

Procedure for Selection of NSHC Members to Council

IHB, in a letter to RHC Chairmen (see enclosed) has requested RHCs “to develop their own procedures for the selection of Members to the Council”. It has to be noted that there is a fairly large degree of overlapping membership of several NSHC members with other RHCs, particularly NHC and BSHC. The BSHC, at its last meeting, has discussed this issue and suggested to coordinate the election procedures between the NSHC, BSHC and NHC.

In order to clarify the situation it may be useful to briefly summarise the regulatory framework.

Council membership will be composed as follows (General Regulations, Art. 17):

- 20 Member States as selected from RHCs
 - each Member State has to apply to the RHC for selection at least 6 months before an ordinary Assembly session, with copy to Secretary general;
 - 3 months before the ordinary Assembly session, the Secretary General shall inform all MS of the number of seats allocated to each RHC, and of those MS eligible for each RHC;
 - each RHC shall declare to the Secretary General, *before the last day of the ordinary Assembly session*, the Member States it has selected for the Council from their eligible members.
- 10 Member States from those MS who have *not* been selected by any RHC *and* who are willing to accept a seat in the Council, who have, in descending order, the largest national flag tonnage as determined from the table of current national flag tonnages prepared in accordance with the Finance Regulations, Art. 6(a), two months before the opening of each ordinary Assembly session.
- No IHO Member State shall assume more than one Council seat.

An example of how the procedure could work had been given in 2005 by the SPWG in its study into organizational structures of IHO, see enclosed extract.

As one can see from this regulatory basis, members belonging to more than one RHC have to decide to which RHC they wish to apply (if any), but the RHC, in principle, can not make its selection before notification of the number of seats allotted by the Secretary General, i.e. 3 months before the Assembly session. Thus, if there is no need for anyway for a RHC to meet shortly before the Assembly, the most practical procedure will be it meets during or immediately preceding the Assembly for electing its Council representative(s).

NSHC members are invited to present their comments and proposals for the way forward.

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To the Chairmen of Regional Hydrographic Commissions

IHB File No. S3/0123

Monaco, 31st August 2005

Dear Hydrographer,

The 3rd Extraordinary Conference in April 2005 approved amendments to the IHO Convention for the new structure of the Organization as proposed by the SPWG.

The Government of Monaco has circulated the appropriate Documents to Member States for approval in accordance with Article XXI of the current Convention.

The Extraordinary Conference also approved the new Article 16 of the General Regulations, providing the details for the selection of the Members of the Council, under the new structure. It also mandated the SPWG to continue its work and present for approval, at the next Ordinary Hydrographic Conference in 2007, the amended Documents of the General and Financial Regulations and Rules of Procedure and an implementation plan for the new structure.

The SPWG during its 6th meeting in Wollongong Australia, 13-15 July, tasked the IHB to bring to your attention the following two issues:

- a. Meetings of the RHCs must continue to have SPWG developments as a standing Agenda item in order that Members of the Commissions are kept informed on the progress of various issues pertaining to its work;
- b. The RHCs should develop their own procedures for the selection of their Members to the Council. New Article 16 of the General Regulations and Appendix VIII (Council Membership) contained in the document "A Study into the Organization Structure and Procedures of the IHO", as approved by the Extraordinary Conference, are the reference material that contain the details regarding membership to the Council.

The IHB is able to provide further support or explanation that may be needed on these issues.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS

President

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APPENDIX H COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The Council has a minimum of 30 Council members (or 25% of MS, if that is greater).

Based on 30 seats:-

20 Council Seats are allocated to the Regional Hydrographic Commissions.

10 Council Seats are allocated to Member States who have the greatest tonnage.

A Quorum will be 2/3 of the Members of the Council.

No Member State may hold more than 1 seat on the Council, and a MS can only choose to represent one RHC of which it is a full member. The MS must inform the relevant RHC, copied to the Secretariat, stating its choice of RHC candidature. For the purposes of these calculations, that MS is then not counted in any other RHCs of which it may be a member.

The composition will be defined as follows:

REGIONAL BASIS

The 20 seats from the Regional Basis are allocated first.

The number of seats allocated to each RHC will be calculated by the Secretary General based on the principle of a proportional distribution between RHCs (taking into account the number of MS in each RHC) in order to arrive at the required two thirds of the Council seats. The Secretary General may allocate a proportional number of seats to groups of MS who are not affiliated to a RHC.

An example of how the seats could be allocated, to arrive at 20 seats is:

- RHCs which have 1-6 members - 1 seat
- RHCs which have 7-13 members - 2 seats
- RHCs which have 14+ members - 3 seats
- Groups of MS who are not affiliated to a RHC – 1 seat.

(This is only an example, and may not be the mechanism actually used by the Secretary General.)

INTEREST BASIS

Member States already declared as Council Members to represent an RHC are removed from this procedure.

The remaining MS are assessed on their flag state tonnage as stated in the most recent IHO Year Book – the top 10 being allocated 1 seat each. Should an MS thus identified not wish to take up a Council seat, or if it has already been elected to represent an RHC, the seat goes to the next highest tonnage.

CLARIFYING EXAMPLE

In Table I (which again is only an example of Regional representation, using the formula given above), the MS named in parenthesis are expected to be full members of the IHO by the time this scheme would be implemented. The MS with names struck out in an RHC have been assumed to have chosen to be associated with another RHC.

TABLE I

RHC	Members	Number	Seats
BSHC	Denmark , Estonia, Finland , Germany, (Latvia), Poland, Russia, Sweden	5	1
EAHC	China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Rep. of Korea, Singapore, Thailand	8	2
EAtHC	France, Morocco, Nigeria, Portugal, Spain	4	1
MACHC	Colombia, Cuba, France , Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Trinidad & Tobago, UK , USA ,	7	2

	Venezuela		
MBSHC	Algeria, (Bulgaria), Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France , Greece, Italy, Monaco, Morocco, (Romania), Russia , Serbia & Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine	17	3
NHC	Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden	5	1
NIOHC	Bangladesh, India, (Myanmar), Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UK	7	2
NSHC	Belgium, Denmark , France , Germany , Iceland , Netherlands, Norway , Sweden , UK	3	1
RSAHC	Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan , Qatar, (Saudi Arabia), UAE	7	2
SAIHC	France , Mozambique, Norway , South Africa, UK	2	1
SEPHC	Chile, Colombia , Ecuador, Peru	3	1
SWPHC	Australia, Fiji, France , New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, UK , USA	5	1
USCHC	Canada, USA	2	1
Other	Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Dem. Rep. Korea	4	1
	TOTAL COUNCIL SEATS		20

TABLE II

The following table shows the 20 highest tonnages, based on entries in the IHO 2002 Yearbook:

Rank	MS	Tonnage (x million)
1	China	29.0
2	Greece	28.8
3	Cyprus	27.5
4	Norway	22.2
5	Singapore	19.6
6	UK	19.2
7	USA	18.7
8	Japan	14.8
9	Russia	8.9
10	Italy	8.2
11	India	7.2
12	Germany	6.5
13	Turkey	6.5
14	Denmark	6.5
15	Philippines	6.3
16	Netherlands	5.6
17	France	5.3
18	Malaysia	5.2
19	Iran	4.7
20	Canada	4.2

China, Greece, Cyprus, Norway, Singapore, UK, USA, Japan, Russia, Italy would be allocated seats. If (say) four of those have already gained seats through RHC nominations, tonnage seats would go to India, Germany, Turkey, Denmark, etc.