



37th US - Canada Hydrographic Commission (USCHC) Meeting

**St. John's, Canada
16 April 2014**

IHB Report

Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO

1. Montenegro became the newest member state of the IHO when the government of Monaco received their instruments of accession to the Convention. IHO membership now stands at 82.
2. Bulgaria, Haiti, Mauritania and Sierra Leone have all received 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.
3. Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam and Georgia have applied for membership of the IHO. By April 2014, the status of approvals was as follows:

State	Voting Status
Viet Nam	43 of 52 required
Brunei Darussalam	38 of 52 required
Georgia	39 of 52 required

4. Canada has approved Brunei Darussalam and Vietnam, but has not yet responded with its vote for Georgia. USA has approved all three states.
5. The IHB Directing Committee, in cooperation with the representatives of the government of Monaco, stands ready to assist, through diplomatic or other channels, any States' representatives which may be encountering difficulties in progressing the outstanding approvals through their respective governments.

Suspended Member States

6. Serbia, Congo and the Dominican Republic remain suspended. IHB is working with these states to expedite their return to full membership as soon as possible, as is the case for a number of other Member States who have fallen behind on payments of their annual subscription.

Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention

7. By April 2014, 39 of the required 48 approvals to the protocol of amendments to the IHO Convention had been received by the Government of Monaco.

INT Chart and ENC Production Coordination – Region A

8. It is pleasing to note that IHO Publication S-11, Part B (Catalogue of INT Charts) Region A (North East Pacific and North West Atlantic) is regularly updated by the USA, the Coordinator of the USCHC. It is recommended that USCHC member states to continue providing the IHB with regular updates to S-11.

C-55 Updates

9. The latest updated information in C-55 – *Status of Charting and Surveys Worldwide* – submitted by Member States in the USCHC region (Region A) is 23 September 2013. USCHC region Member States are invited to continue providing the IHB (by e-mail to info@iho.int or via mail) with regular updates to C-55 on an annual basis.

IHO GIS Data Base

10. Work has continued on the development of the IHO GIS data base. The GIS database will have two main parts: a country database and a regional database. The country database has already been posted on the IHO website (Please see IHO CL23/2014) as the new edition of IHO Year Book (P-5). Member States are invited to review this new edition and in particular the information related to their country and to provide their comments to the IHB. The regional database will contain geospatial information about the coverage and location of charts, surveys and related information. The regional data base is expected to provide the principal resource for managing international chart coordination, ENC coverage, as well as the identification of survey or charting “hotspots”. The countries data base and a beta version of the regional database for Antarctica are now under evaluation.

IHO Publicity

11. World Hydrography Day. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2014 is “Hydrography – much more than just nautical charts”. The purpose of this theme is to provide Member States with the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of hydrography, particularly in economic terms which will appeal both to the public and to politicians and administrators. It is expected that the celebration of WHD-2014 in Monaco will be enhanced both by the visit of a French Navy survey ship planned through the French Hydrographic Office (SHOM) and by hosting the GEBCO SCUFN meeting at the IHB during the week. Additionally, it is intended to arrange a supplementary WHD-2014 event during the FIG International Congress-2014 which will be held from 16 to 21 June in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in order to raise the profile of hydrography and highlight the IHO activities. This event will be conducted in consultation with the Hydrographer of Malaysia and the President of the FIG.

12. Member States are invited to forward as soon as possible to the IHB any material that is created in support of national WHD-2014 celebrations for posting on the IHO website. This will enable the widest possible dissemination of publicity and support material for the event. The IHB has provided some supporting material which is available on the IHO website.

13. 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC5). EIHC5 will take place from 6th to 10th October 2014 in the Auditorium Rainier III in Monaco (Please see CCL 01 and CCL10). Planning and preparations are progressing; Member States should have received a number of Conference Circular Letters detailing various initial administrative matters. Further documents will be published over the coming months. The parallel Industry Exhibition is nearly full with only a few places still available. Member States and Observers

(Please see CCL06 and CCL07) are invited to attend the EIHC5 and actively participate in its activities.

14. International Hydrographic Review. The IHR provides an ideal opportunity for Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in their regions. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. The representative for the USCHC region is Ms Lucy Hick (USA). Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the IHB (ihreview@iho.int) with a copy to the Editor (ian.halls1@defence.au.gov).

Capacity Building Programme

15. Funding for the IHO Capacity Building programme remains limited and the IHO and the RHCs will continue the need to explore alternative mechanisms to fulfil their requirements. In many RHCs, the involvement of the commercial sector has provided mutual benefits. This has taken the form of industry representatives attending some or all parts of RHC meetings as observers, and included participation and the provision of equipment and instructor in the technical workshops and training, both as part of an RHC meeting and in separate RHC training events. The IHB is keen to continue this positive and mutually beneficial approach in progressing the Capacity Building Programme.

Sustainability of IHO Work Programme

16. 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 at the EIHC5 as appropriate.

17. 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 respect, 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

18. USCHC Member States are invited to:

- Note this report,
- Report in-country progress on voting on New Member States,
- Continue to provide updates to S-11, through USA as coordinator for INT Region A,
- Provide updates to C-55 and the IHO Year Book as appropriate,
- Consider the Commission contribution to the establishment of the IHO longcast programme, and
- Take any other actions as considered appropriate.