

61st NHC Conference
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Agenda item B.1
Report from the
IHO Secretariat

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13 February 2017

Entry into force of the Amendments to the IHO Convention and its supporting Basic Documents

1. The Amendments to the IHO Convention and its supporting Basic Documents entered into force on 8 November 2016. The most significant changes to the organization of the IHO are:

- the term International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) used to describe the headquarters and the secretariat of the IHO is replaced by the term IHO Secretariat;
- the Directing Committee, comprising a President and two Directors ceases to lead the IHB (Secretariat of the IHO). Instead, the Secretariat of the IHO is now led by a Secretary-General assisted by two subordinate Directors;
- the term International Hydrographic Conference used to designate the principal organ of the Organization, composed of all Member States, is replaced by the term Assembly. The ordinary sessions of the Assembly will be held every three years instead of every five years for the Conference. The first session of the IHO Assembly (A-1) will be held in Monaco from 24 to 28 April 2017, at which time an IHO Council will be established. In order to provide a logical and sequential timetable for decision making, the Secretary-General anticipates that the Council will meet annually in October. The first meeting of the Council (C-1) is scheduled in Monaco from 17 to 19 October 2017. The second session of the Assembly (A-2) should take place in April 2020;
- the subsidiary organs of the IHO, including the Committees, will report to the Council that will then refer endorsed proposals for adoption either to the Assembly or to the Member States through correspondence;
- the planning cycle for the IHO work programme and budget changes from a five-year to a three-year cycle. The next cycle will run from 2018 to 2020;
- for States wishing to join the IHO that are already Member States of the United Nations there is no requirement to seek the approval of existing Member States of the IHO;
- the strict eligibility requirements for candidates seeking election as the Secretary-General or a Director are relaxed; and
- in future, where voting by correspondence is required, through the Council, decisions will be taken based on a majority of the Member States that cast a vote, rather than the existing arrangements where a majority of all the Member States entitled to vote is required. A minimum number of at least one-third of all Member States eligible to vote must vote positively for the vote to stand.

Status of Membership of the IHO

2. One of the main changes resulting from the entry into force of the revised IHO Convention is that, for States wishing to join the IHO that are already Member States of the United Nations (UN), there is no requirement to seek the approval of existing Member States of the IHO. Malta was the first State to become a member of the IHO under the new provisions. The other pending applicants (Congo, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu) were invited to submit their instruments of accession to the Convention on the IHO as soon as possible.

IHO GIS and Databases (including C-55)

3. 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.

4. 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. The status of the data from the NHC Member States in the IHO Country Information Database is as follows:

Country	P-5 - Yearbook Last update received	Comment
Denmark	Dec 2016	
Finland	Aug 2015	
Iceland	Mar 2016	
Norway	Aug 2016	
Sweden	Oct 2016	

NHC Member States are invited to continue reviewing their entry in the Yearbook on an annual basis and provide the IHO Secretariat with the appropriate updates or report no change.

5. 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 cloud-based on-line GIS options. The IHO ENC Catalogue and the IHO GIS for Antarctica have been transferred to this new environment.

6. 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 will provide an initial geo-referenced quality layer (see IHO CL 52/2105). CATZOC data was provided by PRIMAR - on behalf of IC-ENC, PRIMAR and Canada, Singapore, Sweden and Thailand. Portrayal options in the IHO GIS are being investigated.

7. The latest updated information from NHC Member States in C-55 is as follows:

State - Dependency - INT Region	C-55 Last update received	Comment
Denmark - Mainland - D	25 Nov 2016	
Denmark - Faeroe Island - N	25 Nov2016	
Denmark - Greenland – D	25 Nov 2016	
Denmark - Greenland – N	29 Oct 2013	
Finland – E	10 Jul 2015	
Iceland – D	17 Nov 2016	
Norway - Mainland – D	08 Feb 2017	
Norway - Jan Mayen – D	08 Feb 2017	
Norway - Svalbard – D	08 Feb 2017	
Norway Bouvet Island - H	08 Feb 2017	
Norway - Peter I Øy - M	/	No data
Norway - Antarctica – M	08 Feb 2017	
Norway - Mainland – N	/	No data
Sweden – E	17 Jun 2016	

8. NHC Member States are invited to continue reviewing their entry on an annual basis and provide the IHO Secretariat with the appropriate updates or report no change. This can be done as part of the national reports to the relevant RHC meetings.

9. Following the development of the regional database for Antarctica, the IHB, with support provided by the Republic of Korea, initiated an “INToGIS” project in order to move S-11 part B into an interactive GIS/S-100 compliant environment. The objective of the project is to provide the Regional International Charting Coordination WGs with relevant on-line updated information and the necessary tools to review and maintain INT chart schemes and monitor the implementation of the INT chart schemes. Extending the capability to include ENC scheming and coverage is also envisaged. As announced in IHO CL 89/2015, the new INT Chart Web Catalogue and the associated INT Chart on-line Web Manager services were made available in January 2016 through the IHO website at: www.iho.int > Standards & Publications > S-11 > Part B (link).

10. Feedback and lessons learned from the initial use of the INToGIS services and from the implementation of the experimental procedure for the review and monitoring of INT charts decided at IRCC-7 (IHO CL 64/2015 refers) were addressed during the workshop for Regional INT Chart / ENC Coordinators that was held at the IHB on 25 April 2016, just before the second meeting of the Nautical Cartography Working Group (NCWG). The INT Chart / ENC Coordinators of 14 out of 15 charting regions were present or represented. A representative from the INT Chart Coordinator for Region C1 participated in the workshop. A comprehensive demonstration of the INToGIS web-based INT chart scheme management tool was provided. The workshop confirmed the need to maintain the INT chart concept for the foreseeable future, at least for small scale charts. As an IHO CL 64/2015 follow-up, the regional Chart Coordinators were invited to provide their feedback to the IHO Secretariat on the “basic quality assurance check-list for reviewing INT charts” by the end of March 2017 for further consideration by the NCWG.

ECDIS Matters

11. IHO CL 61/2015 dated 24 August 2015 informed Member States of the promulgation of Circular MSC.1/Circ.1503 of 24 July 2015 on *ECDIS - Guidance for Good Practice* by the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Noting that the Circular refers to the IHO online ENC Catalogue and that the mention includes a reference to the provision of coastal State information on any requirements for ECDIS backup arrangements using paper charts, the IHO Secretariat reiterated its earlier request (see IHO CL 41/2014) that Member States ensure that the relevant information which has been posted on the IHO website since 2008 (see IHO CL 10/2008) is kept current and to provide the Secretariat with updates as appropriate. Member States were invited to consider the provision of pending updates before the end of 2015 and the provision of subsequent updates, or confirmation of no change, at least once a year. It is located at:

*Home > ENCs & ECDIS > ENC Availability > Backup Paper Charts, and
Home > ENCs & ECDIS > ENC Availability > Online Chart Catalogues.*

12. The status of the information provided by NHC Member States is as follows:

Country	Back up information	Link to on-line chart catalogue
Denmark	Apr 2007	Yes
Finland	Apr 2007	No
Iceland	May 2016	Yes
Norway	Jun 2016	Yes
Sweden	Apr 2007	Yes

13. NHC Member States are invited to review their entries on an annual basis and provide the IHO Secretariat with the appropriate updates or report no change.

Capacity Building Programme

14. The level of activity of the IHO Capacity Building (CB) Programme in 2016 was nearly the same as in 2015. Expenditure in the IHO 2016 CB Work Programme (763,605 Euros) was 0.3% greater than the budget for the previous year. 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 IHO Secretariat is continuing its campaign to find additional donor States and funding organizations. In 2016, 93% of the budgeted work program was executed and paid for. Three activities were postponed to 2017 at the request of the RHC Chairs.

15. A call for applications was issued in IHO CL 51/2016 for the 2017-2018 session of the Master of Science Programme in Hydrographic Surveying at the University of Southern Mississippi (USA) sponsored by the Republic of Korea. Similar call is expected to be issued in October 2017 for the 2018-2019 session. Hydrographic Offices are invited to invest in the preparation of candidates especially with respect to proficiency in English.

16. A call for applications was issued in IHO CL 4/2017 for the 2017 edition of the UKHO Category "B" Cartography programme (IHO - Nippon Foundation CHART Project). Hydrographic Offices are invited to invest in the preparation of candidates especially with respect to proficiency in English.

17. A call for applications was issued in IHO CL 13/2017 for the 14th course of the IHO-IOC-Nippon Foundation GEBCO Training Programme.

Crowd Sourced Bathymetry

18. In accordance with Decision 8 of the EIHC-5, IRCC-7 established the Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG) to provide guidelines on the collection and use of crowd-sourced bathymetry. Member States and other interested parties were invited to nominate representatives to participate in the CSBWG (see IHO CL 42/2015). Denmark, Finland and Norway are participating in the working group. Following IRCC-8, draft CSB guidelines will be circulated to Member States for comments.

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. This will enable an IHO-led CSB infrastructure to be established and promoted in the IMO and across the wider maritime community.

Preparation of the 1st Session of the IHO Assembly (A-1)

20. The first session of the IHO Assembly is scheduled to take place from 24 to 28 April 2017. IHO Assembly Circular Letter (ACL) No. 8 dated 23 August 2016 detailed the impact of the new rules and regulations governing the IHO (see paragraph 1 above) on the preparation of the Session.

21. As indicated in IHO CCL 1 dated 21 April 2016, registration for the Assembly has been available on-line via the IHO website from 1 September 2016. Because of IT security issues, the initial version of the tool is, in the first instance, self-contained, with no connection to the IHO Country Information System (CIS). The initial registration of the identity of applicants will be validated by the IHO Secretariat. After this initial approval, legitimate applicants are able to register for further IHO meetings without having to re-enter their details. The tool was tested as part of registering participants for HSSC-8. All five NHC Member States have registered at least one representative.

22. In accordance with the new General Regulations of the IHO that entered into force on 8 November, the first Assembly will establish an IHO Council. The selection process for the establishment of the Council was initiated by the Secretary-General in October 2016. All RHCs must agree on their process by which they will assign Members to occupy the seat(s) in the Council allocated to them for the period between the 1st and the 2nd session of the Assembly (2017-2020) - see IHO CL 63/2016, and possibly instruct, the relevant occupant(s). The NHC Chair notified the IHO Secretary-General that Sweden will occupy the seat allocated to the NHC.

23. The agenda of the Assembly will include a review of the IHO Strategic Plan and consideration of the IHO Work Programme for the next 3-year cycle. In accordance with IHO Resolution 12/2002 as amended the relevant documents have been prepared by the IHO Secretariat in consultation with the HSSC, the IRCC and the Member States (see Assembly CL No. 16).

IHO Outreach

World Hydrography Day (WHD)

24. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2016 (WHD 2016) was "*Hydrography – the key to well-managed seas and waterways.*" This theme was meant to enable all stakeholders involved in hydrography to highlight the significance and importance of their particular activities which could include, but is not limited to, the support of safety of navigation, protection of the marine environment, coastal zone management, marine spatial data infrastructures, defence, resource exploration, and all other components of the blue economy.

25. Background briefs and reports on events hosted in connection with WHD 2016 are available at www.iho.int > Home > About IHO > World Hydrography Day.

26. Taking into account the discussions at the GEBCO Forum for Future Ocean Floor Mapping held in Monaco in June (see IHO CL 34/2016) and the fact that the depth has not been directly measured in about 50% of the World's coastal waters and about 90% of the oceans, the theme for 2017 is:

"Mapping our sea, oceans and waterways - more important than ever."

27. In support of WHD 2017 the IHO Secretariat will organize a dedicated page on the IHO web site, where papers and other material relevant to the celebration and reflecting the variety of activities supported by hydrography will be posted for Member States and other IHO stakeholders to use as appropriate.

28. Member States are invited to forward to the Secretariat any material that they may create in support of their national WHD-2017 celebrations for posting on the IHO website. This will enable the widest possible dissemination of publicity and support material for the event. The Secretariat also welcomes any comments and suggestions to improve the organization and support of this annual event.

International Hydrographic Review (IHR)

29. Twice a year, the IHR provides an opportunity for Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in their 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.

30. 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 deadlines are:

- End of January for the May Edition;
- End of July for the November Edition.

31. As a result of a project developed with the University of New Brunswick (UNB), Canada, a digital repository of the IHR volumes from 1963 to 2015 is available at: <https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/ihr>.

Action Requested of NHC Member States

32. NHC Member States are invited to:

- **Note** this report;
- **Review** entries in IHO C-55 and P-5 (Yearbook) at least annually;
- **Review** information on any national requirements for ECDIS back-up arrangements using paper charts at least annually;
- **Consider** appropriate arrangements to prepare the 1st Session of the IHO Assembly to be held from 24 to 28 April 2017;
- **Consider** submitting material in support of WHD 2017;
- **Consider** submitting papers for publication in the IH Review;
- **Take any other actions** as considered appropriate.