

59th NHC Conference
Reykjavik, Iceland
13-15 April 2015

Agenda item 4A
Report from the IHB

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10 March 2015

Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention

1. As of 28 February 2015, 41 of the required 48 approvals of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention had been reported by the Government of Monaco. All five NHC Member States have notified their approval of the Protocol of Amendments.

Status of IHO Membership

2. IHO membership stands at 82. With Serbia, Congo and the Dominican Republic remaining suspended, the current thresholds for IHO decisions are 40 when a simple majority is required and 53 when a two-third 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.

3. Brunei Darussalam, Georgia and Viet Nam have recently achieved the required number of approvals to become Member States of the IHO subject to the submission of instruments of accession to the Government of Monaco. Bulgaria, Haiti, Mauritania and Sierra Leone had received in previous years the required number of votes to be accepted as a Member State of the IHO. However, the Government of Monaco has yet to receive their instruments of accession from these countries which will formalise their membership.

4. Malta, one of the largest flag States, and Vanuatu have very recently applied to join the IHO. NHC Members States are requested to expedite the approval of the membership of these States as soon as the notification of their application is confirmed officially. In accordance with action NHC57/1, the IHB will copy the initial diplomatic request for the approval of their application to all Member States.

C-55 Updates

5. The latest updated information in C-55 - *Status of Charting and Surveys Worldwide* from NHC Member States is as follows:

| State - Dependency - INT Region | Last update | Comment |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| Denmark - Mainland – D | 03/03/2015 | |
| Denmark - Faeroe Island – D | 03/03/2015 | |
| Denmark - Greenland – D | 03/03/2015 | |
| Denmark - Greenland – N | 03/03/2015 | |
| Finland – E | 16/01/2014 | |
| Iceland – D | 10/03/2010 | |
| Norway - Mainland – D | 29/10/2013 | |
| Norway - Jan Mayen – D | 31/12/2012 | |
| Norway - Svalbard – D | 31/12/2012 | |
| Norway Bouvet Island H | 31/12/2012 | |
| Norway - Antarctica – M | 31/12/2012 | |
| Norway - Mainland – N | 29/10/2013 | |
| Sweden – E | 23/02/2015 | |

6. NHC Member States are invited to review their entry on an annual basis and provide the IHB with the appropriate updates or report no change.

Country Information Database

7. The status of the data from the NHC Member States in the IHO Country Information Database from which the IHO Yearbook is derived is as follows:

| Country | Last update | Comment |
|---------|-------------|---------|
| Denmark | Jan 2014 | |
| Finland | Dec 2013 | |
| Iceland | Jan 2013 | |
| Norway | Mar 2014 | |
| Sweden | Oct 2014 | |

8. NHC Member States are invited to review their entry in the Yearbook on an annual basis and provide the IHB with the appropriate updates or report no change.

IHO GIS and Databases

9. The IHB is evaluating an Esri-based GIS solution. It is anticipated that the C-55, IHO Yearbook and other associated databases will be transferred to an Esri environment by Easter 2015. This will enable access to various layers of information through the IHO website and through various sophisticated cloud-based on-line GIS options.

5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC-5)

10. EIHC-5 took place from 6 to 10 October in the Auditorium Rainier III in Monaco. 65 of the 82 Member States were represented, together with two pending Member States and 21 representatives from non-Member States. All five NHC Member States were present.

11. In addition to the Industry Exhibition, an IHO Capacity Building exhibition and poster celebration of ten years of Nippon Foundation IHO-IOC GEBCO scholars was arranged. A number of past scholars and alumni provided poster displays of their work since graduation throughout the period of the Conference.

12. The Conference acknowledged the need to consider novel ways to supplement hydrographic data gathering, especially in remote and unsurveyed areas. Methods include using satellite derived bathymetry and crowd-sourcing techniques. The Conference was told that the development of national and regional spatial data infrastructures is growing and that national hydrographic services should urgently consider the potential impact on their roles and responsibilities as the world experiences the paradigm shift from a map and chart-based focus to one that places the management and provision of national reference geodata services ahead of map and chart production.

13. The Proceedings for the Conference will be published soon and made available on the IHO website.

Report on the Overall Status of the IHO Work Programme

14. As a result of the EIHC-5 discussion on Proposal 5 concerning the assessment of the IHO Work Programme, Conference Decision No. 3 reinforced the reporting requirements by introducing a six-monthly reporting regime for all IHO bodies. The outcome of the first bi-annual assessment was submitted to Member States through IHO CL 17/2015. Only 5 Regional Hydrographic Commissions (EAthC, MACHC, NIOHC, NSHC, and SAIHC) had submitted a status report on time.

Training opportunities

15. A call for applications for the 2015 course of the IHO – Nippon Foundation CHART Project is open until 3 April 2015 (see IHO CL 10/2015).

16. A call for applications for the 12th course of the IHO-IOC-Nippon Foundation GEBCO Training Programme is open until the end of March 2015 (see IHO CL 13/2015).

17. It is expected that a call for applications will be issued in September 2015 for the 2016-2017 session of the Master of Science Programme in Hydrographic Surveying at the University of Southern Mississippi sponsored by the Republic of Korea.

Crowd Sourced Bathymetry Programme

18. EIHC-5 through Decision 8 directed the IRCC to establish a working group to provide guidelines on the collection and use of crowd-sourced bathymetry. This WG will be established after the IRCC next meets in June in Mexico.

19. Meanwhile, the web-based interface portal to the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry, hosted by the USA in Boulder, Colorado, as part of its commitment to the system of World Data Centres, is being upgraded to be compatible with the crowd-sourced bathymetry concept. The upgrade is expected to be completed by mid-year. This will enable an IHO-led CSB infrastructure to be established and promoted in the IMO and across the wider maritime community.

Post-2015 Agendas

20. The development of the post-2015 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction under the aegis of the United Nations offer an opportunity to highlight the fundamental role of hydrography in underpinning sustainable development and the reduction of marine disaster risks. The Directing Committee is striving to make the best of this opportunity, both directly and through related initiatives and programmes such as the UN initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and the activities of

the Group on Earth Observation (GEO). As the negotiation processes are driven and controlled by Member States, the efforts of the Directing Committee need to be taken forward at the national and regional levels (see IHO CL 53/2014, 2/2015, and 4/2015).

IHO Publicity

21. World Hydrography Day. The theme for World hydrography Day 2015 will concentrate on the fact that much of the world's seas, oceans and navigable waters remain unsurveyed. The tag-line for WHD2015 is: "*Our seas and waterways - yet to be fully charted and explored*". The theme is intended to raise public awareness that, for example, there are higher resolution maps of the Moon and Mars than for many parts of our seas and coastal waters. The theme also provides the opportunity to promote and encourage innovative supplementary data gathering initiatives to address the current shortfall in useful bathymetric data, including crowd-sourcing and satellite derived bathymetry that were discussed at EIHC-5. The theme also offers the opportunity to highlight both the missed opportunities and the potential risks involved in the continuing development of the blue economy and all other human-related activities taking place at sea, at a time when mankind still has a relatively limited knowledge of the nature and the shape of much of the seafloor and the hazards that lie upon it (see IHO CL 03/2015).

22. IHO Stakeholder Forum. It is proposed to hold the next IHO Stakeholder Forum on the occasion of the next HSSC meeting which will take place in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 9 to 13 November 2015, subject to the outcome of a survey of the potential participants which runs until 31 March 2015.

23. International Hydrographic Review. The IHR provides an 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. At its 58th meeting, the NHC agreed to continue the practice that its representative be the Chair of the Commission. 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).

Action Requested of NHC Member States

24. NHC Member States are invited to:

- **Note** this report;
- **Expedite** the approval of the IHO membership applications of Malta and Vanuatu;
- **Review annually** entries in IHO C-55 and Yearbook;
- **Implement** the bi-annual reporting regime established by EIHC-5;
- **Promote** IHO interests at the national and regional level in the preparation of the post-2015 agendas;
- **Consider** submitting papers for publication in the IH Review;
- **Take any other actions** as considered appropriate.