



6<sup>th</sup> ARHC Conference  
02-05 October 2016  
Iqaluit, Ottawa Canada

Denis Hains, Chair for ARHC 2016  
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**Application for an Associate Membership to ARHC**

- Reference A: Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission 4<sup>th</sup> meeting Report, Chapter 4.3  
Associate Membership and Observers of ARHC.  
Reference B: Statutes of the ARHC, Article 3 b.

Dear Chair of the ARHC,

Iceland has participated ARHC meetings as an Observer since 2011. At the ARHC meeting in Portsmouth USA 2014 and St. Petersburg last year it was noted that according the ARHC statutes, Finland and Iceland as IHO member states should apply for an Associate Membership instead of acting as an Observers.

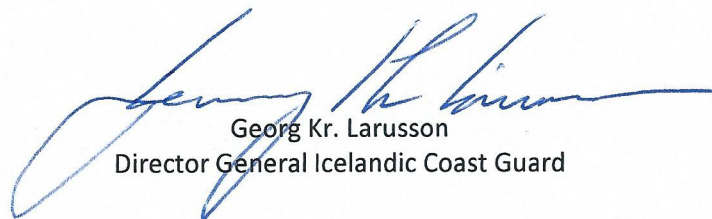
Arctic area is important to Iceland in many ways and it is already working closely with other Members States in the Arctic Council. Due to the northern location of the country, Arctic shipping routes will increase traffic around the Icelandic coast and are seen as opportunities for the country to serve foreign trade.

Iceland believes that a close cooperation with the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission and its workgroups e.g. OTWG allows good possibilities to change experiences and knowledge on these areas and serves the interests of all parties.

Based on the reasons mentioned above and according to the Article 3 b of the Statutes of the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission and referring to the Chapter 4.3 of the Report of the ARHC4 meeting, Iceland respectfully applies approval of an Associate Member status to the ARHC.

Reykjavik, September 29, 2016

Yours sincerely,



Georg Kr. Larusson  
Director General Icelandic Coast Guard