

19th Meeting of Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC) Batumi / Georgia 30 June-02 July 2015

Final Summary Report

DAY 1 : Tuesday, 30 June 2015

1. Opening and Administrative Arrangements

1.1 Opening Address (Chairman, IHB Director, Host)

The MBSHC Chair, M. Erhan Gezgin first addressed the floor, welcoming the participants of that 19th Conference of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Hydrographic Conference (MBSHC) and acknowledging Georgia for hosting this event, followed by a representative of the Ministry of sustainable development of Georgia and M. Aleksandre Dolbaia, Head of State Hydrographic Service of Georgia. Then M. Mustafa Iptes, IHB Director closed this opening address session with his speech, also thanking Georgia as host of that Conference.

The Host officially declared the 19th Conference of the MBSHC opened.

1.2 Administrative Arrangements

Docs: [MBSHC19-1.2A](#) *List of Documents (Chair)*
[MBSHC19-1.2B](#) *List of Participants (Chair)*

The MBSHC Chair indicated that the quorum is not yet reached on this first day of Conference, due to the absence of some expected Member State delegations. Therefore, decisions made by the Commission on this first day will be pending until the quorum is reached¹.

GE announced the cancelation of the visit initially scheduled strait after the Day#1 session. Instead, delegates will be transported to the theatre for the Group Photo after the Conference session.

1.3 Designation of the Vice Chair

According to the MBSHC Statutes, Georgia, as host country, was designated as Vice-Chair of this 19th MBSHC Conference.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Docs: [MBSHC19-2](#) *Agenda and Timetable (Chair)*

The Chair indicated the availability of a 4th version of the agenda-timetable. FR asked if item 6.5.3 regarding Cartographic Boundary (submitted by GR) could be moved up in the agenda, strait after WEND activities. The floor agreed with this proposal.

3. MBSHC Administration

3.1 Matters Arising from Minutes of 18th MBSHC Meeting

Docs: [MBSHC19-3.1A](#) *Chairman's report (Chair)*
[MBSHC19-3.1B](#) *Minutes of MBSHC18 (Chair)*
[MBSHC19-3.1C](#) *Status of the action list from the 18th MBSHC Meeting (Chair)*

¹ The chorum was reached from Day#2, with the presence of both Monaco and Tunisia delegations.

<p>3.2 Activities of MBSHC</p> <p>3.2.1 Estimated Values of SPIs and WPIs (<i>IHB/Chair</i>) <i>Docs: MBSHC19-3.2.1 Estimated Values of SPIs and WPIs (<i>IHB/Chair</i>)</i></p>			
Action MBSHC19/01	Chair to circulate the spreadsheet for target and estimated values of SPIs and WPIs for MBSHC in order to provide IRCC Chair with this information.	Chair	End of August 2015
<p>3.2.2 Black and Azov Seas Working Group - BASWG (Chair) <i>Docs: MBSHC19-3.2.2 Report of BASWG (presentation)</i></p> <p><i>It's been confirmed that the BASWG13 meeting will be held in April 2016, and the venue will be confirmed by October 2015 (@MBSHC19/02). Turkey re-elected as BASWG Chair for 2 more years.</i></p>			
Action MBSHC19/02	Romania (alternatively Turkey) to confirm BASWG Chair about hosting the BASWG13 meeting on the 26 th and 27 th of April 2016.	RO (TR)	End of September 2015
<p>3.3 Outcome of EIHC5 affecting MBSHC <i>Docs: MBSHC19-3.3 Outcome of EIHC5 affecting MBSHC (<i>IHB/Chair</i>)</i></p> <p>The collection and examination of INT charts topic was discussed at the Region F ICCWG side-meeting on the one hand and while addressing the IRCC7 outcome (item 6.1) on the other hand. Regarding the establishment of the Crowded Sourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG), the Terms of References were issued by Circular letter 42/2015 dated June 18th 2015. CSBWG inaugural meeting will take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during the week of GEBCO meetings from 5 to 9 October 2015.</p>			
<p>3.4 Review of MBSHC Statutes <i>Docs: MBSHC19-3.4A Proposal for revising the Rules of Procedures for MBSHC selection to the Council (<i>Chair</i>)</i> <i>MBSHC19-3.4 (EN/FR)² Rules of Procedures for MBSHC selection to Council (<i>Chair</i>)</i></p> <p>Regarding the amendments on article 6 of the rules, the question of the true meaning of the phrase ‘will cast a deciding vote’ was raised by IHB as its translation into French of the expression ‘will cast a deciding vote’ could lead to some confusion. UK precised the true meaning of that expression in English, being that the MBSHC Chair vote will be the deciding vote.</p> <p>On the other hand, the two thirds quorum condition of MBSHC Member States to cast a vote was maintained in the final version, for consistency with the quorum condition in the MBSHC Statutes pointed out by FR.</p>			
Decision MBSHC19/05³	MBSHC approved the revised rules of procedure for selection MSs to IHO council.		

² According to action MBSHC19/13a, Final versions of the rules approved at MBSHC19 available online.

³ As the quorum of MBSHC19 was not yet reached when that topic was addressed on the first day, the revised rules of procedure were finally approved on the last day of the Conference.

<p>Action MBSHC19/13</p>	<p>Chair a) to include into the summary report the MBSHC revised Statutes, including the rules of procedure for the selection of Member States to the IHO council b) and inform the IRCC Chair.</p>	<p>Chair</p>	<p>a) 20th of July 2015 b) End of August 2015</p>
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4. IHO Work Programme 1– “Corporate affairs”

4.1 Cooperation with International Organizations

Docs: [MBSHC19-4.1 \(presentation\)](#) *Report of IHB (IHB)*

IHB reported that DZ, AR and IN provided the Government of Monaco with their approval to the Protocol of Amendments to the Convention on the IHO, raising the total amount of approval up to 45 out of the 48 requested. In the MBSHC region, no responses from HR, EG, SY, TR and UA have been received yet.

Regarding new application for IHO Membership, LB announced their decision to apply, indicating the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in charge of conducting the process. IHB will conduct a high level visit to Lebanon in that perspective.

4.2 Cooperation with European Union - EU

Docs: [MBSHC19-4.2A \(presentation\)](#) *Report of MBSHC for the EU-IHO relations (Greece)*

[MBSHC19-4.2B](#) *Hydrographic Offices way on EMODnet (Greece)*

[MBSHC19-4.2C](#) *Proposal for consideration for implementing a common (DTM) Bathymetric Database under the auspices of MBSHC (Greece).*

IHB congratulated the IENWG on the outcome of the EU call for tender on coastal mapping and more generally for the work achieved, beneficial for all the maritime community.

Concerning the proposal on a common DTM, TR raised the question of its resolution and its licence (open or commercial). According to FR, a common DTM has to be significantly funded by the European Community, even though it involves more coastal States than the European countries in the Mediterranean region. IHB added that if it is not done by HOs themselves, others will do it.

IHB indicated that data accessibility was raised at the last IRCC7 Conference, and the decision to include relevant national legislations aspects in IHO C-16 and C-17 publications as a step forward.

FR clarified the differences between national legislations and European directives, pointing out that the matter of national security may prevail in some cases.

TR suggested issuing an action for the next MBSHC Chair to disseminate a circular letter to the Member States asking for their views and positions on that topic.

<p>Action MBSHC19/03</p>	<p>Chair to circulate a letter asking the positions of the MBSHC States for the recommendations in paper MBSHC19-4.2A.</p>	<p>Chair</p>	<p>End of July 2015 (Exact Deadline indicated in MBSHC19-4.2A)</p>
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<p>Action MBSHC19/04</p>	<p>Chair to circulate a letter asking MBSHC States for their position on establishing BDB for MBSHC.</p>	<p>Chair</p>	<p>20th of July 2015</p>
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4.3 Cooperation with International Maritime Organization-IMO (IHB)

Docs: [MBSHC19-4.3](#) *Cooperation with IMO (IHB)*

IHB gave a complete overview of the scope of cooperation between IHO and IMO, reminding the IMO mandatory audit schedule for 2016 and the yearly report on the ENC coverage made by IHO.

4.4 Cooperation with Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission -IOC

Docs: [MBSHC19-4.4](#) Cooperation with IOC (IOC/IHB)

TR gave a presentation on the Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System covering the region (NEAMTWS), and the forthcoming Tsunami Alert Centre in Italy after those built by FR, TR and GR. IHB emphasized on the outcome of the 28th Session of the IOC Assembly that was held in Paris (18-24th June), more particularly the improvement of the GEBCO project governance.

4.5 Information Management (IHO Website, WMS, ENC Catalogue etc.) (IHB)

Docs: [MBSHC19-4.5A](#) Region F Coordinator tools
[MBSHC19-4.5B](#) IHO Info Management

As an introduction, a first focus was made by the Region F ICC Co-ordinator on the tools used to monitor and assess the Regional NT chart scheme and the overlaps and gaps of the ENC coverage. Then IHB gave an overview on the development of the forthcoming IHO management tools, such as the IHO GIS and the INTOGIS project. IHB indicated the transfer of the S-11 publication part B into the IHO GIS on January 1st 2016, which will encompass either ‘produced’ or ‘schemed’ charts. In a further step of that project, the ENC catalogue and main maritime routes will also be integrated to the GIS database. FR asked IHB if they intent to gather information from the different sources mentioned in the Region F ICC Coordinator’s presentation ([MBSHC19-4.5A](#)). IHB confirmed their intention is to do so, as decided at the IRCC7 Conference.

Industry Presentations

Presentation by CARIS (S-100 based products)
 Presentation by EOMAP (Satellite Derived Bathymetry in Shallow Waters)

MBSHC19/12	Chair to invite the industry to MBSHC20.	Chair	MBSHC20
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End of Day#1 Session

Region F International Chart Coordination Working Group (ICCWG) Side Meeting

Doc: MBSHC19-2 Region F ICCWG side-meeting [agenda](#).

As this meeting was not sufficient to go through all the topics of the agenda, the ICCWG decided to hold another side-meeting straight after the Day#2 session.
During this side-meeting, discussions focused on proposals related to the regional INT chart scheme. GR presented their cartographic boundary approach as a potential technical way forward to co-production agreement between GR and TR in the Aegean Sea. The ICCWG welcomed the efforts made by GR to provide the ICCWG with this new approach, and suggested to take the technical discussions on to a bilateral level by setting up a first bilateral meeting by the end of 2015 (action MBSHC19/16).
ICCWG Members agreed on the dissemination of all the decisions made by the Region F ICCWG through a dedicated circular letter to the ICCWG Members (action MBSHC19/17), according the Region F ICCWG Terms of Reference.
The main outcomes of those discussions are stated in the Region F ICCWG report on INT chart that was presented on Day#3 (item 6.4).

DAY 2 : Wednesday, 01 July 2015

5. IHO Work Programme 2– “Hydrographic Services and Standards”

5.1 Technical Programme Coordination (HSSC)
 Docs: [MBSHC19-5.1](#) Report of HSSC (IHB)

5.2 Development on Technical Standards (IHB)

Docs: MBSHC19-5.2 *Technical Programme Coordination & Development on Technical Standards (IHB).*

6. IHO Work Programme 3– “Inter-Regional Coordination and Support”

6.1 Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC)

Docs: [MBSHC19-6.1A](#) *Report of IRCC (Chair/IHB)*
[MBSHC19-6.1B](#) *Outcome of IRCC affecting MBSHC (Chair)*

In its bulletin report, IHB presented the recommendations issued at IRCC7 regarding the revision and monitoring of INT Chart, and the proposal of transfer of these tasks to the regional ICC Co-ordinators. The region F ICC Co-ordinator confirmed his endorsement of those recommendations presented at IRCC7 by IHB, and its willingness to assume that responsibility.

Action MBSHC19/25	New INT chart producers to provide Region F ICC with the INT charts iaw IRCC7 Decision3.	GE, ME (then each New ICCWG Members)	End of July 2015 (then Permanent)
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Decision MBSHC19/02	New INT Chart Producer Nations to provide INT chart (new productions and editions) to RCC for review 3 months prior to the actual submission.
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6.2 Cooperation with Member States

6.2.1 Cooperation with Member States

Docs: [MBSHC19-6.2.1](#) *IHO Membership (New Members),
 Status of ratification of the Protocol
 of Amendments to the IHO Convention,
 Pending applications for IHO
 membership and Pending MSs in the region for
 depositing the instrument of Accession (IHB)*

This topic was raised after the IHB report presentation (see item 4.1).

6.2.2 National Reports

Action MBSHC19/31	Member States to send their submissions/reports to Chair with a copy to the IHB prior to meetings of MBSHC iaw MBSHC Statutes.	All	Permanent
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- a) [Algeria](#)
- b) Bulgaria
- c) [Croatia](#)
- d) [Cyprus](#)
- e) [Egypt](#)
- f) [France](#)
- g) Georgia

- h) [Greece](#)
- i) [Israel](#)
- j) [Italy](#)
- k) [Lebanon](#)
- l) [Malta](#)
- m) Monaco
- n) Montenegro
- o) [Morocco](#)
- p) Romania
- q) Russian Federation
- s) [Slovenia](#)
- t) [Spain \(presentation\)](#)
- v) [Tunisia](#)
- w) [Turkey \(presentation\)](#)
- x) [Ukraine](#)

6.3 Increase participation by non-Member States

6.3.1 Hydrographic Activities in Caspian Sea (*IHB*)

IHB gave an informative focus on the hydrographic activities in the Caspian Sea.

6.3.2 MSI activities in Caspian Sea (Southe Part) (*I.R.of Iran*)

Docs: [MBSHC19-6.3.2](#) MSI activities in Caspian Sea (*I.R.of Iran*)

IR made a presentation on MSI activities in the southern part of the Caspian Sea. As a conclusion, IR volunteered to become a Navarea III sub-coordinator for the Caspian Sea. ES, as Navarea III Co-ordinator, supported the IR proposal. FR indicated that the lack of IMO status for the Caspian Sea prevent it from being part of the NAVAREA subdivision. IHB concluded by advising to raise that topic to the next WWNWS7 Conference (24-28th August 2015).

MBSHC19/06	Chair to invite Caspian Sea States to MBSHC20	Chair	MBSHC20
MBSHC19/09	CB Coordinator to investigate the budget dedicated to the MBSHC MSI workshop (P-07 iaw 2015 CBWP) in order to invite Malta and Caspian Sea States.	CB Coordinator	End of August 2015

6.6 Capacity Building Management

6.6.1 Activities of CBSC

Docs: [MBSHC19-6.6.1](#) *Report of CBSC (Turkey)*

6.6.2 Five-year Capacity Building Plan of the MBSHC

Docs: [MBSHC19-6.6.2](#) *5-year MBSHC CB Plan (Turkey)*

Decision MBSHC19/01	The CB workshops (MSI & MBES/SSS) for 2015 will be held in Turkey.
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6.6.3 Outcome of Technical visits to Georgia, Israel and Lebanon

Docs: [MBSHC19-6.6.3 \(Lebanon, Israel\)](#) *Report of Technical Visits (Turkey)*

Decision MBSHC19/03	Technical Visit reports will be sent to the IHB iaw. actions IRCC7-44 and IRCC7-44bis.		
Action MBSHC19/07	CB Coordinator to circulate a letter MBSHC States to revise and/or update MBSHC 5-year CB plan for the 2017-2021 period.	CB Coordinator	End of November 2015
Action MBSHC19/08	CB Coordinator to coordinate the technical visit to Montenegro with the participation of TR, GR and the IHB.	CB Coordinator	End of August 2015
Action Action MBSHC19/09	CB Coordinator to investigate the budget dedicated to the MBSHC MSI workshop (P-07 iaw 2015 CBWP) in order to invite Malta and Caspian Sea States.	CB Coordinator	End of August 2015
Action MBSHC19/10	CB Coordinator and Turkey to coordinate with the schedule and venue of the MBSHC MSI workshop (P-07) on the last quarter of 2015 in Turkey with the participation of the relevant candidates.	CB Coordinator	End of August 2015
<p>6.4 Coordination of Global Surveying and Charting</p> <p>6.4.1 Hydrographic survey status in the MBSHC area <i>Docs: MBSHC19-6.4.1 (Global Status overview) <i>Hydrographic Survey Status (Spain)</i></i></p>			
Action MBSHC19/05	MSs to update C-55 annually (including reports of “no changes”).	All	Permanent
Action MBSHC19/33	to send a graphical status of surveys to Spain and to the IHB in GIS applicable digital format (e.g. shape)	All	Permanent (usually by February of each year - last update 3 months before the meeting)
<p>Industry Presentations <i>Presentation by Sevenscs</i> <i>Presentation by RESON</i></p>			
Action MBSHC19/12	Chair to invite the industry to MBSHC20.	Chair	MBSHC20
End of Day#2 Session			
Region F ICCWG Side Meeting (continuation of Day#1 side-meeting)			
<p><i>In continuation of the Day#1 side-meeting, and according to the Region F ICCWG side-meeting agenda the discussions focused on the ENC UB1 and UB2 coverage. One of the reasons of the absence of agreed ENC scheme in that region remains the lack of progress on the resolution of UB1 overlapping cases and leading to a disparate UB1 scheme in contradiction with a well-established small scale INT charts scheme covering the region. Besides, the persistency of some UB1 scheme overlapping cases and the significant domino effect associated with the solving of UB2 overlapping cases prevented the ICCWG from properly addressing the</i></p>			

UB2 scheme. However, the proposal of focusing on larger scale usage bands, such as UB4-5-6, was then discussed as an alternative in order to move forward on the approval of ENC schemes in the region. The outcomes of those discussions are stated in the Region F ICCWG report on ENC coverage presented on Day#3 (item 6.4).

DAY 3 : Thursday, 02 July 2015

6.4 Coordination of Global Surveying and Charting (Cont.)

6.4.2 Region F ICCWG Activities-MEDINTCHART Catalogue

Docs: [MBSHC19-6.4.2](#) Report of Region F ICCWG (France)

Following up the review achieved at the ICCWG side-meeting on Day#1, the RCC reported back on the decisions and proposal made by the ICCWG during those side-meetings, leading to the following actions approved by the MBSHC.

MBSHC19/15	MSs to provide the Region F ICC and the IHB with a hard copy or online access to their national chart catalogue.	MSs	End of July 2015
MBSHC19/16	TR and GR to schedule a bilateral technical meeting in order to provide the Region F ICCWG with a co-production plan for INT3706, INT3710, INT3712 and INT3716	TR and GR	End of 2015
MBSHC19/17	Region F ICC to circulate a letter to ICCWG Members to report back on the decisions made during MBSHC19 regarding INT chart scheme.	Region F ICC	End of July 2015
MBSHC19/18	Region F ICC to circulate a letter to ICCWG Members to submit the Marmara Sea scheme under silence procedure.	Region F ICC	End of September 2015
MBSHC19/19	RU and GE to agree and report to the Region F ICC on the status of INT3871, INT3873 & INT3875.	RU and GE	BASWG13
MBSHC19/20	Region F ICC to circulate a letter to ICCWG Members to submit GE national charts GE102 and GE104 as INT charts, under silence procedure.	Region F ICC	End of September 2015
MBSHC19/21	GE to liaise with RU and TR regarding co-production of INT3808 and INT3810 and report back to the Region F ICC.	GE	BASWG13
MBSHC19/22	ES, DZ and FR to review the INT scheme over Western Mediterranean and submit a consolidated proposal to the Region F ICCWG.	ES, DZ and FR	MBSHC20
MBSHC19/23	EG to provide the Region F ICC with national chart SC01 "Suez Canal (Qanat Al Suweis)"	EG	20 th of July 2015
MBSHC19/24	Region F ICC to review EG national chart SC01 and to submit it to the ICCWG Members for approval as INT chart, in liaison with Region J ICCWG	Region F ICC	1st of October 2015

6.4.3 Status of ENCs in Region F

Docs: [MBSHC19-6.4.3](#) Status of ENCs in Region F (France)

The Regional ICC Co-ordinator reported about the ENC coverage in that region, based on the discussion that took place at the ICCWG side-meeting, emphasizing on the fact that no ENC scheme has never been agreed in that region.

The following action proposals submitted by the ICCWG and approved by the MBSHC are listed below.

MBSHC19/26	Region F ICC to update the regional priority list of ports and anchorage areas without large scale ENC coverage in the region.	Region F ICC	MBSHC20
MBSHC19/27	Based on the review achieved during ICCWG side-meeting IT to coordinate and report back to Region F ICC on the resolution of UB1 overlapping cases for HR, IT, GR and TR.	IT	End of December 2015
MBSHC19/28	Region F ICC to report back to MBSHC Chair on the outcome of UB1 overlaps resolution.	Region F ICC	End of January 2016
MBSHC19/29	ICCWG Members to provide Region F ICC with their ENC production plan for UB4-5-6.	All	End of December 2015

Besides, the benefit of the setup of those side-meetings appeared to be of great help in addressing the issues in that region. Therefore, MBSHC Members decided to arrange a half-day ICCWG meeting prior to the MBSHC20 and, if necessary, as a side-meeting of the forthcoming IHC in 2017 (actions MBSHC19/11 and MBSHC19/30).

MBSHC19/30	Chair to arrange a half day ICCWG meeting back to back (prior) to MBSHC 20 (if needed)	Chair	MBSHC20
Action MBSHC19/11	Chair and Region F ICC to coordinate a ICCWG meeting during the next IHC or Assembly, if necessary.	Chair Region F ICC	End of December 2016

6.5 WEND Principles and Governance

6.5.1 Activities of WENDWG

Docs: [MBSHC19-6.5.1A](#) *Report of WENDWG (France/IHB)*

FR, acting as MBSHC representative at WENDWG, gave a presentation of the WENDWG activities and challenges: ENC producers indicators, relevance of AIO, ECDIS test on technical ways to deal with overlaps, US-CA trans-boundary agreement, review of S-65 publication, impact of S101 on schemes.

[MBSHC19-6.5.1B](#) *A coastal state has the exclusive right to survey/chart and issue ENCs for the waters within its national jurisdiction (Greece)*

GR presented their national jurisdiction approach as a way forward to solve overlapping cases in the region, arguing that this approach complies with the WEND Principles and asking for MBSHC Members for their views and comments on that approach. FR indicated that the “exclusive right” should be understood as “responsibility”, as nothing prevents two neighbouring nations to set a mutual agreement to adapt their share of responsibilities, as it’ been done between US and CA recently.

IHB reminded that the guidance for the establishment of ENC production boundaries is gathered in the annex to circular letter 1/1997. Regarding to the concept of cartographic boundary, which is closely embedded to that approach, it is clearly explicated in the circular letter 40/2014 dated May 26th 2014 about the revision of the Guidelines for the implementation of the WEND Principles.

6.5.2 Regional ENC Coordination Centre (RENCs) Operations

Docs: [MBSHC19-6.5.2A](#) *IC-ENC Report (IC-ENC)*
[MBSHC19-6.5.2B](#) *Presentation on Egyptian Navy Case Study – RENC Experiences*
[MBSHC19-6.5.2C](#) *PRIMAR Report (PRIMAR)*
Joint RENC Presentation (IC-ENC /PRIMAR)

6.5.3 Cartographic Boundary
 Docs: [MBSHC19-6.5.3](#) (presentation) Proposal for solving the MBSHC Cartographic problems using the concept of the Cartographic Boundary (Greece)

This topic was addressed at the first Region F ICCWG side-meeting on Day #1. It was then decided not to address it again at the plenary session.

6.7 Maritime Safety Information (MSI)

Docs: MBSHC19-6.7 Report of NAVAREA III (Spain)

ES gave a full report on the Navarea III activities and status. MT asked if they could use the broadcast slot normally dedicated to the TN station, currently disabled. IHB indicated this particular topic shall be addressed during the next WWNWS7, scheduled in Monaco at the end of August, and suggested to invite MT to that IHO event.

Action MBSHC19/32	Malta to be invited as an invited Observer to the forthcoming WWNWS7 meeting in Monaco at the of August.	IHB	20 th of July 2015
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6.8 Maritime Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI)

Docs: [MBSHC19-6.8](#) Report of MSDIWG (France/IHB)

On behalf of the MSDIWG Chair, FR presented the main MSDIWG activities and actions. The question of regional representatives in the MSDIWG was then discussed, with regards of the IRCC7 action issued on that matter. Although several Member States were in favor of designating FR as the MBSHC representative in this WG, FR precised that ES, SI and UA are also members of the MSDIWG, and could potentially represent the MBSHC.

Action MBSHC19/14	Chair to circulate a letter asking nomination for MBSHC representative for MSDIWG and inform MSDIWG Chair (if nominated).	Chair	End of August 2015
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7. Any Other Business

8. Closure

8.1 Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

Decision MBSHC19/04	The venue of MBSHC20 is Montenegro between 4th and 6th of July 2017.
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8.2 Decisions and Recommendations (Chair)

The draft action and decision list was reviewed by the Commission, and adopted as the quorum was yet reached.

8.3 Designation/Transfer of the Chairmanship

According to the MBSHC Statutes, the Chairmanship is passed on to the Vice-Chairman of the MBSHC Conference, GE. As GE officially announced their withdrawal of the Chairmanship, the floor was opened to other candidates. FR volunteered, supported by ES, GR, TR and RO.

Decision MBSHC19/06	MBSHC elected FR as the chair of the MBSHC for the 2015-2017 period, to replace Georgia.
8.4 Closing Remarks (End of meeting)	
End of Meeting	

ANNEX: RULES FOR THE SELECTION OF MEMBER STATES FROM MBSHC
TO THE IHO COUNCIL
(as approved at the XIXth MBSHC Conference)⁴

Selection from MBSHC to the IHO Council shall be determined in compliance with IHO General Regulations Art.2 and Art.16.

1. MBSHC Member States who wish to be selected from another Regional Hydrographic Commission (RHC) shall inform the MBSHC Chair and the IHO Secretary-General six months before the ordinary session of the IHO Assembly.
2. Member States who wish to be selected from MBSHC to the Council shall submit their application to the Chair and the IHO Secretary-General six months before the ordinary session of the IHO Assembly.
3. If the number of candidates is equal to the number of seats allocated for MBSHC by the IHO Secretary-General, then the aforementioned candidates will be automatically selected.
4. If the number of candidates is less than the number of seats allocated, the candidates will be automatically selected. Remaining positions will be selected, under the supervision and follow up of MBSHC Chair, from a list of all MBSHC Member States in French alphabetical order, except for those States who are candidates of another RHC, giving preference firstly to the remaining States that have never been selected before, and secondly to those that have not been selected the longest time ago.
5. If the number of candidates is more than the number of seats allocated, a voting will take place at a Conference of the MBSHC, or by correspondence if no MBSHC Conference is scheduled in the six months prior to the IHO Assembly. Each Member State will submit one voting paper listing the Member States from the list of candidates equal to the number of seats allocated. The highest voted candidates will be selected from MBSHC. In case of a draw, the Chair will cast a deciding vote.
6. The Chair shall notify MBSHC Member States of the results.
7. In case the selected State is unable to carry out its duties, the aforementioned selection process will be repeated.
8. All expenses connected with the participation to the Council shall be defrayed by their respective States, in accordance with IHO General Regulations Art. 3.

⁴ IHB note: see also Decision No 6 of the 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference, Oct. 2014.