ERSAHC 1-15 IMO Brief

1.   The reorganization of the IMO sub-committees has been completed, of major significance to IHO is the amalgamation of the Safety of Navigation and the Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue sub-committees into the Sub-committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR).

2.   The IMO Assembly considered documents related to progress on the transition from the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme to the IMO Member States Mandatory Audit Scheme. The scheme includes the assessment of the provision of national hydrographic services in countries being audited. The Assembly adopted key resolutions and amendments relating to the IMO's Mandatory Audit Scheme, paving the way for the scheme to come into effect by 2016. The Assembly re-iterated its invitation to Member States, which have not yet volunteered for audit, to do so as and when they are ready and as early as possible.

3.   The e-Navigation Strategy Implementation Plan is to be finalized and a consolidated report is to be presented to NCSR 1 in July. IHO S-100 has been confirmed as the data standard to support the e-Navigation architecture. The IHO with IALA and other partners were requested to continue their contributions. The e-Navigation concept under development by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) is defined as:

The harmonized collection, integration, exchange, presentation and analysis of marine information on-board and ashore by electronic means to enhance berth to berth navigation and related services for safety and security at sea and protection of the marine environment.

4.   The meeting is requested to:

        a.   Note this report;
        b.   Consider a voluntary audit as soon as convenient in preparation for the introduction of the mandatory scheme.
        c.   Take any other action deemed appropriate.