



## 36<sup>th</sup> US - Canada Hydrographic Commission (USCHC)

(29 April 2013 - via video conference call)

### IHB Report

#### New Directing Committee - Duties and Responsibilities

1. The new Directing Committee (DC) assumed office on 1 September 2012. Details of the allocation of responsibilities were promulgated in Circular Letter (CL) 77 dated 6 August 2012. In summary, Director Mustafa Iptes (the DC representative for the USCHC) oversees the IHO Programme 3 dealing with regional cooperation and capacity building. Director Gilles Bessero oversees Programme 2 dealing with the IHO technical programme.

#### Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention and Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO

2. The Government of Monaco has received 39 of the required 48 approvals for the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention.

3. Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam, and Georgia have applied for membership of the IHO. As of 1 March 2013, the status of approvals was as follows:

State	Votes Received
Vietnam	31
Brunei Darussalam	29
Georgia	22

A total number of 52 votes are required for approval. Canada has approved Brunei Darussalam and Vietnam, and USA has approved all three states.

4. The Directing Committee, in cooperation with the representatives of the Government of Monaco, stands ready to assist, through diplomatic or other channels, any States' representatives that may be encountering difficulties in progressing the outstanding approvals through their respective governments.

#### INT Chart and ENC Production Coordination – Region A

5. The current version of S-11 Region A on the IHO website is dated September 2012. USA, as INT coordinator, is invited to continue providing the IHB with regular updates to S-11.

#### IHO ENC Reference Collection and ENC Availability Catalogue

6. CL 51/2012 dated 18 May reminded Member States to provide their ENCs to the IHB in accordance with IHO General Regulation 19. This will enable the IHB to maintain an

authoritative and up to date reference collection of ENC's and also to create a global information catalogue showing all ENC's that are published. The ENC data will be maintained on a secure stand-alone server and used for internal IHB reference purposes only, it will NOT be provided to any other parties.

Those ENC Producer States which have not responded to CL 51/2012 are requested to do so as soon as possible.

### **C-55 Updates**

7. The latest updated information in C-55 - Status of Charting and Surveys Worldwide from USCHC members is as follows:

USCHC members are invited to provide the IHB with regular updates to C-55 on at least an annual basis, together with update or confirmation of their IHO Year Book entries. The development of a new framework for C-55 is in progress at the IHB in liaison with IRCC.

8. The USCHC is invited to consider its contribution to the implementation of Decision 17 of the XVIII<sup>th</sup> International Hydrographic Conference (IHC) concerning the improvement of survey coverage (text attached in Annex A).

### **IHO Publicity**

9. World Hydrography Day. The proposed theme for World hydrography Day 2013 is "Hydrography - supporting the blue economy". The purpose of this theme is to provide Member States with the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance and the benefits of hydrography, particularly in economic terms that will appeal both to the public and politicians. The IHB has provided some supporting material on the IHO website (CL 13/2013 dated 14 February refers).

10. 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference. EIHC 5 will take place between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2014 in the Auditorium Rainier III in Monaco (CL 101/2012 dated 28 November refers). In a new departure from previous conferences, it is intended to set aside time for various bodies to highlight their work and programmes. It is hoped these sessions will provoke discussion and identify ideas for new work in areas not previously investigated. It may also bring into question the work being undertaken by some existing bodies.

11. International Hydrographic Review. The IHR provides an ideal opportunity for Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in the region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each RHC has been established. Canada and USA are both represented on the Editorial Board.

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

### **Capacity Building Programme**

13. Funding for the IHO Capacity Building (CB) programme over the next five years is forecast to be somewhat lower than in the last five years. In these circumstances, the IHO and the RHCs will need to explore alternative mechanisms to meet CB requirements. It is

suggested that the USCHC members review their involvement in the provision of CB support.

### **Sustainability of IHO Work Programme**

14. The IHB notes increasing difficulties in progressing some important tasks of the IHO Work Programme due to insufficient participation in the relevant IHO subordinate bodies. The IHB monitors the situation in connection with Decision 6 of the XVIIIth IHC about ensuring the appropriate technical capacity within the IHB and will report to Member States as appropriate.

15. The IHB has initiated, in liaison with the Chairs of IHO Committees and subordinate bodies, the establishment of a three-year rolling schedule of meetings (CL 96/2012 dated 15 November refers). The objective is to facilitate resource planning, encourage the diversification of venues, and decongest the late spring and late autumn periods. In that perspective the IHB would welcome the views of USCHC on identifying and harmonizing potential offers of venues within the Commission.

### **Action Requested of USCHC Member States**

16. USCHC Member States are invited to:

- Note this report,
- Report in-country progress on approving new Member States, including any difficulties being encountered or IHB assistance required;
- Respond to CL 51/2012 about the IHO ENC reference collection and catalogue;
- Provide updates to C-55 and the IHO Year Book as appropriate;
- Consider the Commission contribution to the implementation of Decision 17 of the 18th IHC;
- Consider the Commission contribution to CB support;
- Consider the Commission contribution to the establishment of the IHO longcast programme, and
- Take any other actions as considered appropriate

## **Annex A to the IHB Report to the 36<sup>th</sup> USCHC Meeting.**

### **Decision 17 of the XVIIIth International Hydrographic Commission**

The Conference,

Noting:

(a) the importance of accurate hydrographic data and information for safety at sea, protection of the marine environment and various other maritime activities;

(b) the obligation placed on States under SOLAS V/9 for the collection of hydrographic data;

(c) the fact that the quantity and coverage of good hydrographic data requires improvement in many parts of the world;

(d) the need to improve the rate of acquisition of new, more detailed and accurate data and information;

(e) the support that various developing States require to be able to carry out the important task of hydrographic surveying; and

(f) the understanding that hydrographic surveying should be a major focus and responsibility of the IHO and all coastal States;

(g) The XVIIIth International Hydrographic Conference tasks the IRCC and HSSC in cooperation with the Directing Committee to progress whatever actions are required to improve the collection, quality and availability of hydrographic data worldwide, monitor and rectify possible deficiencies and shortcomings, cooperate with other international organizations and stakeholders as necessary, and to keep Member States informed on progress on this issue. Member States are strongly encouraged to address these deficiencies related to maritime safety worldwide, both within the IMO framework and through national channels.