States as appropriate.

15. The IHB has initiated, in liaison with the Chairs of IHO Committees and subordinate bodies, the establishment of a three-year rolling schedule of meetings (CL 96/2012 dated 15 November refers). The objective is to facilitate resource planning, encourage the diversification of venues, and decongest the late spring and late autumn periods. In that perspective the IHB would welcome the views of MBSHC on identifying and harmonizing potential offers of venues within the Commission.

## **Action Requested of MBSHC Member States**

16. MBSHC Member States are invited to:

- **Note** this report,
- **Report** in-country progress on approving the Amendments to the IHO Convention and approving New Member States, including any difficulties being encountered or IHB assistance required;
- **Continue to provide** updates to S-11, through France as coordinator for INT Region F;

- **Designate** a representative for IHR editorial board
- **Take any other actions** as considered appropriate.