

26 October 2015

Captain Sergey Travin  
Department of Navigation and Oceanography  
of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense,  
the Head,  
the ARHC Chair

## **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,

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

Arctic area is important to Finland in many ways and it is already working closely with other Members States in the umbrella of the Arctic Council. Due to the northern location of the country, Arctic shipping routes are seen as great opportunities for Finland's maritime transport and foreign trade. The Finnish Transport Agency has quite a lot of experience operating in arctic conditions and recognizes the need i.e. to develop hydrographic products and services for ice navigation. Finland believes that a close cooperation with the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission and its workgroups e.g. OTWG allows good possibilities to exchange experiences and knowledge on these areas and serves the interests of all parties.

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

Yours sincerely,



Rainer Mustaniemi

National Hydrographer  
Finnish Hydrographic Office