# 6<sup>TH</sup>MEETING OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE Viña del Mar, Chile, 11-14 November 2014

## Report of the Advisory Board on Law of the Sea (ABLOS)

ABLOS is a joint board established by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the International Association of Geodesy (IAG)

Submitted by:	Chair, ABLOS
Related Documents:	C-51
Related Projects:	None

 Chair:
 Sunil Bisnath, Canada (IAG Member)

 Vice-Chair:
 John Brown, United Kingdom (IHO Member)

 Secretary:
 David Wyatt, IHB

 Members IHO:
 Brazil, Japan, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom

 Members IAG:
 Canada, Chile, Denmark, Indonesia

Ex Officio: UN DOALOS and IHB

Observers: Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Croatia, India, Japan, United Kingdom

see Annex A for full details

### **Meetings Held During Reporting Period**

ABLOS 20 28 – 29 October 2013 Muscat, Oman

**Future Meetings** 

ABLOS 21 21 – 22 October 2014 Copenhagen, Denmark

### **Work Program**

The 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of ABLOS was hosted by the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) and the Oman National Hydrographic Office (ONHO) under the patronage of His Excellency Ambassador Salim al Alawi, Chief of the Office of the Continental Shelf and Maritime Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and held at the Park Inn in Muscat, Oman, from 28 – 29 October 2013. It was followed by a seminar titled 'Harmonization with UNCLOS: Experiences and Observations'. All ABLOS members and IHO appointed observers from Australia, Brazil, Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, Denmark, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom were present. They were joined by two RNO observers, who are engaged in LOS matters.

The meeting began preparations for the 8th ABLOS Conference, which is planned to be held in Monaco in 20 – 22 October 2015 under the title "UNCLOS: Advances in Governing the Blue World". Detailed information for the Conference will be announced by IHO Circular Letter and on the ABLOS page of the IHO web site nearer the time.

The meeting received a report on progress towards approval of the revised Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - 1982 (TALOS Manual - C-51) - which will be edition 5.0.0. Edition 5 was submitted to IHO Member States for approval on 29 November 2013 under IHO CL69/2013 and

subsequently approved on 13 June 2014 under IHO CL43/2014 and by the IAG Executive Council on 22 May 2014. The meeting discussed the next round of revisions for the TALOS Manual, highlighting sections that were identified as requiring revision during the final stages of review of Edition 5.

Two Board members, whose terms are due to end in October 2014, expressed a desire to continue to serve for a further four-year term. The Board unanimously supported the applications and recommended that the IHO approve the additional terms. Subsequently these second four-year terms were approved by Member States via Circular Letter (IHO CL 62/2013 dated 6 November 2013).

The ABLOS meeting was followed by a Law of the Sea seminar, which was attended by approximately 90 delegates from across the region, including Kuwait, Qatar and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as representatives from a wide selection of Oman government ministries, RNO and ONHO. The seminar covered presentations on: Oman maritime boundaries, harmonising baselines, the role and work of DOALOS, Korea's submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), boundary issues in the South China Sea, UNCLOS related surveys at the Japanese Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department, the experience of Brazil's submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), observations to define baselines on a remote island and an overview of the Oman Continental Shelf Extension Project. The presentations were followed by a question and answer session for the ABLOS members.

## **Progress on HSSC Action Items**

N/A

### **Problems Encountered**

N/A

#### **Any Other Items of Note**

Due to the special circumstances concerning ABLOS as a working group reporting to two parent bodies, i.e., the IAG as well as the IHO, it is felt that the current wording of paragraph 2.1 of the HSSC ToRs does not reflect this situation. It is proposed that the second sentence be amended to read: "The Chairs of the relevant subordinate bodies of the Committee *or their nominated representatives should* attend and report at all Committee Meetings."

## **Conclusions and Recommended Actions**

N/A

### **Justification and Impacts**

N/A

#### **Action Required of HSSC**

The HSSC is invited to:

- a. Note this report
- b. Endorse the continuation of ABLOS to pursue its work under its Terms of Reference
- c. Review and endorse the work program at Annex B
- d. Consider proposed amendments to HSSC ToRs

#### **MEMBERS OF ABLOS**

## **IHO representatives:**

# John Brown (Vice-Chairman) {October 2012-October 2014; October 2014 – October 2018}

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## IHB ex officio representative:

#### **David Wyatt (Secretary)**

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# **ABLOS appointed Observers**

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# 12. ABLOS WORK PLAN 2015-16

# 12.1 ABLOS Tasks

А	Organise the 8th ABLOS Conference in 2015 (IHO Task 2.12.2)					
В	Maintain IHO Publication C-51 "Technical Aspects of the Law of the Sea (TALOS) Manual" (IHO Task 2.12.3)					
С	Deliver a standard training program on the hydrographic aspects of maritime delimitation (IHO Task 3.5.2)					
D	Provide advice and guidance on the technical aspect of the Law of the Sea to relevant organizations, bodies and Member States (IHO Task 2.12.3)					
Е	Organize and prepare ABLOS business meetings in 2015 and 2016 (IHO Task 2.12.1)					

Task	Work item	Priority H-high M-medium L-low	Next milestone	Start Date	End Date	Status P-planned O-ongoing C-completed	Contact Person(s) * indicates leader	Related Pubs / Standard	Remarks
A1	Organise 8th ABLOS Conference	Н	Begin advertising	2013	2015	0	All members of ABLOS	N/A	
			Identify key note speaker	2013	2014	0	through Niels Andersen*		
			Attract presentation abstracts	2014	2015	0			
B1	Prepare draft 6th Edition of C-51 (TALOS Manual) for adoption by Member States	М		2013	2016	Р	Chris Carleton*  IHO Publication C-51		
		Н	Generate draft new structure for chapter 3	2014	2015	0		0-51	
		Н	Review contents of chapters and identify areas requiring revision	2014	2015	0			
C1	Deliver standard training programmes for the CBSC	Н		2011	Continuous	0	John Brown*		Workshops planned in 2015 in the CBSC Work Plan.

Up-dated: 28 October 2013

Task		Priority H-high M-medium L-low	Start Date	End Date	D 1	Contact Person(s) * indicates leader	Related Pubs / Standard	Remarks
D1	Provide advice and guidance on the technical aspect of the Law of the Sea	Н	Continuous		0	All members of ABLOS through the Chair		

# **12.2 ABLOS Meetings** (Tasks A & E)

Date Location Activity

1 & 6 October 2012 IHB, Monaco ABLOS 19 and 7<sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference

28-29 October 2013 Muscat, Oman ABLOS 20 21-22 October 2014 Copenhagen, Denmark ABLOS 21

19 & 23 October 2015 IHB, Monaco ABLOS 22 and 8th ABLOS Conference

October 2016 Korea (venue tbc) ABLOS 23

Chair: Sunil Bisnath Email: sbisnath@yorku.ca
Vice-Chair: John Brown Email: john.brown@ukho.gov.uk

Secretary: David Wyatt Email: adso@iho.int

Up-dated: 28 October 2013