

BSHC 14th Conference
Copenhagen, Denmark
September 2009

Explanatory Note
Item B1
IHB

Regional Hydrographic Commission (BSHC)

14th Meeting - Copenhagen, Denmark. (15 - 17 September 2009)

IHB Report

Introduction

The Organization and the IHB have been busy on numerous issues since the last RHC meeting. Highlights are as follows:

4EIHC

The 4th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (4EIHC) took place during the first week of June in Monaco. 215 delegates participated from 61 Member States and 31 observers from non Member States, International Organizations and NGOs. Two ships visited Monaco during the Conference - one from the USA and the other from the Russia Federation. The Conference examined 15 Proposals submitted by the ISPWG, HCIWWG, MSDIWG and Member States.

Strategic Plan. The Conference approved a new definition for Hydrography as part of the approval of a revised Strategic Plan of the Organization, as proposed by the ISPWG.

Inland Navigable Waters. A resolution was adopted that invites relevant RHCs, through their appropriate liaison bodies to encourage the consistent use of hydrographic and nautical cartographic standards and mutual cooperation for the enhancement of navigation safety in navigable inland waters within and between regions was adopted.

ENC Developments. More than half a day was devoted to discussion on the status of ENC production and availability. Two resolutions were adopted regarding the coverage that Member States will have in place in 2010, and on the consistency and quality of ENC in relation to the corresponding paper charts. CL 35/2009 asked MS to report on the status of their national ENC Coverage. The response to CL35 so far, indicates that the routes and ports frequented by vessels engaged on international voyages will be covered by ENCs in 2010 or shortly thereafter.

The report of the Conference has been completed and will be posted on the IHO web site shortly. Member States will be informed of this by Circular Letter.

Exhibition. Thirty companies provided an exhibition of hydrographic, cartographic and oceanographic equipment and software.

Other meetings. Other events took place in the margins of the Conference. These included the first meeting of the WG for the revision of S-23, the first meeting of the IRCC which elected Ingénieur général Bessero as its Chairman, and the celebration of World Hydrography Day. The reports/minutes of these events have already been posted on the IHO web site.

Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention. The IHB Directing Committee reported to the Conference on the very slow progress of the approval of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention. Since July 2005 only 25 Member States have approved the Protocol of Amendments.

New IHO Committee Structure

From 1 January 2009, a new organizational structure came into force, with the establishment of two main Committees – the Hydrographic services and Standards committee (HSSC) and the Inter Regional coordination committee (IRCC). The inaugural meeting of the IRCC took place immediately after the 4EHC. The first meeting of the HSSC will take place in Singapore between the 22 and 24 October, immediately after the 3rd International Conference on ECDIS, scheduled to take place in Singapore from 19 to 21 October. Details of HSSC1 have been provided to Member States in CL 21/2009 dated 2 April 2009.

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

The IHB has represented the IHO at various meetings of IMO bodies. The following IMO decisions are directly related to the work of the IHO:

Mandatory ECDIS carriage requirement. The IMO MSC adopted the amendments to SOLAS Chapter V/19, introducing mandatory carriage requirements for ECDIS. The amendments will come into force on 1 of July 2010 with a phased implementation period beginning in 2012 and ending in 2018.

IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety information. A revised text of the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety information, which will come into force on the 1 January 2011, was approved by IMO. Details were provided to Member States in CL 41/2009 dated 17 June 2009 and CL 47/2009 dated 06 July 2009.

Relations with other Organizations

The IHO continues to maintain effective relations and cooperation with IMO, IALA, IOC and WMO. The IHO has participated actively in the E-Navigation activities of IMO and IALA. France and UK have represented the IHO at various E-Nav and ECDIS-related meetings when requested, at no cost to the Organization. An active level of cooperation has been maintained with IOC particularly in relation to GEBCO and tides.

Capacity Building

The annual meeting between IMO, IHO and IOC assists the coordination of training and seminars undertaken by the three organizations in various regions. The IHO Capacity Building programme remains very active and is based exclusively on requests received through the RHCs. Unfortunately a number of planned projects continue to be cancelled or postponed because participants do not have the necessary high-level support from their countries – even when little or no expense is involved.

The IHB, the Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department, the Japan Hydrographic Association and the UKHO, are cooperating on a Japan Capacity Building Project, using funds provided by the Nippon Foundation. Details of this 5-year program were provided in CLs 10/2009 dated 13 February 2009 and 24/2009 dated 24 April 2009.

Action Required of BSHC

BSHC members are invited to take **Note** of this report.