



**7<sup>th</sup> ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION CONFERENCE**  
**Muscat, Oman**  
**20 – 22 February 2017**

**IHO Secretariat Report**

**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. The first meeting of the Council (C-1) will take place from 17 to 19 October 2017 and annually in October thereafter. The second session of the Assembly (A-2) should take place in April 2020;
- the subsidiary organs, including the Committees, of the IHO 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. Malta has been 86<sup>th</sup> member of the IHO. 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, there is no requirement to seek the approval of existing Member States of the IHO. Accordingly, the following States : Bulgaria, Congo, Haiti, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, that have already applied for membership of the IHO, may now submit their instruments of accession to the Convention on the IHO and thereby become members immediately.

### **Regional Applications for Membership of the IHO**

3. Iraq that is the Associate member of the RSAHC and also not already Member State of the IHO is encouraged to become member. The IHO Secretariat, in cooperation with the Department of External Relations of the Government of Monaco, stands ready to assist, through diplomatic or other channels, for Iraq's application for membership of the IHO through their respective governments.

### **Suspended Member States**

4. Serbia, Congo and the Dominican Republic remain suspended. IHO Secretariat 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.

### **INT Chart and ENC Production Coordination – Region I**

5. Islamic Republic of Iran, as Chair of the RSAHC Integrated Charting Committee Working Group (ICCWG) for Region I, is responsible to provide regular updates to S-11 Part B - Catalogue of INT Charts. The status of the INT chart scheme for region I is contained in Edition 3.0.0 of S-11 Part B which was made available in January 2016. According to the S-11 Part B Web Catalogue, there are 116 charts (and/or plans) in the scheme, of which 68 have been published (59%). I would encourage member states to continue to support the IR of Iran, as INT coordinator, in providing the IHO Secretariat with regular updates to S-11.

6. All RSAHC region Member States are also invited to provide the IHO Secretariat with regular updates to C-55 on at least an annual basis. The IHO Secretariat would be grateful for delegates to forward up-dated information to the Secretariat at [info@iho.int](mailto:info@iho.int) or via mail.

7. Where it is known, links have been provided from the IHO ENC coverage catalogue ([www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) > *ENC&ECDIS* > *ENC Availability* > *on-line catalogue*) to Member States' on-line chart catalogues, but updates need to be provided to the IHO Secretariat. No updates to the lists of back-up paper charts for ECDIS, requested by IHO CL 61/2015 (Section 7 refers), have been received from the IHO Member States' representatives in the RSAHC.

8. 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 Directing Committee 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*. No information has been received from RSAHC member States.

## Capacity Building Programme

9. 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% 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 Directing Committee is continuing its campaign to find additional donor States and funding organizations. In 2015, 86% of the budgeted work program was executed and paid for.

10. The RSAHC benefited from four activities under the IHO CB Work Programme (CBWP) since the last meeting:

- MBES Processing, Led by UKHO, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 07-11 June 2015
- Tidal and Water Levels Workshop, for RSAHC Members (former 2014 CBWP P-08), Led by UKHO, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 06-10 September 2015
- ENC Production and QA, (CBWP P-22), Led by UKHO, Bangkok, Thailand, 30 January-03 February 2017, together with NIOHC)
- Mr Mr. Jasim BUTAIBA from Bahrain attended the 2015-2016 edition of Master of Science Programme in Hydrographic Surveying at the University of Southern Mississippi (USA) sponsored by the Republic of Korea.
- A call for applications was issued in CL 51/2016 for the 2017-2018 session of the Master of Science Programme in Hydrographic Surveying at the University of Southern Mississippi (USA). Its deadline was 17 February, and the Secretariat has received an application from Bahrain.
- A call for applications was issued in CL 04/2017 for the 2017 session of the UKHO Category "B" programme (IHO - Nippon Foundation CHART Project). Hydrographic Offices are invited to provide their nominations, if any, by 24 March 2017.

## IHO GIS and Databases

11. 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.

**12. IHO Year Book.** The country information database has been progressively upgraded to include additional administrative information and facilitate the maintenance of the IHO Yearbook (IHO Publication P-5) and related lists posted on the IHO website. Countries in the RSAHC Region are invited to review the Yearbook and to provide the IHO Secretariat with any updates or report no change.

13. 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.

**14. C-55.** 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 response to the request to complement C-55 composite data (percentage of areas adequately surveyed / requiring re-survey / not surveyed) with CATZOC information (see IHO CL 52/2015), CATZOC data was provided by PRIMAR - on behalf of IC-ENC, PRIMAR and Canada, Singapore, Sweden and Thailand. Useful options for visualising the data in the IHO C-55 GIS

are being investigated. Countries in the RSAHC Region are invited to review their entry in C-55 and to provide the IHO Secretariat with the appropriate updates or to report no change.

### **INToGIS - INT Chart Management and Catalogue.**

15. Following the development of the regional database for Antarctica, the IHO Secretariat, 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](http://www.iho.int) > *Standards & Publications* > *S-11* > *Part B* (link). None of the RSAHC Member has requested ID and password to use the INToGIS services, except IR of Iran. Those countries are invited to do so as indicated in IHO CL 89/2015, as the IHO Secretariat discontinued the maintenance of the pdf version of the S-11 Part B -*Catalogue of INT Charts* on 1 April 2016.

16. 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 IHO Secretariat on 25 April 2016, just before the second meeting of the Nautical Cartography Working Group. The INT Chart / ENC Coordinators of 14 out of 15 charting regions were present or represented. The INT Chart Coordinator for Region I 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 a IHO CL 64/2015 follow-up, the Chart Coordinator for Region I is reminded to provide his feedback to the IHO Secretariat on the “basic quality assurance check-list for reviewing INT charts” by the end of March 2017.

17. RSAHC is also invited to report to the IHO Secretariat (to WENDWG Sec.) on the status and description of the ENC schemes in the Region I. Links have been provided to Member States’ on-line chart catalogues from the IHO ENC coverage catalogue ([www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) > *ENC&ECDIS* > *ENC Availability* > *on-line catalogue*).

### **Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry**

18. In accordance with Decision 8 of the EIHC-5, IRCC7 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).

19. 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. It is intended to include a comprehensive presentation on the work and aspirations of the CSBWG at Assembly-1.

### **Preparation of the first session of the IHO Assembly**

20. The first session of the IHO Assembly is scheduled to take place from 24 to 28 April 2017.

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.

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, and possibly instruct, the relevant occupant(s).

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 has been prepared by the IHO Secretariat in consultation with the HSSC, the IRCC and the Member States. All Assembly documents are available on the IHO website at: [www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) > Home>Assembly documents.

## **IHO Outreach**

### World Hydrography Day

24. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2016 was “*Hydrography – the key to well-managed seas and waterways.*” Pakistan from the RSAHC reported hosting events in connection with World Hydrography Day 2016. Reports on events hosted in connection with WHD 2016 are available at: [www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) > Home> About IHO > World Hydrography Day > WHD 2016 Celebrations around the world

25. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2017 is: “*Mapping our sea, oceans and waterways - more important than ever.*” 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.

## **International Hydrographic Review**

26. International Hydrographic Review. The 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 RSAHC region is Mr Keith Brown (Oman).

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

## **Action Requested of RSAHC Member States**

1. Note this report
2. Provide continuous updates to S-11 Part B, through IR of Iran as coordinator for INT Region I
3. Review entries in IHO Publications C-55 and P-5 (Year Book) at least annually.
4. Provide continuous updates to S-11 Part B for INT Region I through the INTOGIS tool and implement the procedure depicted in IHO CL 64/2015 for the review and monitoring of INT charts
5. Report to the IHO Secretariat on the status and description of the ENC schemes in the Region I

6. Consider appropriate arrangements to prepare the IHO Assembly to be held in April 2017
7. Consider submitting papers for publication in the IH Review.
8. Take any other actions as considered appropriate.