



2008

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER BULLETIN

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REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS

IHO HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON ANTARCTICA (HCA) 8th Meeting, Niteroi, BRAZIL, 6 – 8 October 2008

The 8th Meeting of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) took place at the Brazilian Hydrographic and Navigation Directorate (DHN), Niteroi, Brazil, 06-08 October 2008, organized and hosted by DHN. At the opening ceremony the Director of DHN welcomed the participants to Brazil and wished all a successful meeting. The HCA Chairman, Capt GORZIGLIA (IHB Director), thanked Brazil for hosting the meeting and for making all the arrangements and for providing such a warm welcome. He invited the HCA Members to contribute as much as possible to the success of the event, emphasizing that the work carried out by the IHO HCA, corresponds to the response to a concrete request made in the early 1990s by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to the IHO to coordinate hydrographic surveys and nautical cartography in Antarctica.

The Chairman opened the meeting welcoming the 15 IHO/HCA Member States present (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Italy, Norway, Peru, Spain, United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay) and the representatives of international organizations (IOC, COMNAP and IAATO) and international programs (GEBCO and IBCSO). The Chairman provided a brief and complete report on the activities conducted since the last meeting and proposed several actions to the Commission for consideration during the meeting.

The Commission reviewed the membership status and noted that Japan, Peru and Uruguay have signed the Statutes. Therefore the membership has grown to 21 IHO/HCA Members. In accordance with Art 5.2 of the Statutes, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Rear Admiral Ian MONCRIEF (UK) as Vice Chairman of the HCA.

The Commission reviewed the status of the actions agreed at the last meeting and confirmed that almost all actions had been completed. The meeting considered the reports of the international observer organizations as well as those from the IHO/HCA Member States. The HCA activities were examined in the light of the IHO Work Program, mainly including the INT Chart and ENC schemes and chart production. The status of S-55 in Antarctica was also reviewed.

The Commission noted with satisfaction the results obtained following the Seminar on the Importance of Hydrography in Antarctica given at the last Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in June 2008 in Kiev, Ukraine. This event was organized by the IHO/HCA. The Commission felt that this was a worthy activity that had improved IHO's visibility and had generated interest in hydrography amongst the various interested parties in the Antarctic, at both national and international levels. The Commission agreed that events such as this contribute to higher priority being given to hydrographic surveys and nautical chart production within National Antarctic programs. The HCA decided to urge its members to make use of ATCM Resolution 5 (2008) "Improving hydrographic surveying and charting to support safety of navigation and environmental protection in the Antarctic region".

Noting the positive result of the seminar, the HCA agreed to hold a similar seminar on the occasion of the 2009 COMNAP Council that will be held in Punta Arenas, Chile, in August. The content of the seminar and the speakers were identified (IHB, UK, Chile). COMNAP has included this activity on their Council Agenda and are ready and willing to participate in this direct interaction with IHO/HCA.

Considering the importance of reinforcing the work of the HCA Hydrographic Survey Work Program Working Group (HSPWG), and the need to identify the way forward, the HCA Chairman proposed an ad-hoc meeting of this WP, aiming at identifying initiatives to be proposed to HCA. This resulted in a very interesting exercise, and HCA was able to provide clear guidance to the WG in order to update the Prioritized Hydrographic Survey Plan, considering the information contained in national reports to HCA-8, as well as discussions / outcomes of the ad hoc meeting of HSPWG during HCA-8. The HSPWG is led by UK with the participation of Argentina, Australia, Chile, Germany, Greece, Spain and USA. COMNAP and IAATO expressed their willingness to participate and offered their support and contribution as observers.

The HCA decided to underline the relation between hydrography and the protection of the marine environment in the next IHO/HCA report to ATCM and also to insist on the importance of considering the concept under SOLAS V, regulation 9.

In brief, the HCA continues to contribute to the objectives of the IHO and to receive strong support from international organizations for the establishment of a viable and prioritized hydrographic surveying program that could benefit the production of the INT Charts of the Antarctica.

The Commission agreed on several actions to be carried out during the intersessional period, with clear identification of the responsibilities and deadlines. Nevertheless, in order for these actions to take place and to be effective, strong support is required from national authorities responsible for assigning priorities to hydrographic work.

Following a kind invitation received from the Hydrographic Office of South Africa to host the next HCA Meeting, the Commission agreed to hold the 9th HCA meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, 12-14 October 2009.



HCA8 Participants at the DHN, Niteroi, Brazil

**9th MEETING OF THE MESO-AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN SEA
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (MACHC)**

Niteroi, Brazil, 09-10 October 2008.

After having been informed by the “Dirección de Hidrografía y Navegación” in Venezuela that unfortunately they would not be able to host the 9th Meeting of MACHC, the “Diretoria de Hidrografia e Navegação” of Brazil contacted the MACHC Chairman (Mexico) and offered to host this event again in Niteroi, Brazil, on 09 and 10 October 2008 at its premises. This offer was gratefully accepted by all the MACHC Members, thus ensuring the continuity of the Commission’s activities.

The following MACHC members were present: Barbados, Brazil, Cuba, France, Guatemala, Mexico, Netherlands (The), Suriname, UK and USA. Belize and Honduras as well as the IHB and some commercial companies attended the meeting as Observers. The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Rear Admiral Jose OCANA GARCIA (Mexico). Captain Antonio GARCEZ, representing the Brazilian Hydrographer, and Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA (IHB Director) welcomed the participants and noted the importance of the event in the coordination of the hydrographic and cartographic effort in the region. Colombia and Venezuela sent their apologies for not attending due to last minute commitments.

The Chairman summarized the work carried out since the 8th meeting and reviewed in detail the actions agreed. The IHB representative provided a report on the main IHO subjects of interest to the Commission, such as : the status of ratification of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention; IHO/IMO related matters, mainly carriage requirements and the on-line ENC catalogue; progress concerning the adoption of the new IHO and GEBCO structure; Capacity Building matters; World Hydrography Day; the future of the International Hydrographic Review; Haiti’s application to become an IHO Member. MACHC Members agreed to inform the IHB within one week of any potential support to be offered to Haiti in the technical visit the IHB will pay in October 2008.

National Reports were provided and also the following reports were tabled by various participants:

- 1) MACHC CB Report (Brazil). The need to produce a regional CB programme was highlighted.
- 2) ISPWG Report (Cuba). Informative on this WG's work and matters under discussion.
- 3) WEND matters (USA). Outcome of the last WEND meeting and guidelines for applying WEND principles.
- 4) TSMAD matters (USA). The close relation between the mariner and the marine environment protection through protected areas was highlighted.
- 5) HCIWWG matters (Brazil). Informative conclusions on the work carried out by the WG.
- 6) Electronic Chart Committee (USA). Situation on the ENC scheme and production, including situations to be solved.
- 7) INT Chart Committee (Mexico). Situation on the production of INT Charts and situations that require close collaboration to accelerate the production of these charts.
- 8) MACHC Forum (Brazil). Establishment of this tool to be used when discussing different matters that require interaction between MACHC members.
- 9) MACHC Statutes (Brazil). Proposal and adoption of changes. Inclusion of the position of Vice Chair; the limits of the Commission; the obligations of the Chair and Secretary of the Commission were agreed.
- 10) Council Representation (Brazil). Presentation of alternatives and discussion.
- 11) Liaison with IOC (IBCCA) and PAIGH. Information on joint activities. A report on the Multi beam practical training course held in Mexico was provided.

Different actions were agreed by MACHC and will be progressed during the intersessional period. The Director of the Gulf of Honduras Project made a presentation on the status of the Project. Countries involved : Belize, Guatemala and Honduras are in the process of receiving the instruments and equipment provided under the project. Training and hands-on will start in the following months. The support from the CBFund anticipated for this activity will be required in March 2009, but arrangements and coordination will take place before the end of 2008.

The MACHC Members unanimously elected Brazil and UK as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively.

Following a kind invitation from Barbados, the Commission decided to hold the 10th MACHC meeting in Barbados, in the last week of October 2009, with the exact dates to be determined.



Participants at the 9th MACHC Meeting, Niteroi, Brazil, 09 –10 October 2008.

10th CONFERENCE OF THE EASTERN ATLANTIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION
Lomé, Togo, 3-5 December 2008

Over 50 participants attended the 10th Conference of the Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (EAtHC), hosted by the Government of Togo. The Conference was held at the Mercure SAKAWA Hotel in Lomé and the Participants were from the following countries:

- Members of the EAtHC: France, Nigeria, Portugal and Spain. Morocco sent apologies for not attending;
- Associate Members of the EAtHC: Benin, Guinea, Senegal and Togo. Cameroon, Guinea Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania and the Rep. of Congo did not attend;
- Coastal Countries' Observers: Gambia, Ghana and Togo. D.R. of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe and Sierra Leone did not attend;
- Other Observers: USA, UK, PMAWCA, IMU of Accra and the IHB.

Mr. Kokouvi DOGBE, State Minister, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications of Togo, representing the President of the Republic, welcomed the participants and declared the conference open. During the Opening Ceremony the following authorities made statements: Captain Francisco PÉREZ CARRILLO, Director of IHM (Spain) and Chairman of EAtHC; Admiral Fogan KODJO ADEGNON, Director of the Port of Lomé; Mr Alfa LEBGAZA, General Director of Maritime Affairs; and Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA, IHB Director. The IHB was also represented by Ing. en Chef Michel HUET (IHB).

Immediately after the opening and as part of the ceremony, an agreement between France and Togo for the development of hydrography and cartography in Togo was signed. Mr. Dominique RENAUX, Ambassador of France in Togo and Mr. Kokouvi DOGBE, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications of Togo, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective countries.

Amongst other items, the agenda of the conference included aspects related to the management of the Commission, and accordingly a report on the activities since the last conference in Dakar in 2006 was provided by the Chairman. Nigeria was designated Vice-Chair of the Conference and will therefore assume the Chairmanship of the EAtHC for the next two years.

The Conference reviewed the actions list agreed at the last conference. It followed a detailed report provided by the IHB on the status of the IHO Work Program. The presentation reviewed all 5 IHO Programs, highlighting the elements more related to the Commission, which included the main ongoing activities and the organization of the next EIHC.

Delegates presented their National Reports. One of the issues to be highlighted is the creation of the Working Committee on Hydrography, Oceanography and Safety of Navigation of Togo, with an approach that can be used as a reference by other countries in the region. Capacity building was given high priority in the discussions, and France was designated to represent the Commission's interest in the CBC and will identify the most important needs in terms of training and equipment. The capacity building work programme with regard to the Commission was examined and France, as Commission representative to the CBC, was tasked to consolidate the region's needs. The procedures established by the CBC were also explained as well as the importance of keeping updated IHO publication S-55. It resulted that capacity building continues to be of high priority for this RHC, as Phase One, i.e. collection and dissemination of maritime safety information, is still far from being completed.

Regarding the provision of hydrographic services, the Conference considered the INT Chart situation in the region and the radionavigational warnings within the NAVAREA II. In this context it was agreed that the Maritime University of Accra in Ghana would host an EAtHC MSI course, in July 2009, as well as a Basic Practical Hydrographic Surveying Course earlier in 2009, an activity pending from 2008. The Conference was also briefed on the progress made by the ISPWG in updating the IHO Strategic Plan.

All the information provided was commented and discussed, and proposals were identified as required, resulting in a complete List of Actions. The 10th EAHC Conference adopted over 30 actions that shall constitute the Commission's work program for the intersessional period.

The 11th EAHC Conference has been planned in late 2010 in Accra, Ghana.



WORKING GROUPS

CHART STANDARDIZATION AND PAPER CHART WORKING GROUP (CSPCWG)

5th Meeting, Sydney, Australia, 18-21 November 2008

The Chart Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG), the WG of the IHO CHRIS Committee setting the chart standard, held its 5th meeting in Sydney, from 18-21 November 2008, hosted by the Australian Hydrographic Office. The 15 cartographic experts in attendance representing the Hydrographic Offices of Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA, and the IHB, were welcomed by Mr Michael PRINCE, AHO Director for Charting. The meeting was chaired by Mr Peter JONES (UK). Below is a summary of the main points discussed.

The production of an INT1/S-52 symbol combined document, jointly by NGA and NOAA, has been significantly delayed, with no progress having been made since last year. Such a document is reportedly awaited by the chart users, i.e. the mariners, and it had been envisaged to adopt the US INT1/S-52 as an IHO publication. There may be a need to look at another option to produce this document.

It was agreed to develop new symbols or specifications for the following cases:

- Symbol for the entrance of a tunnel for pipelines / submarine cables.
- Specification for showing bridge supports, following the Cosco Busan collision with the Bay Bridge (San Francisco) in early 2008.
- Symbol for offshore renewable energy installations (OREI), i.e. ocean wave energy.
- Symbol pattern for unsurveyed and inadequately surveyed areas.
- Specification for platform with superstructure removed.
- Symbol for shellfish beds.
- Abbreviation MRCC for *Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre*.



A draft of the new section B-600 of M-4 *Chart Maintenance* was reviewed. It will provide an explanation of the current methods of promulgating information and some guidance on assessing new information to decide which method of promulgation may be appropriate.

CSPCWG, as the body responsible for IHO Publication M-15 - *List of Booklets on Chart Symbols and Abbreviations published by various Maritime Countries*, has recommended that this publication be discontinued on the grounds that it is obsolete and no longer considered to be useful. CSPCWG also endorsed a new lay-out for the presentation of INT chart metadata in IHO Publication M-11 Part B - *Catalogue of INTERNATIONAL Charts*. The ongoing review of S-49 - *Guidance for Mariners' Routing Guides* by a sub-group led by Germany was noted.

The 6th CSPCWG meeting has been scheduled to be held in the second half of November 2009 at the IHB, Monaco.

COMMITTEES / SUB-COMMITTEES / COMMISSIONS

10th MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON THE PROMULGATION OF RADIO NAVIGATIONAL WARNINGS (CPRNW10) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 25-29 August 2008

The 10th meeting of the IHO was held at the Directorate of Navigation and Hydrography in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 25 – 29 August 2008 and was attended by 33 representatives from 15 Member States including 13 NAVAREA Co-ordinators and 1 Sub-area Co-ordinator. Observers from the IHB, WMO and Inmarsat also attended.

The meeting finalised the revised text of the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO MSI Manual / S-53 which was subsequently sent to Member States and the WMO for comment prior to submission to IMO COMSAR for adoption. The meeting received Self Assessments from all but two of the twenty one NAVAREAs as well as reports from the IMO SafetyNET Panel, the NAVTEX Co-ordinating Panel and the WMO. The meeting provided input to the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Correspondence Group on Arctic MSI Services. The full report of the meeting is available from the CPRNW section of the HO web site.



CONFERENCES / SEMINARS

ABLOS 5th CONFERENCE

The 5th ABLOS Conference entitled “*Difficulties in Implementing the Provisions of UNCLOS*” was held at the IHB in Monaco on from 15 - 17 October 2008. It was very successful attracting a capacity audience of 90 delegates from 30 countries with 23 papers being presented during 9 sessions. The Government of Monaco kindly hosted a reception for all the delegates and accompanying persons in the Atrium of the Casino. Papers submitted and presentations given during the Conference are available for download from the IHO web site www.iho.int > Committees > ABLOS > 5th Conference.

ABLOS 15th Business Meeting

The Conference was preceded by the 15th ABLOS Business Meeting which was held on 14 - 15 October. The meeting was well attended with only 1 member of ABLOS not being able to attend. The ex-officio members from UN-DOALOS and the IHB and five Observers also attended the meeting. The meeting elected Professor Chris Rizos, IAG – Australia, as the new Chairman and Chris Carleton, IHO – UK, as Vice Chairman. They assumed their positions following the closure of the 5th Conference. The report of the 15th Business Meeting will be available from the ABLOS section of the IHO web site once it has been approved by the ABLOS members.



15th ABLOS BUSINESS MEETING
IHB, MONACO - 14 - 15 OCTOBER 2008

INFORMATION OF INTEREST

THE HYDROGRAPHER OF SINGAPORE AWARDED AN HONORARY DOCTORATE OF SCIENCE.

Early September 2008



The University of Plymouth in the UK recently awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science to Parry OEI, the National Hydrographer of Singapore, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to international hydrography and the safety of life at sea. Dr OEI is pictured with Mrs Barbara BOND, formerly Director at the UKHO and presently Chair of the Board of Governors and Pro-Chancellor at the University of Plymouth.



NATIONAL DAY OF MONACO – 19 NOVEMBER 2008

One of the important events that takes place on the National Day of the Principality of Monaco is the medal ceremony by His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco.

This year, Captain Federico BERMEJO was awarded the medal for 20 years loyal service to the I.H. Bureau at a ceremony that took place at the Oceanographic Museum on the 18th November.

Congratulations Captain BERMEJO !

INAUGURATION OF IMSSEA, GENOA, ITALY.

28 November 2008.

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA, IHB Director, represented the IHO at the inauguration ceremony of the International Maritime Safety Security and Environment Academy (IMSSEA), which took place in the “Stazione Maritima” of the Port of Genoa, Italy, on 28th November 2008.

The Secretary General of IMO and authorities from the Province of Genoa, the Port of Genoa, the Coast Guard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, amongst others, attended the ceremony. Also present at the event were representatives from the Navy, the maritime sector and students from the Italian Shipping Academy.

The ceremony included several presentations: Mr. Maurizio ZINI, Director of IMSSEA and Professor Eugenio MASSOLO, President of the Italian Shipping Academy outlined the objectives and challenges for the new Academy, highlighting the cooperation that has already started with IHO. Admiral Efthimios MITROPOULOS, IMO General Secretary, congratulated the Italian authorities for their initiative to establish IMSSEA and wished every success for the future training of new generations of seafarers. This new Academy - arm of the IMO - offers an excellent venue for training due to its location in the Port of Genoa.

At the end of the ceremony, the IHB Director offered an IHO crest to IMSSEA and, at the same time, the Director of IMSSEA presented a commemorative plate of the inauguration.



*Mr. Maurizio ZINI, Director of IMSSEA and
Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA, IHB Director*

OTHER BODIES

IMO-IOC-IHO MEETING ON CAPACITY BUILDING MATTERS

IOC, Paris, 14-15 October 2008.

The Second Meeting of the officers from the IHO, IMO, IOC and WMO responsible for Capacity Building matters met at the IOC premises in Paris, France, on 14-15 October 2008. The following officers were present:

IHO

Capt. Hugo GORZIGLIA
Capt. Federico BERMEJO

IMO

Mr. Zhu JIANXING

IOC

Dr. Ehrlich DESA
Capt. Dimitri TRAVIN
Mr. Joannis BERQUE

WMO

Mr. Edgar CABRERA

The meeting was chaired by Captain GORZIGLIA who welcomed Mr. CABRERA, representing the World Meteorological Organization, who had joined the other organizations at this meeting.

The meeting discussed the following topics:

- a) General concepts and strategies followed by each organization;
- b) Briefing regarding the state of progress with the 2008 Capacity Building Work Program;
- c) Experience gained and procedures implemented to improve effectiveness in the provision of Capacity Building;
- d) Experience in dealing with funding agencies;
- e) Status of joint co-operation projects;
- f) 2009 Capacity Building Work Program. Exchange of information and analysis;
- g) The way ahead. Concerted priorities.

It was agreed that this kind of meeting was important in order to avoid duplication of efforts, to reinforce the respective Work Programmes and propose interaction between them, whilst maintaining their independence.

The following Action List was approved:

- 1.- Based on the experience gained in SWP and Caribbean IMO events (Workshop and course, respectively), the IHO will propose further actions to be considered by IMO;
- 2.- Participating Organizations should share inputs by February 2009 on initiatives for consideration when preparing their respective Capacity Building, Technical Cooperation or other Programs for the biennium 2010-2011;
- 3.- The four organizations will share their future draft working programs regarding CB/TC, as soon as they are available, to be used as a planning information source;
- 4.- The availability of reliable coastal bathymetry was considered to be a subject of common interest for the participants due to its wide application (modelling, erosion, safety of navigation, management of disasters and many other needs). It was agreed to explore ways to strengthen this component by including the subject in the respective work programs.
- 5.- Action will continue to encourage on-going joint cooperation projects.

The next coordination meeting will take place in the week 5 to 9 October 2009, at a venue to be determined. It was also suggested that IALA should be invited to attend this meeting.

85th SESSION OF THE IMO MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE (MSC)

IMO Headquarters, London, 26 November – 05 December 2008

The 85th session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) was held at the IMO Headquarters Building in London from 26 November to 5 December 2008. The President and PA(H) represented the IHO. The reports of COMSAR12 (COMSAR12/15) and NAV 54 (NAV54/25), both of which are available on the IHO web site, were considered during the meeting. In this context MSC 85 took the following actions:

- Approved the amendments to Resolution A.705(17) on the Promulgation of Maritime Safety Information;
- Approved the amendments to Resolution A.706(17) on the IMO/IHO World-Wide Navigational Warning Service;
- Endorsed the issue of the COMSAR circular on the list of NAVAREA Co-ordinators;
- Adopted 14 new or amended Routeing Measures;
- Adopted the proposed amendments to the General Provisions on Ships' Routeing, subject to confirmation by the Assembly;
- Approved the amendments to SOLAS Regulation V/19 with respect to a mandatory carriage requirement for ECDIS, with a view to adoption at the 86th Session in May 2009. The dates for the phased implementation, as prepared by NAV54 were approved;
- Approved the SN Circular on "Transitioning from paper chart to electronic chart display and information systems (ECDIS) navigation";
- Approved the strategy for the development and implementation of e-navigation;
- Approved the framework for the implementation process for the e-navigation strategy along with the time frame for implementation of the strategy, requesting other international organizations to participate in the implementation of e-navigation;
- Endorsed the NAV Sub-Committee's decision that the Chairman along with the Secretaries of the COMSAR, NAV and STW Sub-Committees should jointly develop a co-ordinated approach to implement the e-navigation strategy; and
- Approved the draft SN Circular detailing an amendment to SN/Circ.243 on Guidelines for the presentation of navigational-related symbols, terms and abbreviations relating to a new symbol for the presentation of an AIS Search and Rescue Transmitter (AIS-SART).

IHB VISITS

VISIT TO HAITI 19-23 October 2008

In March 2008, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Haiti approached the IHB requesting that a technical visit be made to Haiti to assess the hydrographic and oceanographic situation in order to contribute to the preparation of a national and regional hydrographic development project to establish a Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service.

Captain GORZIGLIA, IHB Director and Chairman of the IHO CBC visited Haiti from 19 to 23 October 2008.

Whilst the arrangements for the technical visit were being made, Haiti decided to apply for membership of the IHO and the approval procedure of Haiti's application is progressing well.

The program arranged for the visit included the following:

- a) Visit to the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications;
- b) Visit to the Ministry of Tourism;
- c) Visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- d) Visit to the National Port Authority;
- e) Visit to the Coast Guard;
- f) Visit to the Maritime and Navigation Service;
- g) Visit to the National Geospatial Information Center;
- h) Two Round-table meetings with the representatives of the above national agencies and with the Head of the Cabinet of the Ministry of Interior and
- i) Navigation (Bay Port au Prince) and visit of potential seat of the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service.

The interest and importance given to hydrography, nautical cartography, safety to navigation and oceanography by the higher governmental authorities were evident. They were all concerned by the fact that Haiti, as a maritime country, does not have the capability to conduct hydrographic surveys, oceanographic studies and generate information, products and services to contribute to the socio-economic development of Haiti.

The presentations made by Capt. GORZIGLIA emphasized the importance that hydrography plays in all activities in the coastal zone, as well as offshore. It is evident that the shipping sector benefits from hydro-cartographic and marine safety information knowledge, making navigation a safe activity.

Furthermore, it was highlighted that the protection of the marine environment, the need to increase tourism, the natural hazard preparedness, the pending establishment of maritime delimitations - just to mention a few activities - require a national structure with the responsibility to provide reliable and timely information for a responsible and sustainable exploitation of the island. As a matter of urgency Haiti was invited to put into place a basic structure to improve safety to navigation through the management of MSI in close contact with the HOs that produce the existing nautical charts covering Haiti's waters and the NAVAREA IV Coordinator. The Report on the Technical Visit will detail this and other initiatives for Haiti's consideration. It was felt that the message was well received and efforts at a national level will continue aimed at establishing a Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service.

This visit proved to be positive, due mainly to the excellent arrangements made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who organized the various meetings and visits. Hydrographic and oceanographic issues seem to be receiving much higher priority than in the past and today are part of Haiti's national objectives. This technical visit certainly helped to give a certain momentum to these important issues.

The Ministries thanked the IHO for the positive response to their request and undertook to consider implementing the recommendations that the IHO would be making following this technical visit.



Eng. Jacques GABRIEL, Minister of Public Works, Transport and Communications with Captain GORZIGLIA.



Professionals of SEMANAH and National Port Authority during presentation by IHB Director.



Possible seat of the future Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of Haiti