

SPWG developments and procedure for selection of Members to Council

The IHO 3rd Extraordinary Conference in April 2005 approved amendments to the IHO Convention for the new structure of the Organization as proposed by SPWG. The Extraordinary Conference also approved the new Article 16 of the General Regulations, providing the details for the selection of the Members of the Council, under the new structure.

The IHB informed Chairmen of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (letter of 31 August 2005 Ref: IHB File No. S3/0123) that:

- a. Meetings of the RHCs must continue to have SPWG developments as a standing Agenda item in order that Members of the Commissions are kept informed on the progress of various issues pertaining to its work; and*
- b. RHCs should develop their own procedures for the selection of their Members to Council. New Article 16 of the General Regulations and Appendix VIII (Council Membership) contained in the document "A Study into the Organization Structure and Procedures of the IHO", as approved by the Extraordinary Conference, are the reference material that contain the details regarding membership to the Council'.*

The report of the last SPWG meeting, in Korea - May 2005, is included with Norway's Explanatory Note for Item D5.

RHCs entitled to be represented on Council include NSHC. Appendix VIII (Council Membership) of the document "A Study into the Organization Structure and Procedures of the IHO", referred to above, is attached.

APPENDIX VIII COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The Council has a minimum of 30 Council members (or 25% of MS, if that is greater).

Based on 30 seats:-

20 Council Seats are allocated to the Regional Hydrographic Commissions.
10 Council Seats are allocated to Member States who have the greatest tonnage.

A Quorum will be 2/3 of the Members of the Council.

No Member State may hold more than 1 seat on the Council, and a MS can only choose to represent one RHC of which it is a full member. The MS must inform the relevant RHC, copied to the Secretariat, stating its choice of RHC candidature. For the purposes of these calculations, that MS is then not counted in any other RHCs of which it may be a member.

The composition will be defined as follows:

REGIONAL BASIS

The 20 seats from the Regional Basis are allocated first.

The number of seats allocated to each RHC will be calculated by the Secretary-General based on the principle of a proportional distribution between RHCs (taking into account the number of MS in each RHC) in order to arrive at the required two thirds of the Council seats. The Secretary-General may allocate a proportional number of seats to groups of MS who are not affiliated to a RHC.

An example of how the seats could be allocated, to arrive at 20 seats is:

- RHCs which have 1-6 members - 1 seat
- RHCs which have 7-13 members - 2 seats
- RHCs which have 14+ members - 3 seats
- Groups of MS who are not affiliated to a RHC – 1 seat.

(This is only an example, and may not be the mechanism actually used by the Secretary-General.)

INTEREST BASIS

Member States already declared as Council Members to represent an RHC are removed from this procedure.

The remaining MS are assessed on their flag state tonnage as stated in the most recent IHO Year Book – the top 10 being allocated 1 seat each. Should an MS thus identified not wish to take up a Council seat, or if it has already been elected to represent an RHC, the seat goes to the next highest tonnage.

CLARIFYING EXAMPLE

In Table I (which again is only an example of Regional representation, using the formula given above), the MS named in parenthesis are expected to be full members of the IHO

by the time this scheme would be implemented. The MS with names struck out in an RHC have been assumed to have chosen to be associated with another RHC.

TABLE I

RHC Members Number Seats

~~BSHC~~

~~Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, (Latvia), Poland, Russia, Sweden~~

~~5 1~~

~~EAHC~~

~~China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Rep. of Korea, Singapore, Thailand~~

~~8 2~~

~~EAtHC~~

~~France, Morocco, Nigeria, Portugal, Spain~~

~~4 1~~

~~MACHC~~

~~Colombia, Cuba, France, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Trinidad & Tobago, UK, USA, Venezuela~~

~~7 2~~

~~MBSHC~~

~~Algeria, (Bulgaria), Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Monaco, Morocco, (Romania), Russia, Serbia & Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine~~

~~17 3~~

~~NHC~~

~~Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden~~

~~5 1~~

~~NIOHC~~

~~Bangladesh, India, (Myanmar), Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UK~~

~~7 2~~

~~NSHC~~

~~Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, UK~~

~~3 1~~

~~RSAHC~~

~~Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, (Saudi Arabia), UAE~~

~~7 2~~

~~SAIHC~~

~~France, Mozambique, Norway, South Africa, UK~~

~~2 1~~

~~SEPHC~~

~~Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru~~

~~3 1~~

~~SWPHC~~

~~Australia, Fiji, France, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, UK, USA~~

~~5 1~~

USCHC
Canada, USA
2 1
Other
Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Dem. Rep. Korea
4 1
TOTAL COUNCIL SEATS 20

TABLE II

The following table shows the 20 highest tonnages, based on entries in the IHO 2002 Yearbook:

Rank MS Tonnage (x million)

1	China	29.0
2	Greece	28.8
3	Cyprus	27.5
4	Norway	22.2
5	Singapore	19.6
6	UK	19.2
7	USA	18.7
8	Japan	14.8
9	Russia	8.9
10	Italy	8.2
11	India	7.2
12	Germany	6.5
13	Turkey	6.5
14	Denmark	6.5
15	Philippines	6.3
16	Netherlands	5.6
17	France	5.3
18	Malaysia	5.2
19	Iran	4.7
20	Canada	4.2

China, Greece, Cyprus, Norway, Singapore, UK, USA, Japan, Russia, Italy would be allocated seats. If (say) four of those have already gained seats through RHC nominations, tonnage seats would go to India, Germany, Turkey, Denmark, etc.