

Mediterranean and Black Sea Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC)

19th Meeting – Batumi, Georgia

30 June - 2 July 2015

Report of MBSHC for the EU-IHO relations

Submitted by:	GR
Related Documents:	a. CL 64/2013 dated 11 November 2013- Outcome of the IRCC5 b. Report of IRCC5, Annex-C, List of Action, IRCC5/30 c. MBSHC-18 Minutes
Related Projects:	a. The European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) (http://www.emodnet.eu/) b. Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database (BSBD) (http://www.bshc.pro/)
Enclosure:	Draft (IENWG) submission paper: HOs' way on EMODnet

Introduction

1. On the 23rd of April 2012, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IHO and the European Commission (EC) was signed by Admiral Maratos and Maria Damanaki, on the occasion of the 18th IHC, providing the framework for a continuing liaison between the two sides in the specific areas of common interest including surveillance activities, offshore renewable energy, maritime spatial planning, integrated coastal zone management, marine observation and data networks, implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, marine research, data standards (including those specified by INSPIRE Directive 2007/2/EC) and co-operation with third countries.

Background

2. The impact of the MoU between the IHO and the EC was discussed in 2012 at the 30th meeting of the North Sea Hydrographic Commission (NSHC). The EU Marine and Maritime Policies Working Group (EUM2WG), established at the 27th NSHC meeting (2006) with France as chair, was tasked to pursue the development of the IHO-EU relationship. The intention was also to increase participation of other affected RHCs. In April 2013, the 57th meeting of Nordic Hydrographic Commission (NHC) recognised the need to extend the circle beyond the NSHC countries to also include other IHO Member States within the EU/EEA and invited the IRCC to consider creating a subordinate body to liaise with the EC. At its 5th meeting (Jun 2013), the IRCC decided to create the dedicated IHO-EU Network Working Group (IENWG), subsidiary of the IRCC, to deal with EU/EC matters and manage the IHO/EC MoU. During the NSHC-31 meeting on 25 Jun 2014, it was decided that the EU2MPWG should be disbanded and its duties transferred to the IHO-EU network WG at its first meeting in Sep 2014.

3. The IHO-EU Network WG is chaired by FR (May 15) and composed of a representative from ARHC (Denmark), BSHC (Sweden), EAtHC (France), MBSHC (Greece), NHC (Norway), NIOHC (United Kingdom), NSHC (Germany), SAIHC (France), SWPHC, MACHC (France) and IHB representatives. GR was designated as the focal point of the MBSHC for the EU-IHO relations following MBSHC-18 Decision 2.

Analysis

4. The main objectives of the IENWG are to:

- a. Identify EU activities and processes on matters of interest to HOs.
- b. Establish a common understanding of the issues when possible.
- c. Consider and propose the ways and channels to interface with EU policies, activities and processes (mechanisms) through RHCs initiatives, through the IRCC or through the IHO in general.
- d. Facilitate common actions of HOs related to EU programmes.
- e. Liaise with relevant HSSC WGs for technical matters (e.g. standardization).
- f. Advise IRCC on the impact of EU policies, activities and processes in the maritime domain on the IHO programme of work.

5. Since the 18th MBSHC meeting (and following 3 intermediate IHO-EC meetings) 2 meetings of the IENWG have been held:

1st IENWG meeting - Saint-Mandé, France (2 Sep 14)

2nd IENWG meeting - Saint-Mandé, France (28-29 Jan 15)

A 3rd meeting is scheduled for 9-10 Jun 15 in Saint-Mandé, France.

6. During the past WG meetings, activities have mainly concerned the following themes:

a. "Coastal Mapping":

The WG have been working for several months on the need of a study for a joint European coastal mapping programme and presented it to the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) of the European Commission. In August 2014, the DG MARE launched the "Coastal Mapping" call for tender (MARE/2014/10), to deliver a prototype digital map of Europe's coastal zone (the land/sea boundary) as well as a design study for a future joint European coastal mapping programme, for 1.33 M€ on a 36 months period. The WG agreed to organize a response conducted by European HOs, creating a consortium between 19 HOs, institutes and a private company and submitting a proposal in due time. The acceptance of this bid is pending.

b. EMODnet:

The European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) is a long term marine data initiative from the DG MARE underpinning its Marine Knowledge 2020 strategy. The main purpose of EMODnet is to unlock fragmented and hidden marine data resources and to make these available to individuals and organisations (public and private), and to facilitate investment in sustainable coastal and offshore activities through improved access to quality-assured, standardised and harmonised marine data which are interoperable and free of restrictions on use. Currently EMODnet is in the 2nd phase of development with seven sub-portals in operation that provide access to marine data from the following themes: bathymetry, geology, physics, chemistry, biology, seabed habitats and human activities. Several European HOs are already

involved in this 2nd phase. The call for the third phase should be launched by the end of 2015. Activity of the WG about EMODnet has focused on the role HOs should take on this phase and about bathymetry specifications to propose to DG MARE. Another issue under discussion is the maximum resolution of the digital terrain / bathymetric model that HOs would accept to deliver in the frame of EMODnet. Furthermore, the example of the Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database, which enabled BSHC to deliver a regional digital terrain model to EMODNet2, has been submitted to RHCs concerned by EMODnet to discuss the interest and possibility of adopting a similar concept in their region.

c. Maritime spatial planning

The European Parliament has issued the 2014/89/EU Directive on the establishment of a framework for maritime spatial planning. IENWG discussed about the national implementation of the Directive and the involvement of HOs, considering the volume of data they manage.

d. Miscellaneous

The WG conducts actions to improve cooperation with the European Commission, by promoting amongst its entities and with decision makers the role of the HOs in development of EU maritime policies. It also began to consider how the EU Directive on Marine Equipment could foster the requirement that software-based equipment such as ECDIS be updated to the latest version of the relevant standards. The WG follows the blue growth programme "Horizon 2020", for which it could propose inputs on several items in order to induce the European commission to issue calls for proposals.

7. The IENWG Work Programme is presented in annex.

Recommendations

8. MBSHC members are invited to:

a. Clarify their way / position on the next phase of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet III) (by Aug 2015).

b. Fill and submit to the MBSHC focal point (GR) the questionnaire within the enclosed paper and express their position on the issue of 'the highest acceptable DTM resolution to be delivered in the frame of EMODnet', for those HOs following EMODnet (by Jul 2015).

Action required of MBSHC

9. The MBSHC is invited to:

a. Take note of this report.

b. Coordinate the members' response on the *recommendations*.

CONSOLIDATED IHO-EU network WG Work Programme (Update: 27 May 2015)

Tasks :

A	To monitor the outcome of the EC call for tender “Coastal mapping”
B	To prepare the position of European HOs about the future phase of EMODnet, the long term marine data initiative from the European Commission
C	To improve cooperation with the European Commission, by promoting amongst its entities and with decision makers the role of the hydrographic offices in development of EU maritime policies
D	To monitor European directives, calls for tenders and proposals, projects, events, etc, potentially impacting HOs and to define actions to be conducted in accordance

Work Items :

Work item	Title	Priority H-high M-medium L-low	Start Date	End Date	Status P-planned O-ongoing C-completed S-Superseded	Contact Person(s)	Remarks
A.1	To tender, as a consortium including several EU HOs, to the call “Coastal mapping”	H	Aug 2014	Nov 2014	C		
A.2	To monitor the decision of DG Mare about “Coastal mapping”	M	Dec 2014		O	Chair	
A.3	If awarded to the consortium, to monitor the progress of the study “Coastal mapping”	M	June 2015?	June 2018?	P	Project leader at SHOM	Subject to the success of the tender
B.1	To encourage the chairs of RHCs to consider implementing the model of the Baltic Sea bathymetric database in their region	H	Feb 2015		O		Letter sent to RHC chairs in February 2015. Actions initiated by NSHC and EAtHC in March 2015
B.2	To determine the position of HOs about next phase of EMODnet	H	Jan 2015	Aug 2015	O	All members of the WG	A roadmap to be proposed by France before end of April 2015. Position should be defined before the next call for tender expected in autumn 2015.

Work item	Title	Priority H-high M-medium L-low	Start Date	End Date	Status P-planned O-ongoing C-completed S-Superseded	Contact Person(s)	Remarks
C.1	To investigate a participation to the European Maritime Day 2015 to promote the role of the hydrographic offices in the development of EU maritime policies	M	Jan 2015	Feb 2015	S		The IENWG has been invited by EMODnet Secretariat to speak at the workshop "Marine data and information powering blue growth". France will do it.
C.2	To investigate possibilities to establish contact between the IHO-EU Network and the EU parliament Inter-Group on "seas, rivers, islands and coastal areas".	M	Feb 2015	June 2015	O	Chair	Waiting for several proposals, as the last week of May, proposed during the WG meeting of January does not fit with the diary of the president of the intergroup
D.1	To establish a process to monitor DG Mare communication in order to detect calls for tenders, calls for proposals, projects and events which could be of interest to the IENWG	M		April 2015	P	France	To be extended to other EC entities in a second phase
D.2	To consider how the EU Directive on Marine Equipment could foster the requirement that software-based equipment such as ECDIS be updated to the latest version of the relevant standards	M		Summer 2015	P	IHB	IHB to draft a background paper for further consideration of the IENWG