



The 25th Assembly of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) Kingston, Jamaica, 22 - 26 July

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2019	
Task 1.1.14	Maintain relationship with the International Seabed Authority (ISA)

The 25th Assembly of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) was held at ISA Headquarters from 22 to 26 July in Kingston, Jamaica. The IHO was represented by the IHO Secretary-General, Dr Mathias Jonas.

The ISA Secretary-General, Mr Michael Lodge gave his annual report on the activities of the Authority and the financial situation. Based on the Strategic Plan as approved by the previous Assembly in 2018, the Secretary-General presented a high level action plan which links precise activities to the overall nine strategic directions of the Authority and associates key performance indicators to each activity. Strategic direction number 4 “Promote and encourage marine scientific research in the Area” addresses the need to establish strategic alliances and partnership with relevant organizations, inter alia the IHO, to share data and information in an open and transparent manner, avoid the duplication of efforts and benefit from synergies, for example, by aligning with the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

In this context the IHO Secretary-General discussed intensively how ISA’s new repository of data related to the deep seabed and associated water column named *DeepData* and IHO’s DCDB / GEBCO infrastructure can take mutual benefit from each other. Numerous conversations were held with ISA contractors with the same intention to inform them about Seabed 2030 and the options to contribute bathymetric information to the GEBCO digital Ocean Map.

Among numerous considerations, the Assembly authorized the ISA Secretary-General to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the ISA and the State Oceanic Administration of China concerning the establishment of a joint training and research centre situated in Qingdao, China. The governance will be conducted by a steering committee equally manned by the ISA Secretariat and the Chinese partners.

The Assembly devoted a full day’s agenda to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Authority to highlight the progress made within this period. So far 29 contractors belonging to 22 countries have been endorsed to explore their claims consisting of about 1% of the global sea floor to be prepared for regular exploitations as soon as the universal mining code and the associated arrangements are adopted by the ISA Member States within the years to come. Regular exploitation is expected to start around the middle of the next decade.



Cadets of the Jamaican Navy presenting the flags of the ISA Member States – among them the flag of Monaco.



15th Session of the IMO/ITU Experts Group London, United Kingdom, 8-12 July

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2019	
Task 1.1.8.4	Attendance of IMO-ITU EG 15 meeting



The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) which is responsible for issues that concern information and communication technologies, including aeronautical and maritime navigation. The Experts Group (EG) established jointly by the International Maritime Organization



(IMO) and the ITU consists of representatives active in the IMO and the ITU in relation to maritime communications. The function of the IMO/ITU EG is to advise on the development of future requirements for maritime radiocommunications taking into account the operational needs as defined by the IMO and the regulatory needs as defined by the ITU. The 15th session of the IMO/ITU EG (IMO/ITU EG15) was held at the IMO Headquarters in London, United Kingdom, from 8 to 12 July under the chairmanship of Mr Christian Rissone (France). Assistant Director David Wyatt represented the IHO.

The Group addressed a number of topics of direct interest to IHO Member States resulting from discussions at the 101st session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 101), 6th session of the IMO Sub-committee on Navigation, Communications, and Search and Rescue (NCSR 6) and in preparation for the ITU World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19).



15th session of the IMO-ITU EG



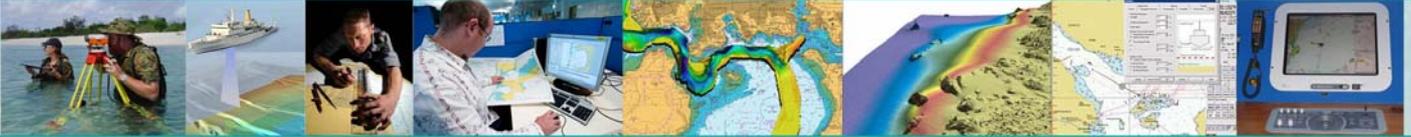
After considering the outcomes of NCSR 6 and MSC 101, the participants focused on further developing the IMO position on the WRC-19 agenda items relating to maritime services. The Group noted that World Administrative Radio Conference Recommendation 316 (Rev. MOB-87) 7) "Use of Ship Earth Stations within Harbours and Other Waters Under National Jurisdiction" had been reviewed already by European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), taking into account the outcome of NCSR 6, with a view to submission to WRC-19.

The Group expressed concerns over the increasing L-Band interference between terrestrial mobile communications and the spectrum in use for satellite communications, including the GMDSS, and potentially future operation of maritime autonomous surface ships (MASS). The Group considered a document from the IMO Secretariat containing a liaison statement from ECC CEPT referring to the availability of the ECC Report 299 "Measures to address potential blocking of MES operating in bands adjacent to 1 518 MHz (including 15251559 MHz) at sea ports and airports". The Group considered also a document from the IMO Secretariat containing a liaison statement from International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on adjacent band compatibility studies of IMT-Advanced systems in the mobile service in the band below 1 518 MHz with respect to MSS systems operating in 1 518 - 1 559 MHz. During the discussion, a number of delegations shared the concerns expressed in the liaison statement by ICAO with regard to the possibility of harmful interference to L-band satellite communication receivers from IMT user-equipment transmissions. After consideration, the Group invited NCSR 7 and ITU-R WP 5B to note the discussion and comments provided in the meeting report and to take action, as appropriate.

The majority of the meeting was then spent on developing the related draft revisions of SOLAS Chapters III and IV and the related and consequential amendments to other existing instruments. A comprehensive review was conducted with numerous amendments and revisions proposed, including the revision and development of a number of definitions for terms. After consideration, the Group agreed that no amendment to the current definition of "International NAVTEX service" in SOLAS was required and that the IHO World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS-SC) Document Review Working Group could be invited to review the IMO NAVTEX Manual with the aim of developing appropriate text to articulate the current operational procedures in use and the availability of NAVTEX for the transmission of messages on behalf of Search and Rescue (SAR) authorities in relation to SAR operations and incidents, including guidance on the appropriate type and content of these messages. The Group invited the ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group (JWG) on SAR to provide further views and advice on this matter.

The Group concurred with the conclusion of the Correspondence Group (CG) that definitions for "distress alert" and "operational communications" were not required. The Group invited the CG to consider whether definitions for "International EGC service" and "NAVTEX" were necessary, taking into account the information provided by the United Kingdom. All these definitions will be developed further by the CG for submission to NCSR 7.

The Group considered the proposed amendments to regulation IV/5.2 and agreed with the recommendation of the CG that Contracting Governments should provide the Organization with notice prior to the withdrawal of any radiocommunication service. However, the Group



could not agree if the requirement should include a period for prior notification or not, and, if so, what period. The Group noted that if a prior notification would be required, then an appropriate mechanism should be implemented in the GISIS module on "Master Plan of shore-based facilities for the GMDSS" to accommodate this requirement. The Group, therefore, agreed to a draft revision of regulation IV/5.2 with a view to further consideration by NCSR 7.

The Group further developed the revisions to numerous related documents, which included resolution MSC.191(79) - *Performance Standards for the presentation of navigation-related information on shipborne navigational displays*, resolution A.801(19) as amended by MSC.199(80) - *Provision of radio services for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System, (GMDSS)*, resolution A.707(17) - *Charges for Distress, Urgency and Safety Messages through the Inmarsat System*, resolution MSC.306(87) - *Revised performance standards for Enhanced Group Call (EGC) equipment*, resolution MSC.68(68), Annex 3 - *Performance Standards for MF/HF Radio Installations Capable of Voice Communication, Narrow Band Direct Printing and Digital Selective Calling*, resolution A.803(19) - *Recommendation on Performance Standards for Shipborne VHF Radio Installations Capable of Voice Communication and Digital Selective Calling*, resolution A.702(17) - *Radio maintenance guidelines for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) related to sea areas A3 and A4*, MSC/Circ.803 - *Participation of non-SOLAS ships in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)*, and COMSAR/Circ.32 - *Harmonization of GMDSS requirements for radio installations on board SOLAS ships*, all of which impact on the work of a number of IHO committees, sub-committees and working groups. It is intended that the draft revisions will be submitted to NCSR 7 for further consideration.

The Group briefly discussed a preliminary revision of resolution A.707(17) on *Charges for distress, urgency and safety messages through the Inmarsat system*. The IHO was in agreement with the USA, UK and Inmarsat that a cost sharing model was the most appropriate vehicle so as to spread the increased costs of additional recognized mobile satellite service providers amongst all IMO member states. It was felt that making MSI messages free would have negative consequences on message content and brevity, which would eventually degrade the service provided to the maritime community. The International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) supported the free provision of MSI messages. No consensus was achieved and it was agreed by the Group that interested parties should be encouraged to submit proposals to NCSR 7.

The meeting report and associated documents will be available in the NCSR section of the IMODOCS website in due course.

The next session of the IMO/ITU EG (IMO/ITU EG16) is scheduled from 6 to 10 July 2020 at the IMO Headquarters.



16th Conference of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) and HCA Seminar at the XLII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting Prague, Czech Republic, 3-5 July

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2019	
Tasks	Maintain relationship with the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM)
§ 1.1.2	
§3.2.2	Organize, prepare for and report meetings of Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA)

The 16th Conference of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica took place at the Grandior Hotel in Prague, Czech Republic from 3 to 5 July, for the first time in a landlocked State taking the opportunity of conducting an HCA Seminar at the XLII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), raising the awareness of ATCM delegates on the importance of hydrography. Since the Czech Republic is not an IHO Member, the Secretariat had the organizing role for the event.

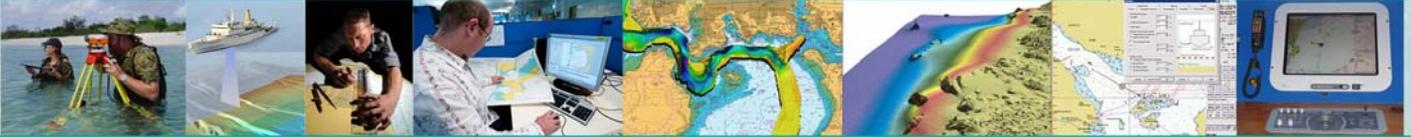


XLII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting
Prague • Czech Republic • 2019

The Conference was chaired by Dr Mathias Jonas, Secretary-General of the IHO, supported by Assistant Director Yves Guillam, HCA Secretary and Ms Caroline Fontanili (IHO Secretariat). Sixteen delegates from 10 Member States (Australia, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Italy, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, United Kingdom, USA) and one subject matter expert (GEBCO IBCSO Chair), attended the meeting. Apologies were received from several countries who were unable to attend but provided their national reports.



Participants of the 16th Conference of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica



The HCA reviewed progress since its 15th Conference, held in 2018, and received reports from the IHO Member States present. Reports received from Member States not present were delivered by the Secretariat. The reports remarkably demonstrated that numerous HCA members are strengthening their engagement for the Antarctic in terms of new ship's capacity for survey and research, facility infrastructure improvements and investment in new carrier technology such as Autonomous Surface Vessels.

The Chair delivered the Secretariat's Report. He explained the association of the Commission to the relevant IHO bodies, namely IRCC, the IHO Council and the IHO Assembly and provided information on the preparations of the centenary celebrations of the international cooperation in hydrography with the peak event of the 100th anniversary of the IHO in 2021.

The Chair informed HCA members that Turkey is currently in discussion with the IHO regarding membership to the HCA. Turkey has been surveying in Antarctica and has offered to share data with the HCA Hydrographic Priorities Working Group (HPWG) and chart producing countries.

Mr Andy Willett (UKHO), Chair of the HCA Hydrographic Priorities Working Group (HPWG), noted the solid progress in the review of paper chart and ENC schemes for Region M along with the review of maritime shipping routes (MSR) and updating of the survey priorities list. There is currently a proposal to add one new MSR to support new INT charts aligned with IAATO ship statistics. The HPWG Chair noted the use of IAATO real time AIS to monitor vessel locations and deficiencies in navigational coverage.



As it was his last meeting, Mr Andy Willett was commended for his outstanding contribution in HCA activities.

The HCA Secretariat discussed the INTOGIS Phase II Project. Upgrades will include Polar Regions (Arctic and Antarctic) with ENC scheme management procedures (S-11 Part A, Ed 3.1.0 refers), CATZOC values and additional AIS traffic density. The HCA Secretariat also informed the participants on the transition in progress for the HCA GIS, from the current quite confidential situation to Quantarctica (<https://quantarctica.npolar.no/>) in which the HCA GIS datasets will be getting the status of "Quantarctica Friendly Dataset" and therefore will be discovered and used by a much wider audience.

The Conference occurred in conjunction with the XLII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting where the IHO was invited to present a seminar on the status and impact of hydrography in Antarctic waters. In the HCA Conference, priority was therefore given to the final preparation of this seminar.



The Secretary-General of the IHO and the National Hydrographers of Chile and the United Kingdom presented papers on international collaboration, safety of navigation and crowd sourced bathymetry. They were strongly supported by some delegations such as Australia, Italy, Norway, Spain and the United States of America. A new Resolution on hydrography initially proposed by Norway and co-sponsored by Italy, New Zealand and the United States, was adopted. This event also enabled re-engagement with COMNAP and SCAR. One of the lessons learnt from ATCM was the lack of communication within nations to engage and even raise the awareness of IHO activities.

Noting the 2nd Session of the IHO Assembly in April 2020, the Chair proposed that the 17th Conference of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica be held in 2021. Location is planned to be Monaco, but it was noted that ATCM XLIV 2021 is expected to take place in Paris. The Secretariat will investigate with Shom (France) whether it will be possible to host the HCA Conference back-to-back with the ATCM XLIV.



HCA Seminar at ATCM XLII