



16th NORTH INDIAN OCEAN HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION CONFERENCE



Chittagong, Bangladesh
14 – 16 March 2016

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 March 2016, 46 of the required 48 approvals to the Protocol of Amendments had been received by the Government of Monaco. The IHB has been informed of several additional approvals which should be communicated to the Government of Monaco in the near future. The following IHO Member States of the NIOHC have not yet indicated their decision on the Protocol of Amendments: Egypt, Myanmar and Thailand.
2. The amendments to the Convention will enter into force three months after the necessary majority of approvals is received by the Government of Monaco. If the required number of approvals is received by 23 January 2017, then the first Assembly of the IHO will be held from 24 to 28 April 2017 instead of the XIXth Conference.
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. Following the accession of Georgia, Viet Nam and Brunei Darussalam in March 2015, IHO membership stands at 85. With Serbia, Congo and the Dominican Republic remaining suspended, the current thresholds for IHO decisions are 42 when a simple majority is required and 55 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.
5. Bulgaria, Haiti, Mauritania and Sierra Leone have also been approved to become Members of the IHO, but have not yet deposited their instruments of accession with the Government of Monaco.
6. The Government of Monaco has notified IHO Member States of the application by four coastal States to join the IHO: Malta, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and the Republic of the Congo. The IHO Member States' representatives are asked to expedite the approval process wherever possible. By March 2016, the status of approvals was as follows:

State	Voting Status
Malta	30 of 53 required
Vanuatu	30 of 54 required
Solomon Islands	30 of 55 required
Republic of Congo	30 of 55 required

7. The following IHO Member States of the NIOHC have not yet responded with their vote:

State	No responses as yet from:
Malta	Bangladesh, Egypt, Myanmar, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Thailand
Vanuatu	Bangladesh, Egypt, Myanmar, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Thailand
Solomon Islands	Bangladesh, Egypt, Myanmar, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Thailand
Republic of Congo	Bangladesh, Egypt, Myanmar, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Thailand

Regional Applications for Membership of the IHO

8. Seychelles, which is an Associate member of the NIOHC and also not yet a Member State of the IHO, is encouraged to apply to become a member. Jordan, Maldives and Sudan are also considered as potential member states of the IHO in the future. 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.

Suspended Member States

9. Serbia, Congo and the Dominican Republic remain suspended. IHB is working with these states to expedite their return to full membership as soon as possible, as is the case for a number of other Member States who have fallen behind on payments of their annual subscription.

IHO GIS and Databases

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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 to this new environment and the transfer of the GIS coverage for Antarctica will follow next.

13. **C-55 Database.** 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.

14. **INToGIS - INT Chart Management and Catalogue.** Following the development of the regional database for Antarctica, the IHB, with support provided by the Republic of Korea, has initiated an "INToGIS" project that will 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 in due course. The "INToGIS" project is now ready to be implemented at the on-line system on IHO website.

INT Chart and ENC Production Coordination – Region J

15. India, as Chair of the International Charting Committee Working Group (ICCWG) for Region J, has continued to provide regular updates to S-11 Part B - *Catalogue of INT Charts*. Since NIOHC15, it appears that 6 new INT charts have been published. According to records held by the IHB, in total, 131 INT charts have been published to date, out of 171 charts in the scheme (76.6 %). The NIOHC, through the Chair of its International Charting Coordination Committee is requested to provide up to date information in order that S-11 Part B for Region J can be kept up to date.

16. IRCC7 (Decision IRCC7/3 and Actions IRCC7/27 and 28) agreed on a revised procedure for the review of new INT charts. In future, only charts from new INT producers will be reviewed. The principle purpose being to ensure that any new Producer Nation is following the relevant IHO standards and guidelines regarding INT charts. Information on the new experimental process for INT chart review, CL 64/2015, has been issued announcing the revised procedure.

17. CL 64/2015 also provides information on a workshop being organised in conjunction with NCWG2 on 25 April 2016 in Monaco. The workshop will provide International Charting Coordinators with the latest information on the practical implementation of the INT chart scheme and will introduce the *INToGIS* tools, best practices, and lessons learned.

18. Links have been provided to Member States' on-line chart catalogues from the IHO ENC coverage catalogue (www.iho.int > ENC&ECDIS > ENC Availability > on-line catalogue).

Capacity Building Programme

19. The level of activity of the IHO Capacity Building (CB) Programme continued to increase. Expenditure in the IHO 2015 CB Work Programme (930 907 Euros) was 118% larger than the budget for the previous year. In 2015, the IHO CB programme also reached

a new level of achievement with the highest rate of completion of planned CB activities (93%) compared to the last decade. The NIOHC benefited from various activities under the IHO CB Work Programme for 2015, including an Introduction to MBES course in India and also MBES Processing training for Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. ENC Quality Assurance course was postponed to 2016 and re-scheduled for 2016 CBWP.

20. One student from Mauritius was selected for Category A Hydrography Master Programme held at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) in 2015-2016 and one student from Egypt and one student from Myanmar were selected for Category B CHART Project (Cartography Course at UKHO) training held at the UKHO in 2015. The call for nominations for the 2016-2017 course Category A Programme sponsored by the Republic of Korea was announced in Circular Letter 72/2015 and the call for nominations for the 2016 course of the Category B CHART Project course sponsored by the Nippon Foundation of Japan was announced in Circular Letter 08/2016.

21. Most Cat A and Cat B training opportunities require proven proficiency in English language. As a result, many applicants are rejected due to a lack of this proficiency. Hydrographic Offices are encouraged to select and prepare suitable candidates for future training opportunities, especially for the Category A course at USM, where a TOEFL/IELTS certificate is required, together with a GRE score.

Crowd Sourced Bathymetry Programme

22. In accordance with Decision 8 of the EIHC-5, the IRCC, at its 7th meeting in May in Mexico City, has established the Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG) to provide guidelines on the collection and use of crowd-sourced bathymetry. Member States are informed and invited to nominate representatives to participate in the CSBWG (see IHO CL 42/2015).

23. 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 Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry infrastructure to be established and promoted in the IMO and across the wider maritime community. More on this topic will be provided under agenda item 12.

IHO Outreach

World Hydrography Day

24. A theme for the WHD 2016 was proposed by the Directing Committee in the CL 71/2015. As a result of positive feedback from Member States, the theme for 2016 will be: "**Hydrography – the key to well-managed seas and waterways**" which was announced by CL 81/2015. This theme will 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. Member States are invited to forward as soon as possible to the IHB any material that is created in support of national WHD-2016 celebrations for posting on the IHO website. This will enable the widest possible dissemination of publicity and support material for the event. The IHB will be providing some supporting material on the IHO website.

International Hydrographic Review

26. International Hydrographic Review (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. The representative for the NIOHC region is RAdm. K.R. Srinivasan (India/KSA).

27. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the IHB (ihreview@iho.int) with a copy to the Editor (ian.halls1@defence.au.gov).

28. Action Requested of NIOHC Member States

- a. **Note** this report.
- b. Egypt, Myanmar and Thailand to **progress** their decision on the ratification of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention and report any difficulties being encountered or assistance required.
- c. **Expedite** wherever possible, the approval process for the applications of Malta, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Congo to join the IHO.
- d. **Continue to provide** updates to S-11, through India as Chair of the International Charting Coordination Committee for Region J.
- e. **Review** entries in IHO Publications C-55 and P-5 (Yearbook) at least annually and submit amendments to the IHB when they occur.
- f. **Consider** submitting papers for publication in the IH Review.
- g. **Invest** in the preparation of candidates for Capacity Building training.
- e. **Take any other actions** as considered appropriate.