



**COMISION HIDROGRAFICA  
DEL ATLANTICO SUDOCCIDENTAL  
SOUTH-WEST ATLANTIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

10<sup>a</sup> Reunión - Buenos Aires, Argentina

10<sup>th</sup> Meeting - Buenos Aires, Argentina

7 - 8 de Abril del 2016

7 - 8 April 2016



### IHO/IHB Matters

#### Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention

1. As of 15 March 2016, 46 of the required 48 approvals of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention had been reported by the Government of Monaco. The status of SWAtHC Member States' approvals is as follow:

IHO Member State	Date of approval
Argentina	28 Sep 2015
Brazil	29 Oct 2009
Uruguay	/

2. The amendments to the IHO Convention will enter force three months after the necessary majority of approvals is received by the Government of Monaco. The objective to record an additional two approvals in time to hold the first Assembly in April 2017 now seems within reach. The Directing Committee is liaising with the Government of Monaco and with the relevant Member States, to achieve this goal, building on the initiatives undertaken since September 2012.

#### Status of IHO Membership

3. Following the admission of Brunei Darussalam, Georgia and Viet Nam in March 2015, IHO membership stands at 85. With three Member States remaining suspended (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic and Serbia), the current thresholds for IHO decisions are

- 42 when a simple majority is required, and
- 55 when a two-third majority is needed.

The Directing Committee reminds Member States that not responding to a Circular Letter which requires a vote is equivalent to voting NO. The following table shows the response rate of SWAtHC Member States to IHO CLs issued in 2015 which required a vote (IHO CLs 19, 23, 48, 49, 53, 73, 74, and 92/2015).

SWAtHC Member State	Response rate to IHO CLs issued in 2015 which required a vote
Argentina	8/8
Brazil	8/8
Uruguay	8/8

4. The States listed below, whose membership applications were approved in earlier years, have not yet deposited their Instrument of Accession to the IHO Convention:

- Mauritania (application approved in April 1991);
- Bulgaria (application approved in April 1992);
- Sierra Leone (application approved in September 2010);
- Haiti (application approved in November 2012).

The Directing Committee has continued to be in communication with the authorities of these States to encourage them to complete this final formality.

5. As announced in IHO CLs 32/2015 and 62/2015, applications for IHO membership were received from Malta, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Congo. The Directing Committee copied the initial diplomatic requests for the approval of their application to all Member States (see IHO CL 67/29015). As of 15 March 2016, the status of approvals of the applications was as follows:

<b>States applying for IHO membership</b>	<b>Status of approvals notified to the Government of Monaco</b>	<b>SWAtHC Members which have not yet notified their approval</b>
Malta	30 of 53 approvals required	Brazil Uruguay
Vanuatu	30 of 54 approvals required	Brazil Uruguay
Solomon Islands	30 of 55 approvals required	Brazil
Congo	30 of 55 approvals required	Brazil

#### **IHO GIS and Databases (including C-55)**

6. 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.

7. The country information database has been progressively upgraded to include additional administrative information and facilitate the maintenance of the **Yearbook (IHO Publication P-5)** and related lists posted on the IHO website. The status of the data from the SWAtHC Member States in the IHO Country Information Database is as follows:

Country	P-5 - Yearbook Last update received	Comment
Argentina	March 2016	
Brazil	April 2015	
Uruguay	January 2016	
Bolivia	/	Non Member State Last update anterior to 2012
Paraguay	March 2014	Non Member State

Countries in the SWAtHC Region are invited to review their entry in the Yearbook on an annual basis and provide the IHB with the appropriate updates or report no change.

8. 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.

9. 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 addition to the current composite indicators (percentage of areas adequately surveyed / requiring re-survey / not surveyed), the inclusion of CATZOC polygons will provide an initial geo-referenced quality layer (see IHO CL 52/2015). IC-ENC and PRIMAR have agreed to provide the IHB with the CATZOC polygons of their Members through PRIMAR.

10. The latest updated information from SWAtHC Member States in C-55 is as follows:

Country	C-55 Last update received	Comment
Argentina	October 2014	
Bolivia	/	Inland waters
Brazil	December 2015	
Paraguay	/	Inland waters
Uruguay	April 2012	No status of surveys

Countries in the SWAtHC Region are invited to review their entry on an annual basis and provide the IHB with the appropriate updates or report no change. This can be done as part of the national reports to the SWAtHC meetings in accordance with the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended - *Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC)*.

11. Following the development of the regional database for Antarctica, the IHB, 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). Brazil, both as Chart Coordinator for Region C1 and as INT Chart Producer/Printer Nation, is the only IHO Member of the SWAtHC having

requested ID and password for the maintenance of the S-11 database. Argentina and Uruguay are invited to do so as indicated in IHO CL 89/2015, as the IHB will discontinue the maintenance of the pdf version of the S-11 Part B - *Catalogue of INT Charts* from 1 April 2016.

12. Feedback and lessons learned from the initial use of the 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) will be addressed during the workshop for Regional INT Chart / ENC Coordinators that will be held at the IHB on 25 April 2016, just before the second meeting of the Nautical Cartography Working Group. Brazil is registered to represent the SWAtHC and Region C1.

#### **INT Chart and ENC Production Coordination - Region C1**

13. As part of the deployment of INT Web Chart Catalogue, a new edition 3.0.0 of S-11 Part B for Region C1 dated January 2016 was published. This new edition reports that 33 INT charts are available to date, out of 51 charts in the scheme (~ 65 %). No INT charts or new editions were published in 2015.

14. At its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting (March 2016), the WENDWG invited:

- Regional Hydrographic Commissions to define and adopt ENC Schemes (as it is done for INT Charts Schemes) and provide basic metadata to the IHB, and
- the IHB to consider including a layer of “Approved” ENC Schemes in the IHO ENC Catalogue or as an extension of the INT Web Chart Catalogue.

It is worth noting that there is no significant ENC overlap issue in this charting region.

#### **Capacity Building Programme**

15. The level of activity of the IHO Capacity Building (CB) Programme continued to increase. Expenditure in the IHO 2015 CB Work Programme (930,907 €) was 118% larger than the budget for the previous year. In 2015, the IHO CB programme also reached a new level of achievement with the highest rate of completion of planned CB activities (93%) during the last decade.

16. The SWAtHC benefited from two activities under the IHO CB Work Programme for 2015: a workshop on Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures (MSDI), led by Brazil, with participants from the MACHC and the SEPRHC, and a seminar on S-100, led by Uruguay. The SWAtHC is responsible for two activities of the CB Work Programme for 2016: a tide training course and multi-beam training course.

17. A call for applications for the 2016 course of the IHO – Nippon Foundation CHART Project is open until 4 April 2016 (see IHO CL 04/2016).

18. A call for applications for the 13<sup>th</sup> course of the IHO-IOC-Nippon Foundation GEBCO Training Programme is open until the end of March 2016 (see IHO CL 08/2016).

19. It is expected that a call for applications will be issued in September 2016 for the 2017-2018 session of the Master of Science Programme in Hydrographic Surveying at the University of Southern Mississippi, USA sponsored by the Republic of Korea. Only one submission (from Uruguay) was received from the region in the first four editions of this fully-funded programme. Hydrographic Offices are invited to invest in the preparation of candidates, especially with respect to English proficiency, for future sessions of this programme.

#### **Crowd Sourced Bathymetry**

20. In accordance with Decision 8 of the EHC-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). Argentina and Brazil are participating in the working group.

21. Meanwhile, 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.

### **Report on the Overall Status of the IHO Work Programme**

22. As a result of the EIHC-5 discussion on Proposal 5 concerning the assessment of the IHO Work Programme, Conference Decision No. 3 reinforced the reporting requirements by introducing a six-monthly reporting regime for all IHO bodies. The outcome of the first three bi-annual assessments was submitted to Member States through IHO CL 17/2015, 66/2015 and 14/2016. Only 5 Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) did submit a status report (EAtHC, MACHC, NIOHC, NSHC, and SAIHC).

### **Preparation of the next IH Conference / IHO Assembly**

23. The next IH Conference or first IHO Assembly is scheduled from 24 to 28 April 2017. It is likely that the meeting will be the first session of the Assembly, subject to the ratification of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention by the required two-thirds majority not later than three months before the opening day of the meeting. In accordance with the General Regulations of the IHO that will enter into force once the Protocol of Amendments is ratified, the first Assembly will have to approve the list of the members of the IHO Council.

24. If the first Assembly meets in April 2017, the selection process for the establishment of the Council should be initiated by the Secretary-General not later than October 2016. Therefore it is expected that all RHCs will have agreed before that date on the process by which they will select, and possibly instruct, their representatives in the Council.

25. The agenda of the Conference/Assembly will include a review of the IHO Strategic Plan and consideration of the IHO Work Programme for the next 3-year or 5-year cycle. In accordance with IHO Resolution 12/2002 as amended the relevant documents will be prepared by the IHB in consultation with the HSSC, the IRCC and the Member States. In particular, IHO Resolution 12/2002 provides that in April 2016, the IHB should invite Member States, HSSC and IRCC to submit proposals to update the Strategic Plan. These proposals are expected to be circulated to all Member States in August 2016.

26. In that perspective, the SWAtHC is invited to consider appropriate arrangements to prepare the next IH Conference/ IHO Assembly.

### **IHO Outreach**

#### World Hydrography Day

27. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2015 *“Our seas and waterways - yet to be fully charted and explored”* concentrated on the fact that much of the world’s seas, oceans and navigable waters remain unsurveyed. Reports on events hosted in connection with WHD 2015 are available at:

[www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) > Home> About IHO > World Hydrography Day > WHD 2015 Celebrations around the world.

28. The theme for 2016 will be: *“Hydrography – the key to well-managed seas and waterways”*. This theme will enable all stakeholders involved in hydrography to highlight the significance and importance of their particular activities which could include, but is not limited to, the support of safety of navigation, protection of the marine environment, coastal zone management, marine spatial data infrastructures, defence, resource exploration, and all other components of the blue economy. A background brief is available on the IHO web site.

## International Hydrographic Review

29. Twice a year, the IHR provides an opportunity for Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in their region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. The representative for the SWAtHC is Captain Nickolas de Andrade Roscher (Brazil).

30. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the editor ([ihreview@iho.int](mailto:ihreview@iho.int), copy to [ian.halls1@defence.au.gov](mailto:ian.halls1@defence.au.gov)). The deadlines are:

- End of January for the May Edition;
- End of July for the November Edition.

31. The IHB worked with the University of New Brunswick (UNB), Canada, in a project to develop a digital repository of the complete library of the IHR. As a result, the first phase of the project has provided volumes from 1963 to 2015. They can be found at: <https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/ihr>.

### **Action Requested of SWAtHC Member States**

32. SWAtHC Member States are invited to:

- **Note** this report;
- **Expedite** the ratification of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention;
- **Expedite** the approval of the IHO membership applications of Malta, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Congo;
- **Review** entries in IHO C-55 and P-5 (Yearbook) at least annually;
- **Provide** continuous updates to S-11 Part B, through Brazil as coordinator for INT Region C1;
- **Report** to the IHB on the status and description of the ENC schemes in the Region;
- **Invest** in the preparation of candidates for the fully-funded Master of Science Programme in Hydrographic Surveying at the University of Southern Mississippi, USA;
- **Implement** the bi-annual reporting regime established by EIHC-5;
- **Consider** appropriate arrangements to prepare the IH Conference / IHO Assembly to be held in April 2017;
- **Consider** submitting papers for publication in the IH Review;
- **Take any other actions** as considered appropriate.