



40th US - Canada Hydrographic Commission (USCHC) Meeting

**Galveston, Texas, USA
20 March 2017**

IHO Secretariat Report

Entry into force of the Amendments to the IHO Convention and its supporting Basic Documents

1. The Amendments to the IHO Convention and its supporting Basic Documents entered into force on 8 November 2016. The most significant changes to the organization of the IHO are:

- the term International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) used to describe the headquarters and the secretariat of the IHO is replaced by the term IHO Secretariat;
- the Directing Committee, comprising a President and two Directors ceases to lead the IHB (Secretariat of the IHO). Instead, the Secretariat of the IHO is now led by a Secretary-General assisted by two subordinate Directors;
- the term International Hydrographic Conference used to designate the principal organ of the Organization, composed of all Member States, is replaced by the term Assembly. The ordinary sessions of the Assembly will be held every three years instead of every five years for the Conference. The first session of the IHO Assembly (A-1) will be held in Monaco from 24 to 28 April 2017, at which time an IHO Council will be established. The first meeting of the Council (C-1) will take place from 17 to 19 October 2017 and annually in October thereafter. The second session of the Assembly (A-2) should take place in April 2020;
- the subsidiary organs, including the Committees, of the IHO will report to the Council that will then refer endorsed proposals for adoption either to the Assembly or to the Member States through correspondence;
- the planning cycle for the IHO work programme and budget changes from a five-year to a three-year cycle. The next cycle will run from 2018 to 2020.
- for States wishing to join the IHO that are already Member States of the United Nations there is no requirement to seek the approval of existing Member States of the IHO;
- the strict eligibility requirements for candidates seeking election as the Secretary-General or a Director are relaxed; and
- in future, where voting by correspondence is required, through the Council, decisions will be taken based on a majority of the Member States that cast a vote, rather than the existing arrangements where a majority of all the Member States entitled to vote is required. A minimum number of at least one-third of all Member States eligible to vote must vote positively for the vote to stand

Status of Membership of the IHO

2. Malta and Vanuatu have been 86th and 87th members of the IHO. One of the main changes resulting from the entry into force of the revised IHO Convention is that, for States wishing to join the IHO that are already Member States of the United Nations, there is no requirement to seek the approval of existing Member States of the IHO. Accordingly, the following States: Bulgaria, Congo, Haiti, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, and Solomon Islands, that have already applied for membership of the IHO, may now submit their instruments of accession to the Convention on the IHO and thereby become members immediately.

Suspended Member States

3. Serbia, Congo and the Dominican Republic remain suspended. IHO Secretariat 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.

INT Chart and ENC Production Coordination – Region A

4. According to the IHO Secretariat records, US (Mr John Nyberg), is the designated INT Chart / ENC Coordinator for Region A. Mr John Nyberg (USA), who is also Vice-Chair of the WENDWG, and Mr Laurent Tardif (CA) represent the USCHC at WENDWG meetings.

5. The status of the INT chart scheme for region A is contained in Edition 3.0.0 of S-11 Part B which was made available in January 2016. According to the S-11 Part B Web Catalogue, there are 15 charts (and/or plans) in the scheme, of which 15 have been published (100%). No updates have been received since the move to the INTtoGIS services. It is assumed that it is because the scheme is considered up-to-date and satisfactory and that there is no need to go further in the production of INT charts. Only US has requested an ID and password in order to manage the INT chart database. The Charting Region A was represented at the IHO Workshop for Regional INT Charts/ENC Coordinators held in Monaco in 25 April 2016, as well as the WENDWG-7 meeting held in Washington DC in Jan-Feb. 2017.

6. Where it is known, links have been provided from the IHO ENC coverage catalogue (www.iho.int > *ENC&ECDIS* > *ENC Availability* > *on-line catalogue*) to Member States' on-line chart catalogues, but updates need to be provided to the IHO Secretariat.

7. CA represented the USCHC at the 7th meeting (31 January-2 February 2017) of the WENDWG where the WENDWG invited

- Regional Hydrographic Commissions to define and adopt ENC Schemes (as it is done for INT Charts Schemes) and to provide basic metadata to the IHO Secretariat.
- Actions on RHCs arising from the WENDWG-7 need to be considered by the USCHC.

8. 22 ENC overlap issues (> 5 m) in Region A were reported to the WENDWG.

9. IHO CL 61/2015 dated 24 August 2015 informed Member States of the promulgation of Circular MSC.1/Circ.1503 of 24 July 2015 on *ECDIS - Guidance for Good Practice* by the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Noting that the Circular Letter refers to the IHO online ENC Catalogue and that the mention includes a reference to the provision of coastal State information on any requirements for ECDIS backup arrangements using paper charts, the Directing Committee reiterated its earlier request (see IHO CL 41/2014) that Member States ensure that the relevant information which has been posted on the IHO website since 2008 (see IHO CL 10/2008) is kept current and to provide the Secretariat with updates as appropriate. Member States were invited to consider the provision of pending updates before the end of 2015 and the provision of subsequent updates, or confirmation of no change, at least once a year. It is available at: *Home* >

ENCs & ECDIS > ENC Availability > Backup Paper Charts, and -Home > ENCs & ECDIS > ENC Availability > Online Chart Catalogues. No information has been received from USCHC member States.

Capacity Building Programme

10. In 2016 the Capacity Building Fund (CBF) provided direct support to training activities as well as supporting the attendance of participants at various technical workshops and seminars. There was a high level of activity of the IHO Capacity Building Programme in 2016. This was a result of the on-going 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. In 2016, 91% of the technical visits, and 100% of the other assignments in the Capacity Building Work Programme were completed.

11. Captain Brian Connon (USA) represented the USCHC at the CBSC-14 meeting held in Abu Dhabi in May 2016.

IHO GIS and Databases

12. 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.

13. **IHO Year Book.** The country information database has been progressively upgraded to include additional administrative information and facilitate the maintenance of the IHO Yearbook (IHO Publication P-5) and related lists posted on the IHO website. Countries in the USCHC Region are invited to review the Yearbook and to provide the IHO Secretariat with any updates or report no change.

14. 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.

15. **C-55.** 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 response to the request to complement C-55 composite data (percentage of areas adequately surveyed / requiring re-survey / not surveyed) with CATZOC information (see IHO CL 52/2015), CATZOC data was provided by PRIMAR - on behalf of IC-ENC, PRIMAR and Canada, Singapore, Sweden and Thailand. Useful options for visualizing the data in the IHO C-55 GIS are being investigated. Countries in the USCHC Region are invited to review their entry in C-55 and to provide the IHO Secretariat with the appropriate updates or to report no change.

Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry

16. In accordance with Decision 8 of the EIHC-5, IRCC7 established the Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG) to provide guidelines on the collection and use of crowd-sourced bathymetry. Member States and other interested parties were invited to nominate representatives to participate in the CSBWG (see IHO CL 42/2015).

17. The CSBWG was tasked to draft an IHO publication on policy for trusted crowd sourced bathymetry including guidelines on the collection and assessment of CSB data, not only for potential use for charting purposes but also for its wider use in non-navigational

applications. The objective of the publication is to take into account the work that is underway to enhance the IHO DCDB as a data discovery and upload/download portal for crowd sourced bathymetry and to draw upon any lessons already learned and specifications created by those already engaged in CSB. The Chair of the CSBWG is expected to present the draft Guidance Document at the IRCC9 meeting in June 2017 in Suriname for endorsement of the IRCC.

18. 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 CSB infrastructure to be established and promoted in the IMO and across the wider maritime community. It is intended to include a comprehensive presentation on the work and aspirations of the CSBWG at Assembly-1.

Preparation of the first session of the IHO Assembly

19. The first session of the IHO Assembly is scheduled to take place from 24 to 28 April 2017.

20. As indicated in IHO CCL 1 dated 21 April 2016, registration for the Assembly has been available on-line via the IHO website from 1 September 2016.

21. In accordance with the new General Regulations of the IHO that entered into force on 8 November, the first Assembly will establish an IHO Council. The selection process for the establishment of the Council was initiated by the Secretary-General in October 2016. All RHCs must agree on their process by which they will assign Members to occupy the seat(s) in the Council allocated to them, and possibly instruct, the relevant occupant(s).

22. The agenda of the Assembly will include a review of the IHO Strategic Plan and consideration of the IHO Work Programme for the next 3-year cycle. In accordance with IHO Resolution 12/2002 as amended the relevant documents has been prepared by the IHO Secretariat in consultation with the HSSC, the IRCC and the Member States. All Assembly documents and reports are available on the IHO website at: www.iho.int > Home>Assembly documents. The Chair of the USCHC is expected to present the USCHC report at the Assembly.

IHO Outreach

World Hydrography Day

23. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2016 was "*Hydrography – the key to well-managed seas and waterways.*" Pakistan from the RSAHC reported hosting events in connection with World Hydrography Day 2016. Reports on events hosted in connection with WHD 2016 are available at: www.iho.int > Home> About IHO > World Hydrography Day > WHD 2016 Celebrations around the world

24. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2017 is: "*Mapping our sea, oceans and waterways - more important than ever.*" Member States are invited to forward to the Secretariat any material that they may create in support of their national WHD-2017 celebrations for posting on the IHO website. This will enable the widest possible dissemination of publicity and support material for the event.

International Hydrographic Review

25. International Hydrographic Review. The IHR provides an opportunity for 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 Ms Lucy Hick from NOAA-NOS.

26. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the IHO Secretariat (ihreview@iho.int) with a copy to the Editor (ian.halls1@defence.au.gov).

Action Requested of USCHC Member States

USCHC Member States are invited to:

1. Note this report
2. Provide continuous updates to S-11 Part B, through USA as coordinator for INT Region A
3. Review entries in IHO Publications C-55 and P-5 (Year Book) at least annually
4. Provide continuous updates to S-11 Part B for INT Region A through the INTToGIS tool and implement the procedure depicted in IHO CL 64/2015 for the review and monitoring of INT charts
5. Report to the IHO Secretariat on the status and description of the ENC schemes in the Region A
6. Consider appropriate arrangements to prepare the IHO Assembly to be held in April 2017
7. Consider submitting papers for publication in the IH Review
8. Take any other actions as considered appropriate.