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See Distribution

27 Jumada al Ula 1432AH
1 May 2011

Dear Commission Members, Associates and Observers,

After compliments,

4th ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION MEETING - FINAL REPORT

Reference:

A. 4th RSAHC meeting, Muscat 21-22 Mar 11.

1. The Final Report with Annexes for the 4th RSAHC meeting is now complete and forwarded as directed at the reference. This Final report and Annexes will also be available on the website.
2. It is requested the list of Actions, Annex B to the Final Report, is studied and appropriate measures are taken to ensure the agreed dates are achieved.

With respect and regards,

D J Wyatt
Cdr RNO
Hydrographer RNO and National Hydrographer of Oman
For Chairman ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission

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4th ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (RSAHC)
MUSCAT, SULTANATE OF OMAN 21-22 March 2011
(Industry presentations – 23 March 2011)

FINAL REPORT

Section numbering relates to Agenda numbering.

Note All RSAC4 Documents are available from the IHO website:

<http://www.iho.int/mtg/rhc/RSAHC/RSAHC4/RSAHC4.htm>

1. Opening remarks by RSAHC Chairman and IHB.

Commander Thani al Mahrouki, Head of the Oman National Hydrographic Office (ONHO), welcomed participants to the meeting. He gave a brief history of the previous meetings and encouraged members to have more regular gatherings than had been achieved since the initial meeting in Tehran in October 2000. He noted the present meeting was an encouraging sign, being only 2 years since RSAHC3.

Captain Gorziglia, IHB Director, reiterated the Chairman's comments and welcome. He urged participants to maximise the opportunity presented by this meeting.

2. Administrative arrangements.

Commander David Wyatt, Hydrographer of Oman, outlined the administrative arrangements for the meeting and confirmed that he would be acting as secretary for the meeting.

The Chairman asked delegates to introduce themselves. The Chairman noted Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and IR of Iran were not officially represented. The Chairman concluded a quorum was present in accordance with the statutes. Kuwait was present for Day 2 and 3 of the meeting.

3. Approval of the Agenda and Timetable.

IHB added an item to explain Capacity Building and the processes involved. The agenda was then approved and the timetable agreed.

4. Review of action items from the previous meeting.

The meeting reviewed the list of Action items from RSAHC3 (See document RSAHC3-17A) and concluded the following:

- 1) Pakistan confirmed details of their courses had been provided to Member States (MS), no other input was provided. The Chairman requested any additional information to be provided by the end of the meeting.
- 2) The IHB commented the website was a vital method of communication. The IHB also highlighted the need for input from MS in order to ensure the website was up to date and the information published was correct.
- 3) The IHB noted that some of the National Reports provided updates to IHO Publication C-55 (Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting World-Wide) and these would be included at the next revision. (See Section 8 below)
- 4) The UK stated a revised chart scheme had been provided to the INT Chart coordinator but they had yet to receive any comment. The IHB confirmed they had collated the draft scheme but it had not been approved by MS.
- 5) The UK confirmed graphics of the coverage for ENCs had been submitted to IR of Iran and the IHB; however no feedback had been received.
- 6) The IHB noted that no CB requests had been received from the RSAHC for the CBSC WPs. It was noted that Pakistan had submitted a proposal for discussion at RSAHC4.
- 7) The IHB requested MS submit information to support this proposal.
- 8) The Chairman requested all MS to comment on the draft RSAHC4 Final Report as quickly as possible once received. The IHB urged representation at the third meeting of the Inter Regional Co-ordination Committee (IRCC) 3 in Brazil in May 2011 and that the RSAHC4 Final Report was submitted in good time. IHB also highlight the importance of having the RSAHC represented at IRCC events.

5. Review of Statues of the Commission.

The IHB indicated that Annex A of the RSAHC Statutes needed to be updated to reflect changes to IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended (formerly resolution T1.3) as published in IHO Circular Letter (CL) 69/2010 was the basis for the amendment.

The Chairman suggested all may agree to include this amendment as briefed. The IHB emphasised the amendment was on the proposed structure for national reports to create a common format. It was noted that not all sections needed to be completed and not all topics were covered by all Hydrographic Offices (HOs).

Pakistan suggested disaster prevention and environmental issues should not be included. IHB stated the resolution had been adopted by IHO MS and any proposed changes should be made through formal IHO processes.

All MS agreed to amend the Statutes.

6. **Report by IHB.**

Captain Gorziglia presented the IHB Report (See document RSAHC4-6). He outlined the new structure and background, after which he gave a detailed brief on each of the Programmes. He emphasised Programme 1 and the need for MS to vote on the new convention and pending applications for membership. The dates of the XVIII IHC were highlighted along with associated Conference Circular Letters detailing the preparations.

Programme 2 detailed the work of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC). It was suggested that MS might wish to consider translating IHO Publication C-13, Manual on Hydrography, into Arabic.

Programme 3 covered the work of the IRCC, its meetings and associated CLs. Captain Gorziglia explained how relevant it was to RSAHC MS. He particularly noted how RSAHC had not benefitted from any Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC) Work Programme (WP) opportunities as no input had been received from RSAHC. He concluded with remarks on the importance of having input to the CBSC WP and the need for action by RSAHC to ensure full benefit was gained from the opportunities available.

The Chairman re-enforced the need for engagement with IHB and all IHO bodies. He also highlighted the importance of gaining from capacity building opportunities and providing input for inclusion in the CBSC WP for the region as a whole. He encouraged MS to consider the possibility of translating C-13 for the benefit of all Arabic speaking nations.

Pakistan requested inclusion of definitions and historical definitions in the Manual on Technical Aspects of UNCLOS 1982. IHB agreed to take this item to the next ABLOS meeting. It was noted that no definitions for Historical Bays were included in Manual and UNCLOS 1982.

KSA requested information on the costs of IHO courses and training. IHO pointed out that courses funded through the CBSC WP were free or subsidised, other courses offered by other bodies were only checked for content by IHB and they had no input or influence over the costs.

7. **National Reports.**

Oman (RSAHC4-7-Oman), Pakistan (RSAHC4-7-Pakistan), Qatar (RSAHC4-7-Qatar), UK (RSAHC4-7-UK) and KSA presented their National Reports. It was noted IR of Iran (RSAHC4-7-IR-of-Iran) had also submitted a National Report. KSA was requested to forward their report for publication on the website.

The following highlights and requests for clarification were noted:

- 1) IHB requested clarification on the status of ENCs in Oman, training provision and delivery shortfalls, MSI provision and the timeliness of promulgation. NAVAREA IX co-ordinator confirmed there was a productive and effective partnership with Oman.

2) Pakistan highlighted its training capability and capacity. The challenges faced with communicating with the other 16 states within NAVAREA IX were detailed, particularly the lack of e-mail addresses. The Chairman urged MS to provide efficient communication methods to the co-ordinator. The Chairman asked for further detail on the Tsunami warning system that had been established.

3) Qatar highlighted the difficulty in employing suitably qualified personnel to expand its capability, despite having recently procured a new fully equipped SMB. Pakistan indicated it could assist in the provision of skilled trained personnel, requesting details of the requirement and contacts.

4) KSA highlighted its experience and training needs to allow further development of its national capability.

5) UK highlighted the benefits of bilateral arrangements and capacity building initiatives in which it was involved.

6) IHB highlighted the changes made to letter designations for IHO publications and urged MS to update the information in the IHO Year Book (Publication P-5).

8. Review of Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting in the ROPME Sea Area Region (IHO Publication C-55 and questionnaires/updates from RSAHC Countries).

IHB detailed the current state of updates for MS, highlighting the date of the most recent update submitted by MS. All States should submit updates annually, or when there was a significant change in the data, and not wait for the next RSAHC Meeting. If there has been no change in the last 12 months this should also be reported as this allowed the date of validity of the information to be updated. It was emphasised that C-55 was widely used by international organisations, both governmental and non-governmental, and therefore it was in MS best interest to ensure it was correct.

The chair asked all MS to check their data in C-55 and submit regular updates to the IHB (info@ihb.mc).

9. Establishment of RSAICC-WG (IHO CL23/2010).

See section 11 below.

10. Report by INT Chart Co-ordinator – Progress on the implementation of the INT Chart Scheme.

See section 11 below.

11. Report by ENC Co-ordinator – Progress on the implementation of ENC coverage and other issues.

It was noted the INT Chart co-ordinator had submitted at report, which was available on the RSAHC4 webpage of the IHO website. Bahrain requested the adoption of a new chart; the Chairman directed that the request should be passed to the INT Chart co-ordinator and IHB for action.

IHB emphasised the need for coordination by the MS to organise INT Chart and ENC coverage within the region. It was noted that changes to schemes can only be made when the INT Chart Co-ordinator has circulated the changes to all Commission members and received their agreement. The IHB, although willing to assist, has no authority to undertake this task or establish a scheme for RSAHC. MS need to identify a way forward and clarify what needs to be done to complete this task.

The willingness of the IR of Iran to continue as the INT Chart and ENC Co-ordinator was questioned but unfortunately they were not present to indicate their position, it was suggested the role of INT Chart and ENC Co-ordinator was too large a task for one MS to undertake. All MS supported the proposal of establishing a WG, it was emphasised the WG needs to be active and make maximum use of e-mail and the website to overcome the problem of organising regular meetings.

The IHB highlighted all necessary guidance for the establishment of a RSAHC International Charting Co-ordination Working Group (RSAICCWG) covering INT Charts and ENCs. Generic Terms of Reference (ToR) and Rules of Procedure (RoP) for such a WG had been drafted by UK and were available on the RSAHC4 web page. It was emphasised that this was generic guidance which should be amended to suit the particular needs of the RSAHC.

The UK reported that a draft scheme for small and medium scale ENC coverage had been submitted to the co-ordinator but as yet no comments had been received.

The Chairman asked for volunteers to form the RSAICCWG; Kuwait, UK, Pakistan, KSA, Oman, Bahrain and the US all volunteered to be members.

Kuwait asked if IR of Iran would continue as Co-ordinator. It was agreed the Final Report should be used as the vehicle to transmit the request to the IR of Iran, as it was entirely the decision of the IR of Iran whether to step down or continue to lead this new RSAICCWG. Oman suggested a Vice Co-ordinator should be appointed to assist the Co-ordinator and to be prepared to takeover if IR of Iran declined to continue as Co-ordinator.

The UK offered to support the Co-ordinator and Vice-Co-ordinator in any manner necessary. Oman volunteered to take the role of Vice-Co-ordinator, all MS supported this nomination and Oman was dually appointed as Vice-Co-ordinator of the RSAICCWG.

The Chairman then read through the draft guidance to ensure that all MS agreed on the ToRs and RoP. It was emphasised that these were draft guidance, which could be changed by MS to suit the RSAHC needs. IHB advised that in paragraph 3.3 the reference to the IHO

resolution should be amended to “5/1957, as amended, Rule 6c”. The ToRs and Rules of Procedure were approved.

The UK suggested that in order to reduce travel costs it might be appropriate for the RSAICCWG to meet immediately before RSAHC5 and to work by correspondence prior to this meeting. The IHB suggested that MS should nominate individuals to serve on the RSAICCWG and provide e-mail contact addresses. The Chairman directed RSAICCWG members should provide the names and contact details by 25 April 2011.

The IHB proposed that the RSAHC web page should be used to publish RSAICCWG information and this proposal was endorsed by the meeting.

The Chairman requested the IR of Iran to report on progress on Action 10 from RSAHC3 (Workshop on INT Chart and ENC Schemes).

MS were requested to approve the draft INT Chart scheme (S-11 Part B Region I) prepared by the IHB and based on information included in the report of the INT Chart Co-ordinator, which had been in draft for a number of years. The scheme was approved although Oman requested time to review the Omani INT Charts. It was agreed that Oman would respond by the 31 July 2011 after which the scheme would be published.

12. RSAHC input to WEND-WG report to IRCC3.

The UK briefed the meeting on the RSAHC report to the World-Wide Electronic Navigational Chart Database (WEND) WG and noted the report was available on the WEND website. A detailed explanation was given of the problems caused by overlapping ENC cells. MS were requested to check and confirm the information held by UKHO, particularly any areas of overlap and an intended solution for reduction. It was emphasised there was a pressing need to ensure any gaps in coverage were filled with the IMO carriage requirement deadline approaching.

A CL will be issued by the Chairman of the WEND-WG to all MS requesting comment of the coverage, gaps and overlaps. A report on the quality on updating issues will be submitted to IRCC3.

It was noted that in general coverage in the region appears adequate. Coverage at Scale Band 4 needs to be reviewed by MS and comments passed to the UK. The UK noted that GB cells would be withdrawn in favour of national cells, when available. The importance of dialogue between adjacent MS to ensure that full coverage is achieved without gaps or overlaps was recommended.

13. New techniques and equipment in hydrography and oceanography.

The presentations given by NetSurvey, Kongsberg Maritime, Caris, IVS 3D and Fugro gave MS an indication of present and future developments. It was clear that there was a willingness for commercial involvement in capacity building which needs to be encouraged and investigated.

It was suggested in future the presentations could be given at the start Day 2, rather than on the day following the meeting in order to stimulate debate within the meeting. All confirmed the benefit of industry participation in RSAHC meetings and encouraged its repeat at RSAHC5.

14. Promulgation of radio navigation warnings within NAVAREA IX area, MSI in NAVAREA IX and the implementation of GMDSS.

The NAVAREA IX Co-ordinator presented the present status and issues affecting the area. It was requested that MS use e-mail to pass information to the Co-ordinator whenever possible.

The Chairman requested clarification on the process for visits to see the NAVAREA operation and setup.

The US asked whether texting and social networks were used to disseminate navigational warnings. The IHB indicated that these methods do not meet SOLAS requirements for GMDSS but could be useful as a secondary method of distributing information for local limited areas.

The IHB briefed on the WWNWS-Sub-Committee activities and the recently completed updated publications. A CD was given to each MS containing all documentation.

15. Capacity Building (CB) matters.

IHB briefed on CBSC activities, particularly the progress achieved in various projects and planned events. Clarification was given on the strategy phases of development and the process of moving through the capability levels. IHB noted that a RSAHC CB representative had not been nominated and the negative impact this was having. The IHB highlighted activities and projects approved in previous years by the CBSC. It was suggested these could give MS ideas as to their own requirements. It was reiterated that no input to the next CBSC meeting would result in no funding allocation and therefore no activities focused on the RSAHC.

The Chairman requested IHB to clarify the penalty on RSAHC MS for not having a representative. IHB stated that MS would not receive CB funding or effort as there would be no input to the CBSC meetings and no one putting forward the region's case or explaining the region's needs. It was explained that representation at CBSC meetings was vital to ensure successful securing of funding for regional projects. IHB highlighted that CBSC meetings were planned to take place just before IRCC meetings to reduce costs and help to maximise attendance at both meetings.

The Chairman asked for clarification of the role of CB co-ordinator. UK briefed on the role from experience gained in other Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs). The UK volunteered to take on the role of CB co-ordinator for RSAHC, all MS supported the nomination and the UK was appointed CB co-ordinator for RSAHC.

CB co-ordinator explained the need to collate input to CBSC as quickly as possible as the deadline for submissions for 2012 funding was the beginning of April 2011. It was therefore

vital MS highlighted their needs at RSAHC4 so these could be developed and submitted through the Chairman to enable them to be considered at the next CBSC meeting before IRCC3. The form used for submissions was displayed and the detail required was highlighted, the process for submissions was also explained.

Qatar indicated that qualified personnel were a major issue, equipment and systems had been procured through the government but there were no operators available. Pakistan indicated there were fully qualified personnel at all levels available if requested. The Chairman asked for MS to liaise between each other to address this issue.

IHB indicated this was a worldwide issue and therefore urged MS to consider very carefully who they sent to fill the limited CB training opportunities. It was frustrating to note the occurrences of personnel returning from CB training and then being reassigned to a non-compatible position in another department. This was a poor use of limited funding and denied a place to another MS. The Chairman urged MS to consider this point when nominating individuals for CB opportunities provided by IHO and IMO.

The US highlighted the opportunities for obtaining funds from other external international bodies for larger projects to supplement CBSC funds.

The UK asked Pakistan for maximum and minimum numbers which could be accommodated on a proposed Workshop on Ports and Shallow Water Hydrographic Surveys to be hosted by Pakistan. It was noted the ideal number was 8-10. This draft proposal was highlighted to other MS and it was confirmed the workshop would be open to NIOHC MS. The Chairman requested Pakistan to provide details of any costs which would need to be met by attending personnel.

MS were requested to submit inputs for CB. The CB Co-ordinator created a grid of immediate inputs and highlighted a number of common themes. The Chairman requested that the grid was sent to the IR of Iran and UAE so their input could hopefully be reflected in any submission to the next CBSC meeting. MS were urged to check the website for events in other RHCs, which might be of benefit and on which places may be available.

The IHB urged RSAHC MS to support the presence of the Chairman at the next CBSC meeting; all supported this initiative.

16. Development of Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) in the region.

The UK briefed on the background to this issue and the draft proposal submitted to the RSAHC meeting. The IHB briefed the meeting on the new IHO Publication "Spatial Data Infrastructures: "The Marine Dimension" - Guidance for Hydrographic Offices" C-17 and its contents. It was agreed the proposal would be developed; however collation of MS CB requests indicated that only Bahrain and Oman were interested in such a proposal and consequently it was decided not to pursue this issue at this juncture.

17. Engagement of ROPME Sea Area members with IHB, IHO, IRCC and IHO WGs.

The IHB briefed MS on the importance of engagement with IHB, IHO WGs and other RHCs. The difference between the IHB and IHO was explained and where the IRCC fitted into the organisation. The role of the IRCC was explained in relation to regional and global WGs and RHCs, IHB urged MS to become involved in the CBSC, WEND, HSSC and IRCC but it was recognised not all states have the capacity to be involved in all WGs. It was emphasised that RHCs should be the link between the regions and other IHO bodies and IHB.

The IHB urged RSAHC and MS to consider ways to improve engagement and representation. The Chairman highlighted how much he and ONHO had gained by his personal involvement in the S-23 WG. He urged MS to provide alternative e-mail contacts to improve the follow up of communication between MS and IHB.

Oman suggested setting up a social network site for use by MS. The US volunteered to set up a “LinkedIn” site for RSAHC as this was considered more appropriate than other social sites.

18. Any other business.

Pakistan requested UK to pass a copy of all wreck details in their waters held on the UKHO database. UK agreed to check and pass any information available. The Chairman highlighted the Oman Maritime Book, which contains details of wrecks in the Arabian Sea and Sea of Oman.

19. Election of the next chairman and vice-chairman.

No nominations were received for the role of Chairman or vice-Chairman of RSAHC, therefore Oman and Qatar were duly re-appointed to their respective roles.

20. Date and venue for next meeting.

The IHB suggested that RSAHC5 needed to be held before the month of May in order to be able to provide appropriate input to the IRCC and CBSC meetings which take place annually in May. The Chairman suggested February 2013 would be appropriate and allow timely completion of necessary reports and submissions.

The US pointed out that MS would therefore need to submit inputs and proposals to the CB Co-ordinator by correspondence before the CBSC meeting in 2012 or they would miss out on CB funding again. It was suggested MS should consider meeting annually in line with most other RHCs to ensure timely submissions and monitoring of progress.

Kuwait offered to host RSAHC5 subject to national approval. KSA volunteered to be an alternative host, subject to approval, if Kuwait was unable to host the meeting. The date of RSAHC5 was to be advised once the host had been confirmed.

21. Approval of list of Actions.

The list of Actions arising from RSAHC4 were reviewed and adopted and are attached at Annex B.

22. Closing remarks by the Chairman.

The Chairman thanked all present for attending and contributing to the meeting. He particularly thanked the IHB for their guidance and help during the meeting and the UK and US for the advice and support they have provided to RSAHC members. He also thanked the commercial companies for their input, highlighting the generous support of Kongsberg Maritime, Caris and NetSurvey/IVS 3D towards the cost of the meeting. Finally he thanked Commander David Wyatt and the MoTC for their work and efforts, which had been focused over the past few weeks to ensure the success of RSAHC4. He finally wished all a safe return to their respective countries.

Annexes:

- A. Full list of attendees (RSAHC4-Participants).
- B. List of Actions (RSAHC4-Actions).
- C. Full list of RSAHC4 documents.



**4th ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION MEETING (4th RSAHC)
FROM 21 TO 23 March 2011
MUSCAT- SULTANATE OF OMAN**

List of Participants

Members

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4th ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (RSAHC)

Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 21-23 march 2011

ACTION LIST

No	Action	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	To keep IHB informed of changes to data and information published on the IHO website, C-55 and IHO Year Book.	All	Permanent
2.	To consider provision of shallow water bathymetric data to GEBCO Programme through the IHO DCDB	All	Permanent
3.	To contribute to International Hydrographic Review by providing articles and notes to the Editor and/or IHB, following the guidelines on the IHO website. To consider nomination of member to editorial board.	All	Permanent
4.	To improve communication between RSAHC Member States and IHB and IHO bodies. Member States to provide alternative e-mail addresses to increase likelihood of receipt of communications.	All	25 Apr
5.	To regularly check IHO website for notification of events and up-dated information.	All	Permanent
6.	To check data held by UKHO and confirm correct ENC coverage is achieved. (Document RSAHC4/12/UK) UK to provide coverage graphics in early Apr. Responses to chairman of WEND-WG.	All	tbc
7.	Members states to resolve any gaps or overlaps to achieve most efficient coverage.	ICCWG	Permanent
8.	To ensure timely passage of MSI to Navarea IX coordinator by use of e-mail whenever possible.	All	Permanent
9.	To provide name and contact details of nomination to RSAHCICC WG.	All	25 Apr
10.	To confirm revised INT Chart scheme provided by INT Chart coordinator to IHB.	Oman	30 Jul
11.	To give urgent attention to activities and timely attention for 2012 CB WP to ensure inputs and documents are submitted by RSAHC CB coordinator to CBSC.	All	10 Apr
12.	To obtain inputs from RSAHC for 2013 CB WP	CB Coordinator	Dec 11
13.	To urge all member states to consider personnel nominated for CB courses and workshops to ensure those personnel are correctly employed on completion.	All	Permanent
14.	To identify a volunteer to establish a RSAHC Linkedin sight to improve the dissemination of information and communication.	US	30 Apr

15.	To comment on draft meeting report to enable final report to be submitted for inclusion at IRCC3.	All	30 Apr
16	Confirmation of volunteer to host RSAHC5 in Feb 2013.	Kuwait/KSA	25 Apr

Document No	Document Title
RSAHC4-Letter1	Invitation
RSAHC4-3-Agenda	Agenda
RSAHC4-Participants	List of Participants
RSAHC4-3-Programme-Rev1	Programme Rev1
RSAHC4-6-IHB	IHB Report
RSAHC4-7-IR-Iran	IR of Iran National Report Rev1
RSAHC4-7-KSA	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia National Report
RSAHC4-7-Oman	Oman National Report
RSAHC4-7-Pakistan	Pakistan National Report
RSAHC4-7-Pakistan-Presentation	Pakistan National Report Presentation
RSAHC4-7-Qatar	Qatar National Report
RSAHC4-7-UK	UK National Report
RSAHC4-9-UK	International Charting Working Group - UK comments
RSAHC4-10-Iran	Report of the INT Chart Co-ordinator
RSAHC4-10-IHB	IHB Report on INT Charts and S-11 Rev2
RSAHC4-10-S11-Draft	Draft S-11 Section B Region I
RSAHC4-10-Oman	Omani National Chart Scheme
RSAHC4-12-UK	ENC Coverage - UK Comments
RSAHC4-15-Pakistan	Workshop on Port and Shallow Water Survey
RSAHC4-16-MSDI	MSDI Project Submission Model
RSAHC4-Actions	LIST OF ACTIONS FROM RSAHC4