

Mediterranean and Black Sea Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC)

19th Conference – Batumi, Georgia

30 June-02 July 2015

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 June 2015, 42 of the required 48 approvals to the Protocol of Amendments had been received by the Government of Monaco. The following IHO Member States of the MBSHC have not yet indicated positive support for the Protocol of Amendments: Algeria (expected soon), Croatia, Egypt, 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. If the required number of approvals is received in the next two years, then the first Assembly of the IHO will be held in April 2017.
3. 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, those States' representatives that may be encountering difficulties in progressing the outstanding approvals of the Amendments to the Convention.

Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO

4. Georgia, Viet Nam and Brunei Darussalam became the 83rd, 84th and 85th Member States of the IHO in March 2015.
5. Bulgaria, Haiti, Mauritania and Sierra Leone have all received the required number of votes to be accepted as a Member State of the IHO. However, the Government of Monaco has yet to receive the required instruments of accession from these countries which will formalize their membership.
6. Malta, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands have recently applied for membership of the IHO and the approval process of the Member States has been started.

Suspended Member States

7. Serbia, Congo and the Dominican Republic remain suspended. The Directing Committee is taking every opportunity to work with these States to expedite their return to full membership as soon as possible. The Directing Committee is also monitoring the situation for some other Member States that have fallen behind on payments of their annual subscription.

8. With 82 Member States having the right to vote, the current thresholds for IHO decisions are 42 when a simple majority is required and 55 when a two-thirds majority is needed. The Directing Committee reminds Member States that not responding to a Circular Letter which requires a vote is equivalent to voting No.

Regional Applications for Membership of the IHO

9. The non-IHO Member States of the MBSHC region (Lebanon, Israel, Libya and Albania) need to be encouraged to become IHO member.

10. 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 those states' application for membership of the IHO through their respective governments. 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.

11. The Directing Committee, in consultation with individual Member State representatives, also briefs relevant diplomatic missions in order to raise the profile of the respective national hydrographic service and the importance of hydrography.

INT Chart and ENC Production Coordination - Region F

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

IHO GIS Data Base

13. Work has continued on the development of the IHO GIS which is composed of two main parts: a country information database and a regional information database.

14. The country information database has been progressively upgraded to include additional administrative information and facilitate the maintenance of the Yearbook (IHO Publication P-5) and related lists posted on the IHO website.

15. An Esri-based GIS solution is being implemented to develop further the regional information database. This will enable access to various layers of information through the IHO website and through various sophisticated cloud-based on-line GIS options. The IHO ENC Catalogue has been transferred in this new environment and the transfer of the GIS coverage for Antarctica will follow soon.

16. Work has continued on developing a GIS database application to support C-55 (*Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide*) and the work of the IHO. In addition to the current composite indicators (percentage of areas adequately surveyed / requiring re-survey / not surveyed), the inclusion of CATZOC polygons would provide an initial geo-referenced quality layer as discussed at IRCC-4. In that perspective, the RENCs are invited to seek the consent of their members to provide CATZOC information to the IHB for inclusion in C-55.

IHO Outreach

17. World Hydrography Day. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2015 is “*Our seas and waterways - yet to be fully charted and explored*” (CL 03/2015 dated 08 January refers). The purpose of this theme is to provide Member States with the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of hydrography, particularly in promoting and encouraging innovative supplementary data gathering initiatives, including crowd-sourcing and satellite derived bathymetry, to address the current shortfall in the availability of useful bathymetric data.

18. The celebration of WHD-2015 in Monaco will be enhanced both by a visit by the Japan Coast Guard Training Ship “*Kojima*” facilitated by the Japan Hydrographic Oceanographic Department (JHOD) and by hosting the 1st meeting of the Nautical Information Provision Working Group (NIPWG) at the IHB during the week. Additionally, it is scheduled to arrange a supplementary WHD-2015 event during the 19th Mediterranean and Black Sea Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC-19) which will be held from 30 June to 2 July in Batumi, Georgia in order to raise the profile of hydrography and highlight IHO activities.

19. The IHB has provided supporting material for WHD-2015 on the IHO website (CL 28/2015 dated 23 March refers). Member States are invited to forward as soon as possible to the IHB any material that is created in support of national WHD-2015 celebrations for posting on the IHO website. This will enable the widest possible dissemination of publicity and support material.

20. IHO Stakeholders’ Forum. The agenda of HSSC-7 has included a half-day session for Stakeholders’ input and discussion on the afternoon of Thursday, 12 November 2015 (CL 37/2015 dated 01 June refers). The programme of the session will be based on presentations proposed by IHO Stakeholders. IHO Stakeholders attending the Forum will be welcomed to participate as observers throughout the HSSC meeting. Logistics information and a form for submitting abstracts for consideration are available on the IHO web site at www.iho.int > External Liaisons > External Stakeholders > Section on IHO Stakeholder Meetings > Next Meeting.

21. International Hydrographic Review (IHR). The IHR provides an ideal opportunity for Regional Hydrographic Commissions and Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in the region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the editor (ihreview@iho.int, copy to ian.halls1@defence.au.gov). The mandate of the current editor, Mr Ian Halls (Australia), was renewed until the end of 2016 (CL 84/2014 dated 23 December refers).

5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC-5)

22. The 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference was held in the Rainier III Auditorium in Monaco, from 6 to 10 October 2014. It was attended by just under 300 representatives from 65 of the then 82 Member States of the IHO, 2 pending Member States and 10 non-Member States. In addition, 30 representatives from observer international, regional or national organizations, including CIRM, FIG, IAATO, IALA, IAG and PAIGH, took part in the discussions. A Hydrographic Industry Exhibition, organized in parallel to the

Conference, brought together almost 30 companies and organizations. An IHO Capacity Building Poster Exhibition presented an overview of Capacity Building activities and training programmes funded by the Nippon Foundation over the last 10 years.

23. The Conference examined seven proposals and three reports tabled either by Member States or the Directing Committee. The Vice-Chair of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC), Mr. Mike PRINCE, and the Chair of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC), Rear Admiral Tom KARSTEN, presented interim reports on the activities of their Committees. A special “information session” was held over two consecutive half-days when invited stakeholders presented their views on a number of topical issues of relevance to the IHO, followed by a question and answer period. The Conference agreed 18 decisions including the approval of the IHO Finance Report for 2013 and the proposed Work Programme and Budget for 2015.

Capacity Building Programme

24. The IHO capacity building programme reached a new level of achievement in 2014 with double the funds available for 2014 compared to 2013. This was a result of the ongoing financial support provided by the Nippon Foundation of Japan and the Republic of Korea, supplemented by a contribution from the IHO budget and in-kind support from Member States and from industry. The Directing Committee is continuing its campaign to find additional donor States and funding organizations. 11 technical visits and 31 different training activities were planned last year with a rate of execution of over 80%. The remainder of the planned activities were unavoidably cancelled or postponed due to difficulties arising in host countries and no suitable alternative arrangements being possible in time.

Action Requested of MBSHC

25. MBSHC is invited to:

- **Note** this report;
- **Report** in-country progress on voting the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention, including any difficulties being encountered or IHB assistance required;
- **Continue to provide** updates to S-11, through France as coordinator for INT Region F;
- **Provide** updates to C-55 as appropriate; and
- **Take any other actions** as considered appropriate.