

**International Hydrographic
Organization**



**United States - Canada
Hydrographic Commission**



DRAFT Minutes
29th Meeting of the
International Hydrographic Organization
UNITED STATES - CANADA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION
Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada
June 7, 2006

1) Welcome and Introductions

The meeting co-chairs, Dr. Savi Narayanan and Capt. Steve Barnum greeted all participants and offered a special welcome to Vice-Admiral Alexander Maratos, President of the IHO Directing Committee, and the representatives from other national hydrographic offices in attendance: Mr. Boris Argandona and Mr. Juan Carlos Cuneo (Servicio Hidrografico y Oceanografico de la Armada, Chile); Capt. Fernando Angli and LtCdr Rafael Ponce (Direccion General Adjunta de Oceanografia, Hidrografia y Meteorologia, Mexico); and Dr. Wyn Williams (UK Hydrographic Office).

The agenda (Attachment A) was accepted as presented.

2) Approval of Minutes of 28th Meeting of the USCHC

The minutes were approved as presented.

Action: Copies of the minutes of the 28th Meeting will be distributed to all those present at that meeting and to all present at the 29th Meeting.

3) Organizational Update

United States: Captain Barnum's presentation of the new organization of the Office of Coast Survey- NOAA is included in these minutes as Attachment B.

Canada: Dr. Narayanan outlined recent changes to the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS). Because these changes are not finalized, a formal handout was not presented. The Ocean Science program and the Marine Environmental Data Service, which had both been under a different directorate, were combined with the CHS in 2006 to form the Ocean Sciences - Canadian Hydrographic Service (OS-CHS) Directorate under Dr. Narayanan as the Director General. Dr. Narayanan reports to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Science within Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The reorganization of OS-CHS Headquarters office is in progress. There will be four branches in the directorate:

Hydrography, Oceanography and Climate, Integrated Science Data Management, and Products and Services. The staffing process for a number of manager level positions in regional offices is nearing completion; official results will be distributed to OCS-NOAA shortly.

4. Charting

a) Status of Transboundary ENC's

Dave Prince reported on the progress made since the 28th meeting of the USCHC; a summary document of the work was circulated (Attachment C).

Jim Gardner (NOAA) has visited each CHS regional office (except Atlantic region, which he will soon) to resolve the division of the charts to be provided by which agency. The technical issues are now finalized; the outstanding issue is the sharing of the data. The possibility of extending the transboundary ENC's to the area south of the US was also discussed. The process to complete this exercise was discussed, and it was recommended that the team involved in this project prepare a report for consideration and approval of USCHC.

Action: Jim Gardner will report to the USCHC Chairs on the resource requirements and timeline required to complete this project.

b) Accessibility to Charts in an Emergency Situation

Paul Holroyd reported on the technical and policy issues related to the delays in the availability for charts needed for post-Hurricane Katrina type operations. Representatives from NOAA, NGA, CHS and DND met on June 6, 2006 in Halifax, just prior to the USCHC meeting, and identified a number of issues related to data formats and exchange policies to be resolved. A correspondence group to recommend solutions to these issues will be formed as soon as possible. Captain Barnum stressed the importance of completing this work in preparation for the upcoming hurricane season.

Action: The correspondence group, lead by Steve Debrecht and Paul Holroyd, will prepare a project plan for discussion by the USCHC

Action: This item should also be addressed at the Quadripartite Marine Production Meeting in December.

Dr. Narayanan and Captain Barnum emphasized their desire for increased cooperation between the two member states on issues such as GOOS, the Arctic Ocean Observation and natural hazard warning systems.

5) Hydrography

a) Cooperative activities

Don Haines reported on activities during the last year. As recommended at the 28th USCHC meeting, 13 CHS staff and 23 US staff participated in the Process Re-engineering workshop in Seattle in November, 2005. There will be another workshop in November 2006 in Sidney, BC.

Kathryn Simmons (NOAA) worked with CHS staff in Vancouver to resolve shoreline issues. Dave Thornhill (CHS) spent 10 days onboard the RANIER in the Strait of Juan de Fuca to oversee data acquisition and processing.

Rob Hare reported on tsunami warning cooperation activities. A new warning station has been installed at Henslung Cove. This station will eventually replace the Langara site. All Pacific coast warning stations now have GOES satellite communications installed to permit the Palmer Center Alaska Warning Centre to communicate directly with Canadian warning stations.

National Response Teams (NRTs)

Gerd Glang and Rick Fletcher provided an update on the activities of NRTS. There are six NRTs located across the United States; these provide opportunities for personnel exchanges for all levels CHS staff. In 2007 an NRT will be operating in the Detroit River and personnel exchanges for all classes of staff will be welcome. The points of contact for this will be Gerd Glang and Rick Fletcher.

Exchange Assignments

Quebec Region is looking for an exchange opportunity on a navigation surface assignment.

CHS has opportunities for personnel exchanges on a number of surveys:

Atlantic Region: In 2006 on the MATTHEW and CREED to conduct ecosystem mapping in the Bay of Fundy. In 2007 on an UNCLOS Survey on the Scotian Shelf, close to the US border.

Quebec Region: In 2006 on the St. Lawrence River channel survey and onboard the CREED conducting harbour surveys.

Central and Arctic: In 2006 on the Great Lakes revisory survey and in the Arctic on board a Canadian Coast Guard vessel conducting multidisciplinary work in the Western Arctic, and in the Eastern Arctic on board another Coast Guard ship, conducting hydrographic surveys on an opportunity basis. In 2007 there will be UNCLOS surveys from an Arctic ice camp.

Action: CHS directors are to contact their US colleagues to prepare an exchange plan for 2007/2008.

Action: Lists of personnel exchange opportunities are to be sent to Meg Danley and Sheila Acheson so that Capt. Barnum and Dr. Narayanan can review the resource requirements.

Emergency Response

Howard Danley proposed that a working group be formed to coordinate emergency responses where both countries need to respond. Points of contact, areas of responsibility, and data exchange procedures need to be provided. Howard Danley is the US point of contact; he would like to have contacts in each CHS region.

Action: By mid July, CHS will identify its points of contact. In the interim, the points of contact are the Regional Directors. Sheila Acheson is to provide a list of the Regional Directors to Meg Danley.

b) UNCLOS

Canada: Dick MacDougall and Andy Anderson have met to discuss opportunities for cooperation in the Beaufort Sea, along the US/Canada border. In 2007 Canada will be conducting seismic surveys on the Scotian Shelf, near the US border. USCHC will investigate the possibility of sharing data sets.

United States: There are three areas for potential interaction between the US and Canada: the Arctic, the Atlantic and the Gulf of Alaska.

Along the Atlantic the US has completed multibeam surveys up to the limits of the EEZ with Canada. In the Gulf of Alaska, multibeam surveys have been completed along the Barrow Margin and the 2500 metre contour on the Chukchi Cap. Work has also been done in the Bering Sea. Seismic work is being done by the US Geological Survey. All the multibeam data is available on the Hydrographic Joint Centre web site (<http://www.ccom.unh.edu/>).

Only a limited number of navy sounding tracks are available.

6. IHB/IHO Update

a) IHO Update

Adm. Maratos expressed his pleasure at being at this meeting, his first opportunity to participate in the USCHC, and reviewed a number of priority issues at the IHB.

Strategic Planning Working Group

The SPWG met in Busan, Korea in May. The SPWG recommendations will be discussed during the International Hydrographic Conference. The amendments to the Protocol on the Convention of the International Hydrographic Organization have now been forwarded through the diplomatic process to the Member States for ratification. To date seven countries have approved the revised convention; Mexico will approve the convention shortly.

XVIIth International Hydrographic Conference

The XVIIth IHB will be held in Monaco, May 7-11. The meeting of the Finance Committee will precede it on May 5. Conference Circular Letters regarding observers, ships' visits and nominations for President of the Conference have already been issued.

Cooperation with the International Maritime Organization

- A recommendation of the IMO Safety of Navigation Subcommittee for mandatory carriage of ECDIS for High Speed craft by 2008 and for all other new builds of vessels by 2010 was approved by the Marine Safety Committee. ENC production must be accelerated to meet the mandatory carriage requirement deadlines.
- The IHO supports the UK's paper on E-Navigation. The IHO's role is recognized as a significant contributor to this initiative through its responsibility for ENC production.
- The IMO was very receptive of the paper presented by the IHO on guidelines for auditing SOLAS (5) Carriage Requirements.
- In response to a proposal by the Russian Federation for a new NAVAREA in the Arctic, the Sub-Committee on Communications, Search and Rescue established a joint

IMO/IHO/WMO correspondence group to consider the provision of Maritime Safety Information services in the Arctic.

- The correspondence group on ECDIS performance standards met in February, 2006 to discuss enhancements to the standards.

Other Matters of Interest

- Representatives from 25 countries attended the November, 2005 seminar in Rostock, Germany on spatial data processing. The results were published in CL16. CHRIS will study the issues raised at the meeting.

- Capacity Building: Korea has signed an MOU to provide funding to the IHO Capacity Building Fund on an annual basis. As a follow up to the Special Session on the Tsunami Disaster in the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka is still in need of support for hydrographic work, in particular a launch and related equipment. The IMO is providing funding for this project.

- The S-44 Working Group is meeting in Monaco in August to discuss enhancements to Edition 4 of S-44.

First World Hydrography Day, June 21, 2006.

The IHB will seek responses from all Member States on their first WHD activities and welcomes suggestions on how this can be improved for future years.

b) Strategic Planning Working Group

Meg. Danley and Adm. Andreasen provided an update on 8th SPWG Meeting in Busan, Korea. The meeting focused on issues relating to the Basic Documents of the IHO, including the preparation and submission of the budget to the Council and the publishing of Council minutes in both English and French. The definition of “hydrographic interest” remains unresolved; for the purpose of the XVIIth IHC tonnage will remain the measure of hydrographic interest. The issue of how Member States that are not members of any Regional Hydrographic Commissions can be represented on the Council was discussed. In view of the move to operate without a legal affairs committee, it was agreed that when the IHO seeks legal advice, this be open to participation by all Member States. An article authorizing the establishment of a working group of legal experts, if required, was added to the General Regulations.

Adm. Maratos noted that SPWG also submitted changes to Article 6 dealing with the establishment of subordinate bodies. The Terms of Reference for the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee and the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee were also drafted. A working group working was formed to finalize a proposed salary scheme for the new structure of Secretary-General and Directors. The working group will report to the SPWG in mid-August.

The SPWG Chair Group will meet June 29-30 to review the documents from the group of legal experts. The Chair Group will finalize the SPWG report and prepare the proposals for the XVIIth IHC.

Action: Capt. Barnum, Dr. Narayanan and Adm. Andreasen will meet prior to the IHC to discuss the SPWG report.

Status of Ratification of the Amendments to the Protocol of the Convention of the IHO. The US is seeking to have the convention approved at the State Department level, rather than through the Senate. Canadian and Mexican approval for the Convention will assist in this effort. Ratification by Canada has been delayed by the election of a new government.

Action: Both Canada and the US will seek to have the Convention ratified by the next USCHC meeting.

c) WEND Questionnaire on INT Charts

WEND CL 1/2006 includes a questionnaire for each Hydrographic Commission on ENC Production, Consistency and Distribution. The US has forwarded its input to Canada for its contribution. This response is to be submitted for the September WEND meeting.

d) Format for HC reports to IHB

CL25a announced the adoption of the approved format for Member States National Reports to the RHC. Member States are encouraged to submit any additional comments on the format with their reports.

Action: Canada is to draft the USCHC commission report with assistance from US. (The draft is to be prepared before September.)

7. Other Business

a) Quadripartite Maritime Production Sub-Group

Representatives from Australia, UK, Canada and the US attended the first meeting in Bethesda MD in September 2005. The next meeting will be held in Victoria/Esquimalt, BC, December 5-7, 2006. The meeting will focus on key items of interest, e.g. data sharing. The US is the leader this year and the agenda will be available in July. Terms of Reference for this group are near completion. Dr. Narayanan offered the assistance of the USCHC if it is required.

b) National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Activities

RADM. Chris Andreasen reported on recent changes at the NGA. Vice Adm. Robert Murrett has replaced Lt. James Clapper as the Director, NGA. NGA is withdrawing from making paper charts available; instead, they are focussing on meeting the navy's digital requirements. They will also be withdrawing from distributing aero charts. NGA's global shoreline can now be downloaded; there is no charge for this data.

NGA is developing a navigation warning course that will be made available around the world.

8. Renewal of Memorandum of Arrangement

The USCHC MOA between Canada and the US has now lapsed.

Action: Katie Ries will provide a revised draft so that the document can be review and signed as soon as possible.

9) New Item

Dr. Narayanan invited the distinguished visitors from other member states to address the Commission.

Mr. Boris Argandona (Servicio Hydrografico y Oceanografico de la Armada, Chile) thanked the Commission for the opportunity to attend the meeting. He noted that a US officer is presently a student on a hydrography course offered by SHOA.

Lt. Cdr Rafael Poncé spoke on behalf of Capt. Fernando Angli (Dirección General Adjunta de Oceanografía, Hydrografía y Meteorología, Mexico) to express their appreciation for the invitation to the conference and the Commission meeting. He noted the similarity in issues facing the hydrographic offices and hoped to continue the sharing of knowledge and expertise. Capt. Angli invited the countries present to the upcoming MACHC meeting and IHO seminar in Mexico in October.

Dr. Narayanan thanked Mr. Argandona, Capt. Angli and Lt. Cdr Ponce for their remarks and noted that Canada, Chile and Mexico were now members of the HPD club, each having released their country's first HPD paper charts at a special ceremony during the conference.

Dr. Wyn William (UK Hydrographic Office) thanked the Commission for inviting him to the meeting and for being offered this opportunity to speak, just prior to his retirement. He also noted that most Hydrographic Commissions and hydrographic offices are facing similar challenges and that collaboration will be the key to meeting them. Dr. Williams offered UKHO charts for emergency response, if required. He also informed the participants of the UKHO's willingness to assist in the capacity building in Sri Lanka.

Dr. Williams also gave a short briefing on the operating basis of the UKHO. The UKHO has a legal requirement to operate on a commercial basis and is required to generate a set minimum rate of return on capital. He noted however, that it is impossible to make a profit on ENC's. UKHO is concentrating its efforts on meeting the needs of UK's national defence and leisure market clients, meeting its SOLAS obligations, and providing consultancy services. Upon Dr. William's retirement, there will be an organizational change and his role will be divided into two separate positions, CEO and National Hydrographer. The new CEO will be Mr. Michael Robinson, previously the CEO of the Bank of Halifax. The new National Hydrographer will be named at a later date.

In honour of his retirement and in recognition of his contribution to hydrography, Dr. Narayanan presented a gift to Dr. Williams. Adm. Andreasen also presented a gift to him on behalf of NGA. Dr. Narayanan, Adm. Maratos, Capt. Barnum and Katie Ries each praised Dr. Williams' contribution to the UKHO, the IHO and hydrography throughout his distinguished career and wished him well on his retirement.

10) Next Meeting

The 30th Meeting of the United States-Canada Hydrographic Commission will be in Norfolk, Virginia, during the US Hydrographic Conference, May 14-17, 2007.