

Baltic Hydrographic Commission (NHC)

15th Conference - Gdynia, Poland

(21-23 September 2010)

AGENDA ITEM B1

IHB Report

Introduction

1. The following notes report on current activities and issues being addressed by the IHB.

Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention

2. Progress on Member States' approval of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention is slow but steady. By August 2010, 28 of the required 48 approvals had been received by the Government of Monaco acting as the depository nation for the IHO. All BSHC Member States except Poland and the Russian Federation have formally approved the Protocol of Amendments.

Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO

3. Sierra Leone, Montenegro and Haiti have applied for membership of the IHO. By August 2010, the status of approval for membership was as follows:

State	Voting Status
Sierra Leone	46 of 49
Montenegro	48 of 52
Haiti	40 of 52

4. Poland has not yet indicated its support for Sierra Leone or Haiti.

Global Availability of ENC's

5. The IHO made its annual report on the availability of ENC's to the 56th meeting of the IMO Subcommittee on Safety of Navigation (NAV56) in July. The report was based on the definition of "adequate ENC coverage" acknowledged by IMO in previous meetings. In effect, the definition acknowledged by IMO means that wherever there is a paper chart covering an international voyage, there should be a corresponding ENC by 2010.

6. The 2010 report was based on information that of the 154 States with a coastline, less than six will fail to meet or nearly meet the 2010 target. However, in many cases, this is due to the efforts of a very small number of IHO Member States that have created ENC's for other States – such as UK, France, Netherlands, Portugal, Australia, and New Zealand. The IHB pointed out to delegates that some areas where paper chart coverage is limited, will have similarly limited ENC coverage for some time yet.

7. The IHO report pointed out that the identification of "international voyages" used in the report was based on total tonnage statistics for ports. Therefore, there may be some areas of the world frequented by relatively few, albeit large vessels, such as cruise ships, where ENC coverage may still be missing. The report invited relevant authorities

to bring any such shortfalls to the attention of the relevant coastal State and to the IHB so that the matter can be addressed.

8. The IHO report for 2011 will be particularly significant, since that report will cover the period after the IHO's 2010 target has passed – by which time 100% “adequate coverage” s expected by the IMO.

Arctic RHC

9. An inaugural meeting of an Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission will be held in Ottawa, Canada from 4-6 October. The Directing Committee is representing the IHO in IALA, where a similar regional group is being established to coordinate aids to navigation services in the high Arctic.

IHO Publication C-55 - *Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide*

10. Director Ward has been making preliminary enquiries regarding the development of IHO publication C-55 to make it more useful in identifying areas or regions where hydrography and charting is significantly deficient. It may be possible to use source survey metadata, or in its absence data extracted from source or reliability diagrams on charts, as the fundamental database for analysis. GIS analysis tools might then be developed that take account of age of surveys, current traffic, tonnages and draught, bottom type or other parameters to identify specifically which areas require surveying or improved charting. Academics from the University of New Hampshire and the University of Plymouth have expressed interest.

Impact of the Strategic Planning and Reporting Process

11. The Directing Committee was invited by the 4th IHC to report on the possible resource and organizational impact of the strategic planning and reporting process proposed by the ISPWG and adopted by the Conference. Norway volunteered to assist the Directing Committee in conducting an analysis and developing an implementation strategy. Input from the RHCs via the IRCC plays an important role under the strategic planning and reporting process proposed by the ISPWG. However, how this will be achieved has yet to be discussed in any detail by the IRCC.

International Hydrographic Review

12. Publication of the International Hydrographic Review (IHR) as a web-based publication is now well established. In accordance with IHO Resolution 6/2009 the Editorial board for the IHR comprises a representative from each Regional Hydrographic Commission. No representative has been nominated for the BSHC at the moment.

IHB Staff

13. Mme Renée Caudoux retired in February after 23 years service and has been replaced by Mme Isabelle Belmonte. The role of Mme Belmonte is slightly different to Mme Caudoux. Her job has a stronger emphasis on desktop publishing, the management of the maintenance of IHO publications, and the use of the IHO website as the principal publishing medium. Her job title is Website and Publications Editor (WPE).

14. Mme Christine Meynadier, the Accounts and Administration Assistant, left the IHB in May to relocate to Paris after 11 years service at the IHB. She has been replaced by Mme Ghislaine Fauchois.

15. The untimely death of the IHB Office Manager M. Rachid Semlali has created a vacancy. The Directing Committee has reviewed the role and functions of the position and has begun advertising for a replacement. The

revised position will have a greater emphasis on computer and information systems support, rather than general office administration.

16. Captain Federico Bermejo, Professional Assistant, will retire in May 2011. The Directing Committee has just started seeking nominations for his position from Member States. The selection process will be carried out by the Directing Committee in accordance with the relevant rules of the IHO.

Action Requested of BSHC

17. BSHC members are invited to **Note** this report and take any actions as considered appropriate.