



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

9<sup>a</sup> Reunión – Montevideo, Uruguay

9<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Montevideo, Uruguay

19 - 20 de Marzo de 2015

19 - 20 March 2015



### IHO/IHB Matters

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

1. As of 28 February 2015, 41 of the required 48 approvals of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention had been reported by the Government of Monaco.
2. The Government of Monaco has not reported receipt of approval of the Protocol of Amendments from the following IHO Member States of the SWAtHC eligible to respond: Argentina, Uruguay. The IHB was informed by the Hydrographic Office of Argentina that the national law approving the Protocol had been promulgated on 10 December 2014.

#### Status of IHO Membership

3. IHO membership stands at 82. With Serbia, Congo and the Dominican Republic remaining suspended, the current thresholds for IHO decisions are 40 when a simple majority is required and 53 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.
4. Brunei Darussalam, Georgia and Viet Nam have recently achieved the required number of approvals to become Member States of the IHO subject to the submission of instruments of accession to the Government of Monaco. Bulgaria, Haiti, Mauritania and Sierra Leone had received in previous years the required number of votes to be accepted as a Member State of the IHO. However, the Government of Monaco has yet to receive their instruments of accession from these countries which will formalise their membership.
5. There are no applications pending, though a number of coastal States have indicated their intention to apply for membership in the near future.

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

6. The latest edition of S-11 Part B for Region C1 is Edition 2.0.5 dated February 2014. The IHB is not aware of any new publication or new edition of INT charts having been published since SWAtHC-08. According to records held by the IHB, in total, 30 INT charts have been published to date, out of 51 charts in the scheme (~ 59 %). A new edition 2.0.6 of the catalogue, including minor adjustments agreed with the regional coordinator (Brazil), has been prepared and will be published after SWAtHC-09, reflecting additional inputs from the meeting if any.
7. The need to improve the current maintenance process for S-11 Part B has been raised on many occasions in several Regional Hydrographic Commissions. Following the development of the regional database for Antarctica, the IHB, with support provided by the Republic of Korea, has initiated an "INToGIS" project that will 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 schemes/coverage/production is also envisaged in due course. An experimentation of the "INToGIS" project, involving some of the Regional International Charting Coordinators for comment and feedback, is likely to start during the spring and should involve initially the BSHC, the MBSHC, the USCHC, and the HCA.

## C-55 Updates

8. The latest updated information in C-55 - *Status of Charting and Surveys Worldwide* in the SWAtHC region is as follows:

Area	Last update	Comment
Argentina	2014	
Bolivia	/	Inland waters
Brazil	2013	
Paraguay	/	Inland waters
Uruguay	2012	No status of surveys

9. 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.

## Country Information Database

10. The status of the data from the SWAtHC region in the IHO Country Information Database from which the IHO Yearbook is derived is as follows:

Country	Last update	Comment
Argentina	Dec 2013	
Bolivia	/	Non Member State
Brazil	Nov 2014	
Paraguay	March 2014	Non Member State
Uruguay	March 2014	

11. 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.

## IHO GIS and Databases

12. The IHB is evaluating an Esri-based GIS solution. It is anticipated that the C-55, IHO Yearbook and other associated databases will be transferred to an Esri environment by Easter 2015. This will enable access to various layers of information through the IHO website and through various sophisticated cloud-based on-line GIS options.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC-5)

13. EIHC-5 took place from 6 to 10 October in the Auditorium Rainier III in Monaco. 65 of the 82 Member States were represented, together with two pending Member States and 21 representatives from non-Member States. The SWAtHC was represented by Argentina and Brazil.

14. In addition to the Industry Exhibition, an IHO Capacity Building exhibition and poster celebration of ten years of Nippon Foundation IHO-IOC GEBCO scholars was arranged. A number of past scholars and alumni provided poster displays of their work since graduation throughout the period of the Conference.

15. The Conference acknowledged the need to consider novel ways to supplement hydrographic data gathering, especially in remote and unsurveyed areas. Methods include using satellite derived bathymetry and crowd-sourcing techniques. The Conference was told that the development of national and regional spatial data infrastructures is growing and that national hydrographic services should urgently consider the potential impact

on their roles and responsibilities as the world moves from a map and chart-based paradigm to one that places the management and provision of national reference geodata services ahead of map and chart production.

16. The Proceedings for the Conference will be published soon and made available on the IHO website.

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

17. 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 bi-annual assessment was submitted to Member States through IHO CL 17/2015. Only 5 Regional Hydrographic Commissions (EAHC, MACHC, NIOHC, NSHC, and SAIHC) had submitted a status report on time.

### **Capacity Building Programme**

18. The SWAtHC benefited from two activities under the IHO CB Work Programme for 2014: a technical visit to Paraguay and a technical workshop on “Hydro/Cartography River Survey” which was attended by representatives of three commissions: MACHC, SEPRHC and SWAtHC. The SWAtHC is responsible for two activities of the CB Work Programme for 2015: a workshop on Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures (MSDI), with participants from the MACHC and the SEPRHC, and a seminar on S-100.

19. One applicant from Uruguay was selected for the 2014 course of the IHO – Nippon Foundation CHART Project. The call for applications for the 2015 course is open until 3 April 2015 (see IHO CL 10/2015).

20. A call for applications for the 12<sup>th</sup> course of the IHO-IOC-Nippon Foundation GEBCO Training Programme is open until the end of March 2015 (see IHO CL 13/2015).

21. It is expected that a call for applications will be issued in September 2015 for the 2016-2017 session of the Master of Science Programme in Hydrographic Surveying at the University of Southern Mississippi sponsored by the Republic of Korea.

### **Crowd Sourced Bathymetry Programme**

22. EIHC-5 through Decision 8 directed the IRCC to establish a working group to provide guidelines on the collection and use of crowd-sourced bathymetry. This WG will be established after the IRCC next meets in June in Mexico.

23. 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. The upgrade is expected to be completed by mid-year. This will enable an IHO-led CSB infrastructure to be established and promoted in the IMO and across the wider maritime community.

## Post-2015 Agendas

24. The development of the post-2015 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction under the aegis of the United Nations offers an opportunity to highlight the fundamental role of hydrography in underpinning sustainable development and the reduction of marine disaster risks. The Directing Committee is striving to make the best of this opportunity, both directly and through related initiatives and programmes such as the UN initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and the activities of the Group on Earth Observation (GEO). As the negotiation processes are driven and controlled by Member States, the efforts of the Directing Committee need to be taken forward at the national and regional levels (see IHO CL 53/2014, 2/2015, and 4/2015).

## IHO Publicity

25. World Hydrography Day. The theme for World hydrography Day 2015 will concentrate on the fact that much of the world's seas, oceans and navigable waters remain unsurveyed. The tag-line for WHD2015 is: "*Our seas and waterways - yet to be fully charted and explored*". The theme is intended to raise public awareness that, for example, there are higher resolution maps of the Moon and Mars than for many parts of our seas and coastal waters. The theme also provides the opportunity to promote and encourage innovative supplementary data gathering initiatives to address the current shortfall in useful bathymetric data, including crowd-sourcing and satellite derived bathymetry that were discussed at EIHC-5. The theme also offers the opportunity to highlight both the missed opportunities and the potential risks involved in the continuing development of the blue economy and all other human-related activities taking place at sea, at a time when mankind still has a relatively limited knowledge of the nature and the shape of much of the seafloor and the hazards that lie upon it (see IHO CL 03/2015).

26. IHO Stakeholder Forum. It is proposed to hold the next IHO Stakeholder Forum on the occasion of the next HSSC meeting which will take place in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 9 to 13 November 2015, subject to the outcome of a survey of the potential participants which runs until 31 March 2015.

27. 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 SWAtHC is Captain Nickolas de Andrade Roscher (Brazil). 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)).

## Action Requested of SWAtHC Member States

28. SWAtHC Member States are invited to:

- **Note** this report;
- **Provide** continuous updates to S-11 Part B, through Brazil as coordinator for INT Region C1;
- **Review annually** entries in IHO C-55 and Yearbook;
- **Implement** the bi-annual reporting regime established by EIHC-5;
- **Promote** IHO interests at the national and regional level in the preparation of the post-2015 agendas;
- **Consider** submitting papers for publication in the IH Review;
- **Take any other actions** as considered appropriate.