

## **5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC5) Wollongong, Australia, 3-4 June**

The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC5) was held in Wollongong, Australia on 3-4 June 2013. The meeting was attended by Chairs/Representatives of the 15 Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs), the IRCC subordinated bodies and 24 observers, a total of 43 participants from 22 countries. The IHB was represented by President Robert Ward, Director Mustafa Iptes and Assistant Director Alberto Costa Neves.

The Committee examined the achievements and challenges of the RHCs and the subordinated bodies, the current status of hydrographic surveys and nautical charts, the progress of ENC schemes, the development of a risk based assessment in the South-West Pacific, the initiatives for collaboration, the impact of Capacity Building, the establishment of the new INT Chart Region N, the development of the Antarctica GIS and its extension to support IHO Publications C-55, S-11 and P-5.

IRCC approved the new Terms of Reference for World-Wide Electronic Navigational Chart Database Working Group (WENDWG) and endorsed the revised WEND Guidelines that will be sent to Member States for approval. The Committee also approved the work plan for the revision of the Capacity Building Strategy that will be reported back to the 5<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC5). The definition of Cartographic Boundary proposal was also endorsed by the Committee.

The importance of an authoritative ENC Catalogue was acknowledged by the Committee that will engage with Member States in order to comply with Article 19 of the IHO General Regulations. The Committee endorsed the revised IHO Publications B-6, S-5 and S-8 that will be submitted to Member States to seek approval. IRCC adopted a document for the best practices and established new procedures for submission of reports and papers to IRCC meetings.

**The use of Satellite Derived Bathymetry (SDB), Crowd Source Bathymetry (CSB) and the use of new technologies were extensively discussed. The Committee acknowledged that:**

- a) SDB, with appropriate accuracy and reliability indicators, may be a way to address the current limitations on maritime development due to extensive areas of unsurveyed and very poorly surveyed shallow waters,
- b) SDB could be an effective way of identifying certain sea areas for further maritime development, including more detailed hydrographic surveys where the principal objective is for safe navigation,
- c) the cost effectiveness of SDB may encourage States to more quickly recognize the benefits of investing in an effective national hydrographic survey programme,

and encouraged the investigation on how CSB can be used in official navigational products.

**IRCC elected Rear Admiral Tom Karsten (UK) as Vice Chair and decided to hold the next meeting in Paris, France on 19-20 May 2014. The full report of the meeting will be published on the IHO website.**



**The Participants of the IRCC5 Meeting.**