



39th US - Canada Hydrographic Commission (USCHC) Meeting

**Halifax, Canada
16 May 2016**

IHB Report

Status of Approval of Amendments to the Convention on the IHO

1. As of 14 May 2016, 47 of the minimum number of 48 Member States have formally approved the Protocol of Amendments to the Convention on the IHO.
2. In the event that the required majority of Approvals of the Protocol of Amendments to the Convention on the IHO are received by the Government of Monaco before 23 January 2017, the XIXth International Hydrographic Conference will, instead, take place as the First Session of the Assembly of the IHO (see Conference Circular Letter (OCL) No. 1 dated 21 April 2016).

Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO

3. Following the accession of Georgia, Viet Nam and Brunei Darussalam in March 2015, IHO membership stands at 85. Malta, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Republic of Congo have applied for membership of the IHO. Both Canada and the USA have approved all four states.
4. With Serbia, Congo and the Dominican Republic remaining suspended, 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.

IHO GIS and Databases (including C-55)

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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 52/2105). IC-ENC and Primar have agreed to provide the IHB with the CATZOC polygons of their Members through Primar.

9. **INToGIS - INT Chart Management and Catalogue.** 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 > Standards & Publications > S-11 > Part B (link). Feedback and lessons learned from the initial use of the services had been addressed during the workshop for Regional INT Chart / ENC Coordinators that was held at the IHB on 25 April 2016, just before the second meeting of the Nautical Cartography Working Group. USCHC was represented at this workshop by Mr Colby Harmon (USA).

INT Chart Coordination – Region A

10. USA is the coordinator for International Charting for Region A. According to the new S-11 Part B International Chart Web Catalogue monitored by the IHB, all 15 INT charts in the regional INT charting scheme have been published.

Preparation of the next International Hydrographic Conference / IHO Assembly

11. The next International Hydrographic 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 (23 January 2017). 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.

12. 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.

13. 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 (CCL 01 dated 21 April refers). 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. The IHB has invited Member States, HSSC and IRCC to submit proposals to update the Strategic Plan (CL 17/2016 dated 31 March refers). These proposals are expected to be circulated to all Member States in August 2016.

Capacity Building Programme

14. The level of activity of the IHO Capacity Building (CB) Programme continued to increase. Expenditure in the IHO 2015 CB Work Programme (930,907 Euros) was 118% greater than the budget for the previous year. This was a result of the ongoing financial support provided by the Nippon Foundation of Japan and the Republic of Korea, supplemented by a contribution from the IHO budget and in-kind support from Member States and from industry. The Directing Committee is continuing its campaign to find additional donor States and funding organizations. In 2015, 86% of the budgeted work program was executed and paid for. Some planned CB activities could not take place because of administrative and other issues in host nations, the unavailability of nominated personnel, or other late changes to the planned events. Most of the activities that could not take place were postponed and transferred to the 2016 CB Work Programme for execution. USCHC is invited to nominate a representative to the CBSC.

Crowd Sourced Bathymetry Programme

15. In accordance with Decision 8 of the EIHC-5, the IRCC, at its 7th meeting in May in Mexico City, has established the Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG) to provide guidelines on the collection and use of crowd-sourced bathymetry. The USA and Canada have actively contributed the work of the CSBWG. The progress reports of the CSBWG will be presented at the IRCC8 by Ms Lisa Taylor, the Chair (USA).

16. 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 Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry infrastructure to be established and promoted in the IMO and across the wider maritime community.

IHO Outreach

17. World Hydrography Day. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2016 is “*Hydrography – the key to well-managed seas and waterways*” (CL 81/2015 dated 26 November refers). 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 brief is available on the IHO website.

18. Member States have been invited to forward as soon as possible to the IHB any material that is created in support of national WHD-2016 celebrations for posting on the IHO website. This will enable the widest possible dissemination of publicity and support material for the event.

19. International Hydrographic Review (IHR). The IHR provides an ideal opportunity for Regional Hydrographic Commissions and Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in the region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. The nominated representative for the USCHC is Mrs Lucy Hick from NOAA-NOS.

20. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the editor (ihreview@iho.int).

Report on the Overall Status of the IHO Work Programme

21. 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. USCHC is invited to submit its status report to the IHO Secretariat.

Action Requested of USCHC Member States

22. USCHC Member States are invited to:

- Note this report,
- Take any other actions as considered appropriate.