

**IVth SOUTH-EASTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION MEETING**

Cartagena de Indias, 15-18 March 1999

FINAL MINUTES

Maritime General Directorate

COLOMBIA

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FINAL MINUTES

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**FINAL MINUTES OF THE IVth SOUTH-EASTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION MEETING
Cartagena, 15-18 March 1999**

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The IVth meeting of the South Eastern Pacific Regional Hydrographic Commission was held on 15 March 1999, with the participation of the following delegations: Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Panama as Observer and the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB).

During the opening ceremony, Rear Admiral Alfonso CALERO ESPINOSA, General Maritime Director of Colombia, welcomed the attending delegations. Then, Rear Admiral Giuseppe ANGRISANO addressed to the Plenary Session, thanking the Maritime Authority of Colombia for the organization of the meeting. He also welcomed officially Colombia, which became recently member of the International Hydrographic Organization. A plate commemorating this event was offered to Colombia. The list of participants is given at Annex 1.

II. NOMINATION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND RAPPORTEUR AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING

After the opening ceremony, the procedure for the selection of the Chairman and the Rapporteur of the IVth Meeting of the South Eastern Pacific Regional Hydrographic Commission started. Rear Admiral Alfonso CALERO ESPINOSA, General Maritime Director, was elected Chairman and Lt.Cdr. Edgar Enrico CABRERA LUNA, Head of the Coastal and Marine Research Division, was elected Rapporteur. Then the Agenda of the meeting was adopted (see Annex 2: Agenda of the Meeting).

According to the provisions of Article 7 (a) of the Statutes in force, the General Maritime Director of the Colombian Navy, Rear Admiral Alfonso CALERO ESPINOSA, assumed the Chairmanship of this Regional Commission, replacing in this post Rear Admiral Bruno SCHENONE, Director of Hydrography and Navigation of the Army of Peru.

Following the above, the General Maritime Directorate of Colombia assumed the Chairmanship and Secretariat of the South Eastern Pacific Regional Hydrographic Commission for the period 1999-2001.

III. SUBJECTS DEALT

Following the Agenda issues, the following subjects were dealt:

2.1 Report of the Outgoing Chairman

Rear Admiral Bruno SCHENONE, Director of Hydrography and Navigation of the Army of Peru, as outgoing Chairman of the SEPRHC, expressed his best wishes to the attendants and proceeded to read the report of his work, in which the main actions and

the fulfilment of the agreements in the intersessional period, from the holding of the IIIrd SEPRHC Meeting (Annex 3: Report of the Outgoing Chairman), were outlined.

2.2 Status and Implementation of the IHO Strategic Planning

Rear Admiral Giuseppe ANGRISANO, IHB President, exposed the objectives and priorities relevant to the IHO task, explaining that this planning is subject to the approval of the Extraordinary Meeting, to be held in March 2000 (See Annex 4: Status and Implementation of the IHO Strategic Planning).

2.3 General Status for the Production of INT Charts.

The President of the IHB Directing Committee gave an explanation on the distribution of the international schemes for the different regions and mentioned, in addition to other subjects, that, from the 1,583 charts planned in the global scheme, only 568 have been achieved. On the other hand, he explained in detail the contents of the IHB Circular Letter No. 44/1998. Chile suggested to use other means of distribution than those mentioned in that Circular Letter. The Chilean Delegation insisted to have Spanish language approved as an official language by the next extraordinary meeting of the IHO. Rear Admiral ANGRISANO answered that, in spite of the existing financial problems, this matter is progressing and the IHB will prepare a report for the Member States, as a basis to make a more concrete proposal.

Then, the different delegations gave a presentation of the current situation and the nautical cartography projected production at a medium term, both in paper and digital versions.

The Delegate of Panama stated that his country did not make much progress in Cartography. Rear Admiral ANGRISANO added that the IHB will send a letter to Panama, recommending the establishment of its hydrographic office. The IHO can assist this country in the development of this activity, as Rear Admiral ANGRISANO confirmed during his recent visit to this country.

2.4 Amendment to the IMO recommendation concerning ECDIS

The IHO brought the participants attention to the paragraph 1.2 of the IMO A.817 (19) Resolution concerning the use of a set of adequate paper charts, together with the Raster Chart Display System (RCDS).

Then, the various delegations exposed briefly the legal framework involving the hydrographic activity, the responsibility of the hydrographic offices related to the information given to the mariners and the property of the information arising from those offices. There was a consensus on the concern about the use and handling of the data produced by not authorized entities and/or people. In this sense, it was established that hydrographic offices are responsible for the achievement of the nautical cartography, and manage the hydrographic data, which belong to them.

The IHO informed about the existence of the A 3.4 Resolution, updated by the XVth IHO Conference, and concerning the reserve of the ownership right for the hydrographic data from the various hydrographic offices.

After the presentation made by each country, the Chairman of the meeting proposed to create three Working Groups, which would propose agreements about the following subjects: Status and Implementation of the IHO Strategic Planning, Amendment to the IMO Recommendation about ECDIS and Legal Affairs related to the hydrographic activity. The groups were divided as follows:

- Status and Implementation of the IHO Strategic Planning: Colombia and Chile;
- Amendment to the IMO Recommendation about ECDIS: Peru and Ecuador;
- Legal Aspects: Ecuador and Peru.

2.5 New Terms of Reference for the IHO/FIG Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee (TACC)

Rear Admiral Giuseppe ANGRISANO, IHB President, made a short description of the Terms of Reference, by which will be established the cooperation mechanisms in Hydrography, enhancing the advance in the hydrographic surveying inventories at a global level and specially in the less developed countries. On another hand, Rear Admiral ANGRISANO proposed to have the SEPRHC send a representative to the meeting to be held in Mobile, Alabama, USA, at the end of April, for the United States Hydrographic Conference.

The Chilean Delegation noted that the cooperation should not be forgotten in the southamerican region. Peru proposed to include projects on environmental matters, in the frame of the "CPPS" Action Plan, to be guaranteed by the IHO. It was agreed to require the IHO support for the project of the Joint IOC-WMO-"CPPS" Working Group, about the studies of the "El Niño Phenomenon", presented to the Oceanographic Intergovernmental Commission (IOC), to monitor the oceanographic and meteorological conditions, thanks to observation buoys, including an additional project on the Coastal Zone Integrated Operation. Agreement No. 4.

Finally, it was agreed that the delegate of the Commission to the Mobile Convention, Alabama, be the representative of Colombia. The mandate was presented in the Agreement No. 5.

2.6 New questionnaire for the Updating of the IHO Publication S-55

Rear Admiral ANGRISANO, while developing this subject, noted that this publication is not satisfactory; that is why a new edition is planned, containing more detailed and updated information. A questionnaire, which will be fulfilled by the hydrographic offices of each country, was submitted for its consideration by the plenary session and sent back to the IHO for the compilation of data.

Then, the delegations described the various training and practice courses in the different levels of Hydrography and Cartography, as well as the practice outside. The IHO asked for the detailed contents of each of the courses, to draft a summary about them (Publication S-47).

Colombia outlined the action to be taken concerning Agreement No. 7 of the IIIrd SEPRHC Meeting with respect to the information exchange about the courses offered by the many hydrographic offices. The confirmation of this agreement was accepted by the delegations.

The IHB representative informed about the courses to be held at the International Maritime Academy of Trieste. Every course will be announced with an IHB Circular Letter. The IHB participates in the selection of the students and in the composition of the group of professors. The SEPRHC countries can send students and also professors. For the latter, the travel and accommodation in Trieste will be paid.

2.7 Status of the Caribbean International Bathymetric Chart

The IHO made a short description of the current status of the bathymetric cartographic project including the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico and part of the South Eastern Pacific in sectors of Ecuador, Panama and Colombia.

The Colombian delegation informed about the progress of this project in its area of responsibility in the sheets 1-13, 1-14 and 1-17, taking into account the agreements made during the last meeting of the IBCCA Editorial Board, held in November 1998.

2.8 Terms of Reference for the IHO Tidal Committee and IHO Resolution A2.5 concerning levelling datums and tides

Rear Admiral ANGRISANO made a short description of the Terms of Reference considered when the IHO Tidal Committee has to act, and also a description of the Resolution A2.5, in which the LAT datum (Lowest Astronomical Tide) has been adopted, as reference to be used in the charts where tides have an important effect on the water level.

2.9 Project for the elaboration of the IHO Manual

The IHO informed about its intention to make an international hydrographic manual, initiative which was welcomed by all the countries except for Norway. Many countries were interested in participating in the Working Group in charge of the production of such Manual, collecting the experience gained in this type of tasks up to that moment by the United States and the United Kingdom. The time needed to produce it was esteemed of three years.

Later, the delegations of the SEPRHC member countries gave a presentation on the nautical publications and/or technical manuals used in the activities of each office and which are available to the public.

2.10 Implementation status of the GMDSS in the region

First, a short presentation of the NAVAREAS, of a worldwide coverage, was given. Then, every delegation presented a report on the way in which the GMDSS has been implemented in each country, enhancing that, in general, this responsibility is not taken directly by the hydrographic offices, but the main load is for the maritime authorities of each country, who have increasingly met all the requirements of the GMDSS.

The IHO informed that the subject will be treated within the IMO, during the next meeting of the Marine Search and Rescue Committee (COMSAR), to be held around mid July of the present year.

It is recommended that every country send to the IMO, at the end of April 1999, the information needed to update the Master Plan published by the IMO.

2.11 Proposal to invite officially Panama as Observer or Associate Member of the SEPRHC

On the IHO's initiative, the permanent attendance of Panama in quality of Observer or Associate Member was submitted to the consideration of the plenary session of the meeting, meeting the provisions of the statutes of the Commission. This was approved by unanimity. The Chilean Delegation invited Panama to become Member of the IHO, to get also the condition of full member of the SEPRHC.

In its turn, Panama asked the Hydrographic Office of Colombia to pay a visit to its country, to explain the objectives and functions of an hydrographic office. Colombia was very pleased to support Panama in this matter, and remained waiting for an official request from the Maritime Authority of Panama.

2.12 Current status of the hydrographic surveying and its projection at a medium term

Every country exposed its current status for the surveys, the infrastructure and the projects at a short and medium term. There was a coincidence in the need of being updated with the new technological progress, such as the multibeam system to collect hydrographic data and the systems of satellite positioning, with differential correction through the geostationary satellites.

2.13 Presentations of the Members of the Commission

The delegations of every member of the Commission gave presentations on the subjects, prepared by each one of them, as follows:

CHILE

- **Inclusion of Multibeam Technology for the development of hydrographic tasks;**
- **Broadcasting of Notices to the Mariners via Internet.**

COLOMBIA

- **Use of GIS in the production of thematic and bathymetric charts.**

ECUADOR

- **Development of the Digital Log Book;**
- **INOCAR Development Plan for the XXIst Century.**

PERU

- **Electronic Charts;**
- **Fluvial Hydrographic Surveying and Cartography.**

IV DEFINITION OF THE HOLDING OF THE Vth SEPRHC MEETING

According to the statutes of the Commission, the Vth Meeting of the South Eastern Pacific Regional Hydrographic Commission will be held in Valparaíso, Chile, in 2001.

The Delegation of Peru thanked and congratulated, on behalf of all the attending delegations, the Maritime General Directorate and the Oceanographic and Hydrographic Research Center for the excellent organization and the attentions received during its stay in the country.

V OTHER SUBJECTS

During the event, some private industries participated. They organized exhibitions of products, software and new technologies related to the hydrographic activities.

These companies were:

Universal Systems
Coastal Oceanographics
Transas Marine
Prosis S.A.
Smar Ship

IV CLOSING

On 18 March 1999 at 11:30 a.m., at the Hall Americo Vespucio of the Hotel Las Américas took place the closing ceremony of the IVth Meeting of the SEPRHC, where the attending delegations signed the Final Minutes.

VII AGREEMENTS

AGREEMENT No. 1 (IV)

About the considerations on the status and implementation of the IHO Strategic Planning

Considering that

1. The IHB has made a presentation on the Strategic Planning, which has also been distributed to the member countries with the Circular Letter No. 44 of October 1998; and
2. In view of the information from the countries members of the Commission,

Agrees

1. To congratulate the IHB for the preparation of the documentation and, namely, for the presentation made by the President of the Bureau, Rear Admiral Giuseppe ANGRISANO, where it is reflected the efforts of the Bureau to meet the instructions given by the XVth International Hydrographic Conference;
2. To support the recommendations made to the Member States in the items 21 to 25, which deserve changes to the present regulations;
3. Concerning the item 20 contained in the section "Roles of the IHB Directors and criteria for the selection of Directors", to support the above point, in which it is recommended to the IHB to draft a document establishing the "profile" of the required Director, with the main characteristics, as well as the obligatory studies, and also those desirable ones, and to distribute it to the Member States, who will note that such professional profile is taken into account when selecting the candidate. For all purposes, the Hydrographic Office proposing the candidate will be responsible that the proposed candidate meets the previous requested conditions;
4. In the section "Programmes", item 1, "Cooperation between Member States and with the International Organizations", it is proposed to make a change of the sentence: "the intensification of the cooperation between the hydrographic offices and between the IHO and the developing countries" by "the intensification of the cooperation between the hydrographic offices".

The reasons to recommend these changes are that:

- 4.1 The IHO is an organization whose philosophy and doctrine is that it has to receive the cooperation of the Member States;
- 4.2 The qualifications of developing countries are relative and, in the case of the IHO, it is not clear what will be the basis to classify them.

5. In what refers to the working programme for the IHO for the period 1998-2002, in item 1.2 International Organizations, where it is written IOC, it is recommended to write IOC (GEBCO/OCEAN MAPPING), to specify the relationship to this body.
6. In the programme 3, Techniques and Support Standards, in its task 3.3.6, add the word "Nautical" to classify the designated Cartographer, that is, the whole sentence would say: "To start the cooperation with international Organizations as the ICA, for the development of the Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers".

AGREEMENT No. 2 (IV)**About the amendments to the Way of Operation for the Electronic Charts Display and Information Systems (ECDIS) (Resolution A.817 (19))****Considering that:**

In the Seventieth Meeting of the IMO Committee on the Safety of Navigation, held on 19 December 1998, was approved the Way of Operation for the Raster Charts Display System (RCDS) as an alternative way in the cases in which there was no Vector Electronic Nautical Charts (VENC) available.

The item 1.2 of the Appendix 7, Annex 4 of the Resolution A.817 (19) recommends that, when working in the RCDS, it should be used together with an adequate collection of updated nautical paper charts.

Agrees

To submit to the IHB for its consideration that the SEPRHC Member States will implement the above mentioned item as follows:

"When the ships navigate using the Raster Charts Display System (RCDS), they should use in a parallel way, and simultaneously, an adequate set of updated nautical paper charts produced by the hydrographic office of the legal area, in the country where they are navigating.

In the cases in which there is no national hydrographic office, charts updated by other offices will be used".

AGREEMENT No. 3 (IV)**About the Publication of Digital Products by private and/or external Editors****Considering that**

Having noted that private and/or external editors are producing non official digital products including areas of responsibility, surveyed by the hydrographic offices of the region and whose products are commercialized without the authorization of such Hydrographic Offices.

These products do not produce any benefit to the Hydrographic Offices of the region, for copyright.

The data included in the digital products of private editors is taken from the available data of the hydrographic offices producing global coverage charts.

The IHO TR A1.18 about the publication of nautical documents by private editors considers that: "No Hydrographic Office will give its authorization to reproduce, completely or partially, nautical charts and publications edited by itself, if the concerned area or part of it contains data obtained by other Hydrographic Offices" and also that "The copyright of the data belong to the hydrographic office originating the data contained in a nautical chart or publication".

Agrees

To express to the IHB our concern about the illegal reproduction of the non updated regional nautical cartography, as it concerns the levels of the maritime navigation.

To require the IHB to take the necessary action before the IMO, to have the private and/or external editor of charts produced by the hydrographic offices of other countries, *to* contact them as soon as possible, to make the relevant bilateral agreements.

AGREEMENT No. 4 (IV)**About the IHO Support to Interdisciplinary Cooperation Studies****Considering that**

1. The South Eastern Pacific Regional Hydrographic Commission is represented by the countries which constitute it and agree with other commissions about oceanography related matters.
2. It is necessary to get the best profit and applicability from the information collected by the National Hydrographic Offices for scientific and interdisciplinary studies, in addition to the nautical cartography.

Agrees

That the Chairman of the SEPRHC presents to the IHB hydrographic projects involving the characterization and Coastal Zone Integrated Operation, to get, through the IHB, the financial support for the development of such projects, which will concern the oceanographic area.

At a regional level, to present to the IHB hydrographic projects, involving the features of the coastal zone, in order to obtain, through the IHB, the financial support for the development of the regional oceanographic activities.

AGREEMENT No. 5 (IV)**Participation of a representative of the Regional Commission at the meeting to be held in Mobile, Alabama, in 1999****Considering that**

The South Eastern Pacific Regional Hydrographic Commission was informed about the Hydrographic Conference of the United States, Mobile, Alabama, in the frame of which will meet the FIG-IHO Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee.

The participation of a representative of the commission in this committee is considered convenient.

The Colombian Delegation informed about its participation at the meeting of the Hydrographic Conference of Alabama.

Agrees

To give instructions to the Colombian Delegation to represent the SEP Hydrographic Commission and to inform about the results of the meeting, namely in the FIG/IHO Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee.

To require the offices of each country to send, in a maximum delay of 2 weeks, to the Chairman of the Commission, the comments and concerns about the matters to be treated by the FIG/IHO Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee (TACC).

AGREEMENT No. 6 (IV)
About the Technical Exchange

Considering that

Every hydrographic office of the Commission has staff, highly experienced in hydrographic, cartographic and oceanographic matters.

It is the intention of the South Eastern Pacific Regional Hydrographic Commission to assess the activities they are doing, informing the similar Regional Hydrographic Commissions.

Agrees

To encourage the IHB to consider the available human resources of this Commission, to inform other Regional Hydrographic Commissions, with the purpose of strengthening the relevant activities that require a special technical assistance to ensure and/or maintain the established objectives.

AGREEMENT No. 7 (IV)**About Technical Specifications for Raster Cartographic Products****Considering that**

In the Seventieth Meeting of the IMO Maritime Safety Meeting, held on 19 December 1998, the mode of operation of the Raster Charts Display System (RCDS) was approved, as an alternative way in cases in which there were no Vector Electronic Nautical Charts (VENC) available.

We have observed the increase in the distribution and commercialization of digital cartographic products in raster formats, produced by individuals (owners), originating an inadequate handling of the cartographic data because of a lack of convenient standards.

According to the Agreement No. III of the Third Meeting of the SEPRHC, the IHO Resolution stating "To encourage the IHB to define as soon as possible the technical specifications for raster charts, meeting the provisions contained in the S-57 Publication" was approved.

Agrees

To reiterate to the IHB the need to define, as soon as possible, the technical specifications for raster products, according to the contents of S-57, with the purpose of standardizing its products, to avoid the inadequate handling of the cartographic data.

In Cartagena, on the eighteenth (18) day of March 1999, at the Hotel "Las Américas", are signed the Minutes corresponding to the IVth Meeting of the South Eastern Pacific Regional Hydrographic Commission, ratified by the Delegates of the countries members of this Commission.

CHILE

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COLOMBIA

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General Maritime Director

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Captain Fausto LÓPEZ VILLEGAS
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Rear Admiral Bruno SCHENONE VERDECCHIA
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VIII ANNEXES

**ANNEX No. 1
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**LIST OF ATTENDANTS AT THE IVth MEETING OF THE
SOUTH EASTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL COMMISSION****Cartagena de Indias, 14-18 March 1999****IHO****Rear Admiral Giuseppe ANGRISANO**President of the Directing Committee
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**ANNEX No. 2
AGENDA OF THE MEETING**

**AGENDA OF THE IVth MEETING OF THE SOUTH EASTERN
PACIFIC REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION
15-18 March 1999 - Cartagena de Indias, Colombia**

15 March

	SUBJECT	PRESENTED BY	TIME
1.	Opening of the meeting		
1.1	Election of a Chairman and Rapporteur of the Meeting	PLENARY	10:30
1.2	Adoption of the Agenda		
2.	Plenary Sessions		
2.1	Results for the inter-sessional period; Report of the outgoing Chairman of the Commission about the agreements made at the IIIrd Meeting	PERU	11:00
2.2	Status and implementation of the IHO Strategic Planning	IHO	11:30
2.3	General situation of the INT Charts production	IHO	14:00
2.4	General situation of the ENC's production	IHO	14:30
	Present situation and medium term project for the Nautical Cartography: Conventional and Electronic Charts.	PLENARY	
2.5	Amendment to the IMO recommendation concerning ECDIS. The IHO brings the attention on the item 1.2 of the document about the use of an adequate set of paper charts together with the RCDS.	IHO	15:00
	Legal Aspects	PLENARY	
	a. Responsibilities of the Hydrographic offices concerning the information furnished to the mariners;		
	b. Information belonging to the Hydrographic Offices		
	Papers given by a guest Company	Universal Systems	16:00
		Trans Marine	16:45

16 March

	SUBJECT	PRESENTED BY	TIME
2.6	New Terms of Reference for the FIG/IHO Technical Cooperation Committee "TACC"	IHO	08:00
2.7	New questionnaire for the updating of the IHO Publication S-55 ("Status of the Hydrographic Surveying and the Nautical Cartography Worldwide")	IHO	

	Education, training and cooperation	PLENARY	
	a. Courses to be held at the correspondent offices;		
	b. Courses to be held in the country concerning the area of competence;		
	c. Assistance to Foreign Courses.		
	d. Support received from the IHO in education and/or training.		
2.8	Status of the International Bathymetric Chart of the Caribbean (this chart includes also part of the SEP region).	IHO	10:30
2.9	Terms of Reference of the IHO Tidal Committee and IHO Resolution 1.25 concerning datums and levelling tides.	IHO	
2.10	Project for the elaboration of an IHO Hydrographic Manual.	IHO	
	Publications	PLENARY	
	a. Nautical Publications distributed as Aid to Navigation		
	b. Publications and/or technical Manuals used in the activities of each Office:		
	Hydrographic Area (Maritime and fluvial)		
	Oceanographic Area		
	Maritime Meteorology Area		
	Nautical Cartography Area		
	Geomatics Area		
	Nautical Marking Area.		
2.11	Status of the implementation of the GMDSS in the region.	IHO	14:00
2.12	Proposal to invite Panama as Official Observer or Associate Member of the SEPRHC	IHO PLENARY	15:00
2.13	Present situation of the hydrographic surveying and projection at a medium term.	PLENARY	16:00
	a. Methodology, procedures and specifications used.		
	.Instruments and equipment used.		
	c. Hardware and software used, experience gained.		
	Exhibition of Guest Companies	Coastal Oceanography Smart Ship	16:45
17 March			
	SUBJECT	PRESENTED BY	TIME
	Greetings from Admiral Sergio GARCÍA TORRES - Commander of the National Colombian Army		08:30
2.14	Presentations by Members of the Commission Specific subjects:		

2.14.1	a. Use of Multibeam Technology for the development of hydrographic activities b. Dissemination of Notices to Mariners via Internet	CHILE	09:00
2.14.2	Use of GIS in the production of thematic and bathymetric charts	COLOMBIA	10:30
2.14.3	a. Development of the Digital Navigator's Journal b. INOCAR Development Plan for XXIst Century.	ECUADOR	11:30
2.14.4	a. Electronic Charts b. Fluvial hydrographic surveying and Cartography	PERU	14:00
2.15	Definition of the holding of the Vth meeting of the SEPRHC.	PLENARY	15:00
Review of the final Minutes			15:30
Presentation by the Guest Companies		Prosis S.A.	16:30
18 march			
	SUBJECT	PRESENTED BY	TIME
	Visit to the facilities of the Oceanographic and Hydrographic Research Center	CIOH	08:00
	Closing Ceremony - Approval of Final Minutes	PLENARY	11:30

**ANNEX No. 3
REPORT OF THE OUTGOING CHAIRMAN**

REPORT OF THE ACTIONS OF THE OUTGOING CHAIRMAN

In July 1996, in the headquarters of the Directorate of Hydrography and Navigation of the Peruvian Army, in Port of Callao, was held the IIIrd Conference of the South Eastern Pacific Regional Hydrographic Commission.

At that occasion, Ecuador passed the Chairmanship of this Commission on to Peru, and we developed, together with the Directors and delegates of the Hydrographic Offices of this Commission, actions towards an achievement of the objectives established in our statutes.

In the time elapsed between that meeting and the one taking place today, we have acted according to the Secretariat of this Regional Body, with the purpose of dealing with all the aspects of interest, making a follow-up of the Agreements and adopted resolutions and, specially, trying to express in concrete terms the achievement of the objectives fixed by the Commission.

In April 1997, we attended the XVth International Hydrographic Conference in Monaco. At that occasion we had the opportunity to meet again and to co-ordinate the actions to handle affairs of common interest and, at the same time, we attended an event of special importance to our Hydrographic Offices because of the subjects discussed and, namely, because of the election of the President of such an important organization, Rear Admiral Giuseppe ANGRISANO, present today with us as President of the International Hydrographic Bureau.

We are also very happy that the Republic of Colombia is a full IHO Member State, represented by the "Centro de Investigaciones Oceanográficas e Hidrográficas" (Oceanographic and Hydrographic Research Center), as well as about the presence of the representative of the Maritime Authority of the Republic of Panama as Observer.

I think it is important to mention that the time elapsed between the IIIrd meeting and this one has allowed us to assess our "weaknesses and forces".

The Regional Commission has an adequate infrastructure to achieve its own objectives and goals, due to the institutional support represented by the Navies of the different countries, but these individual efforts could be greatly enhanced if establishing linking aspects of different nature, which would make our relationships more dynamic in subjects related to the Hydrography.

The region has a sustained development of its hydrographic offices, according to the requirements and challenges necessary to the competitiveness and efficiency and to the scientific knowledge of their respective aquatic environments, with the main purpose of providing aids to the navigation increasingly efficient, ensuring life at sea, to support the development of the international trade according to the high advanced technologies...

We have today communication systems allowing us to have access to technical information, through the e-mail and Internet, which we could not even imagine only some years ago and that today allow us to be interrelated on real time, but at the same time

become burdensome because of the huge volume of available information and of the impressive progress of the technology and its applications in the area of Hydrography.

In this sense, we think it is important to take profit of this meeting to involve our capabilities and not to delay more in joining our efforts, exchanging experiences and possibilities, so that we will be able to reach agreements during this meeting.

We are now going to read the report of the main actions taken concerning the Agreements and Resolutions of the IIIrd Conference:

STATUS OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYING IN EACH COUNTRY OF THE REGION

According to the information furnished by each Office and mentioned in the IHO Bulletins, the countries have been going on with the hydrographic surveying in their maritime spaces, enhancing them in the more transited areas, using the modern available technologies, for example using the Differential GPS, higher range echosounders and specialized hardware and software. All this allows the coverage of wide areas with higher accuracy and resolution, providing a more efficient service of aids to navigation.

The Member States will present at this occasion the progress achieved in this field.

RASTER CARTOGRAPHIC PRODUCTS

This subject is still very important within the International Hydrographic Organization, as it has been mentioned in the discussions held during the XVth Conference in 1997 and in the Meeting of the IMO Safety to Navigation Committee, in July 1998. All of us agree on the position adopted in the IIIrd meeting.

We are sure that the IHB Director will explain us the subject further.

PROTECTION OF THE NATIONAL CARTOGRAPHY, COPYRIGHT AND ROYALTIES

The legal analysis required by the International Hydrographic Bureau concerning the agreements of IIIrd meeting on this subject is still being coordinated and we are sure that, in this occasion, we will have the relevant information. It is important to mention that Member States stand in their position, as Resolution A1.1, item 2, was not changed according to the suggestions of analyzing its implications.

To this respect, we have the official reply from the IHB Director -see fax Ref. S3/0118 of 4 February 1999 -, in which he advises us that he will contact the Chairman of the Legal Advisory Board.

REPRODUCTION OF NON DIGITAL PRODUCTS BETWEEN NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICES

This subject is still polemic. We see there is the same concern in the reports of other Regional Commissions referring to the difficulties in adopting common criteria.

In our special case, we are still waiting for the reply concerning the action taken by the International Hydrographic Bureau with respect to the agreement on this item, namely at the Conference of Lima.

REGIONAL CHARTING SCHEME

This subject was discussed during the Extraordinary Meeting of the Commission, held just before the XVth International Hydrographic Conference of the IHO, in 1997 in Monaco. According to what was mentioned during the IIIrd meeting, it was decided not to deal with it in this meeting, because of its implications beyond the established objectives.

NEW EQUIPMENT USED WHEN MAKING HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYING

In the frame of the meeting of the Hydrographic Committee of the "Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia (IPGH)", held in Lima in 1997, attended by the Hydrographic Offices of the Member States of this Commission, the experience gained in this subject was circulated. At the same time, it was possible to see various equipments and tools, at the exhibitions of the guest companies.

TRAINING OF EXPERTS, COMPLETION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

It has been required to the states being members of the Commission to give a presentation in this meeting, about the aspects related to education, practice and training courses, in order to know the possibilities we have regionally, and establishing at the same time mechanisms allowing us, with some effort, to exchange these facilities.

This opportunity will also allow us to know the experiences of each office in the training of experts outside their territory, in courses, training centers, costs, etc... to make a good use of these experiences.

At the end of this report, we would like to determine the objectives of the Commission, which are part of the Article 3 of the Statutes, requiring us to clarify the procedures allowing us to improve the ranges, through the establishment of relevant aims. These should include, in the future, some joint activities, with a view to stimulate the operation of this Regional Commission.

In this sense, it would be interesting to take, through specific working groups, actions to ensure the sustained development of our Commission. For this, the support of the International Hydrographic Bureau Director is important, through similar mechanisms from other Regional Hydrographic Commissions.

When passing on the Chairmanship, which is being concluded today, I would like to thank each of the Hydrographers of this region, for the support provided for a better development of our Secretariat and, specially, the Rear Admiral ANGRISANO, for the permanent and disinterested support during our work.

Today the Oceanographic and Hydrographic Research Center of Colombia accepts the challenge of the organization and the development of this IVth meeting and we wish you, as in Valparaíso in 1991, in Guayaquil in 1993 and in Lima in 1996, to be successful. We are aware that the results mentioned in the Minutes do not reflect exactly

all the actions, as one of the most important objectives is to know each other, to fraternize with each other when discussing about subjects and common problems in our offices.

We wish our incoming Chairman all the best and that this be the opportunity for the integration of the Member States of the Commission.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

**ANNEX No. 4
STATUS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
IHO STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Present Strategy of the International Hydrographic Organization

The XVth International Hydrographic Conference of 1997 asked the IHB to establish a Strategic Planning Working Group, tasked to develop the objectives and priorities during the next 10 years. The Working Group achieved its task and now the Strategic Planning is ready for its submission to the IHO MS, for their approval.

IV. 2.1 Strategic Subjects

In the Strategic Planning have been identified six main subjects, with which faces the IHO:

- 1) The achievement of an adequate global coverage of hydrographic data (ensuring that the good quality hydrographic data are available worldwide, where needed).*
- 2) The supply of services other than navigation (ensuring that all national hydrographic data meet also the needs of the scientists, directors and other persons interested in maritime subjects and that the data be completely and conveniently accessible).*
- 3) The transition to the digital era (a successful transition towards the digital data supply, including the production, the distribution and the updating).*
- 4) The response to the external environment (providing an answer appropriate and convenient for the external development in governmental policy, technology, distribution, etc..).*
- 5) To get the adequate funding (ensuring that there is a sufficient funding available for the supply of the requested services).*
- 6) The establishment of capacities (establishment of efficient national organizations, with the adequate qualified staff and equipment).*

IV. 2.2 The Strategic Objectives

To achieve the main strategic results, the following IHO objectives have been identified:

- To assist the Member States in the achievement of their present roles and in anticipating future demands, in the most efficient and effective way as possible:

 - Acting as focal point and forum for all the subjects related to the best practice in hydrography and administration;*
 - Fostering the exchange and cooperation between the HOs;*
 - Encouraging the progress of the hydrographic offices;*
 - Developing and disseminating the minimum standards.**
- To achieve a global coverage of efficient hydrographic offices:*

- *Assessing the convenience of the present coverage, giving priority to the controversial zones and enhancing the work to improve the situation;*
- *Fostering the establishment of new HOs and fighting to increase the capacities of all HOs;*
- *Increasing the quantity of IHO members.*

- *To increase the global awareness of the importance of the hydrography:*
 - *Ensuring that the roles and responsibilities of the national HOs get along conveniently;*
 - *Promoting the benefits of the work of the national HOs;*
 - *Providing support to the funding initiatives, specially for the developing countries.*

- *To maintain an internal organization efficient and effective, through a convenient development.*

The implementation of the Strategic Planning has already begun, with clear actions which have been achieved by the IHO MS and by IHB, improving the standards and through technical cooperation with the developing countries.

An example is the United Nations Resolution A 53/32, Article 21, achieved by the IHO and of which we are enclosing the contents.