

**Draft Brief History of the US-Canada Hydrographic Commission
For the IHO Website
March 20, 2017**

Submitted by: US (NOAA)

Executive Summary: The US-Canada Hydrographic Commission was established in 1977. This document provides a first draft of a brief background statement to be considered for posting to the USCHC website maintained by the IHO. Most regional hydrographic commissions currently have such a brief background statement. The USCHC currently does not.

Related Documents:

Background

Regional Hydrographic Commissions post brief backgrounds on the history and origins of the individual regional hydrographic commissions. See for example:

http://iho.int/srv1/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=426&Itemid=385&lang=en.

Although one of the oldest regional hydrographic commission, the US-Canada Hydrographic Commission (USCHC) does not currently have a brief background statement on the USCHC site maintained by the IHO.

Discussion

NOAA consulted files and colleagues with a corporate memory of the origins and history of the U.S.-Canada Hydrographic Commission (USCHC). The following draft was developed for consideration to be edited, revised and otherwise considered for submission to the IHO Secretariat for posting on the USCHC IHO website.

Brief History:

The USCHC was originally established in 1977 with its first full meeting held in April 1978 at the Institute of Ocean Sciences, Patricia Bay, Sidney, B.C. Canada. The first Chairman was G.N. Ewing, Dominion Hydrographer of the Canadian Hydrographic Service. The principal U.S. participant was Rear Admiral A. L. Powell, Director, National Ocean Survey. This Commission was preceded by an already existing coordinating group, specifically the Great Lakes Charting Advisors. This group was established in October 1963 primarily as a result of the successful interagency cooperation of the United States Lake Survey and the Canadian Hydrographic Service's efforts in charting of the boundary waters of the St. Lawrence Seaway. When the Commission was formally founded, an Atlantic Coast Charting Advisors Committee and a Northeast Pacific Charting Advisors Committee was added to address more regional issues in the boundary waters of those areas.

Action Required of USCHC

The USHC is invited to:

1. to review the draft background statement above; and
2. make any adjustments and decisions as warranted.