

12<sup>th</sup> Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission  
Conference Report

Lisbon, 14-16 November 2012

## List of Abbreviations

EAthC	Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission
EC	European Community
IAEA	International Agency of Atomic Energy
IALA	International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities
IHO	International Hydrographic Organization
IHPT	Instituto Hidrográfico
IMO	International Maritime Organization
MOWCA	Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa
PMAWCA	Port Management Association of West and Central Africa
SHOM	Service Hydrographique et Océanographique de la Marine
SOLAS	Safety Of Life At Sea

# 12<sup>th</sup> Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission Conference Report

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## 1. Opening

### 1.1 Opening session

The Chairman of the Commission, Vice Admiral Ramos da Silva, Director General of the Portuguese Hydrographic Office, welcomed delegates to the 12<sup>th</sup> Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission Conference with a brief presentation of IHPT capabilities and an overview of Portugal, its maritime extent and history and some details about Lisbon, in particular.

The pursuit of technical cooperation, wider hydrographic activity between bordering countries and the facilitation of information exchange were highlighted as permanent goals of the Commission.

Taking Portuguese maritime history as an example, Vice admiral Ramos da Silva invoked Prince Henry, the Navigator, as an example of someone who efficiently used nautical technologies of his time. He had the vision, resources, technology, art and talent to adopt a scientific, practical strategy, dispatching sailing expeditions to explore the Atlantic and the western coast of Africa.

Raising the awareness of the importance of hydrography for development of nations is still a permanent objective for the region. The Conference offers the opportunity to make some reflections on where we stand and to where we want to go.

After his initial address, the Chairman invited IHO Directing Committee representative in EAtHC, IGA Gilles Bessero, to address the delegates.

#### **Statement of IHB Director Gilles Bessero (see Document EAtHC12-01D)**

IHB Director recalled that the creation of EAtHC had taken place in Lisbon in December 1983 and that he had participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Commission, also in Lisbon, and this coincidence gave him an opportunity to analyze how the Commission has evolved over the years.

IHB Director noted the evolution of the members in IHO and in this Commission: in 1983, IHO was composed of 52 Member States and EAtHC was the 7<sup>th</sup> Regional Hydrographic Commission to be constituted with 4 IHO Member States (only Nigeria from Africa). In 1994, IHO membership increased to 59 and the 4<sup>th</sup> EAtHC Conference took place in Lisbon. At that time the Region still had only 4 IHO Member States but 6 African Coastal States had joined the Commission as Associate Members. Today (2012), IHO has 81 Member States and a full coverage of the world by the Regional Hydrographic Commissions.

In 1999 Morocco joined IHO and became the 5<sup>th</sup> Member of this Commission and in 2012 Cameroon joined IHO and became the 6<sup>th</sup> Member. Now there are 9 Associate Members in this Commission, the last to join was Guinea in 2011.

Although much efforts have been devoted by IHO Member States, EAtHC and the IHB to the Capacity Building component in this Region, the results are mixed:

- 8 Coastal States in the Region have not signed the Statutes of this Commission and, of them, only Gabon is represented in this conference.
- Although Mauritania and Sierra Leone are IHO pending applicants, neither attended the last International Hydrographic Conference and they are not represented in this Conference.
- Many coastal States received one or more technical visits since 2003 (initiating in each country the process towards assuming the hydrographic responsibilities defined by the SOLAS Convention), yet very few countries have taken the first step of creating a national hydrographic committee and completing Phase 1 of the Capacity Building Strategy.
- The Commission did not provide any submission to the Capacity Building Sub-Committee for the preparation of the Capacity Building Work Program 2013-2017.
- All are aware that the status of surveys and charts is particularly poor along the major part of the West African coast.

This conference could be a breaking point, not only because the record so far is not as good as we would like it to be but also because development aids are more and more constrained. Europe is facing financial and economic crisis, increasing scrutiny on investments and reluctance to support ineffective programs.

As we approach the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of this Commission, IHB Director invited delegates to assess the current situation as objectively as possible, understand what are the main obstacles and investigate all the options to overcome this situation.

## **1.2 Administrative announcements**

The Chairman informed that the language for the Conference would be either French or English with simultaneous translation.

The Chairman informed the Conference that in accordance with the EAtHC Statutes the quorum requires 2/3 of the Members and the Conference had quorum with the presence of all Commission Members (Cameroon was only present on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> days of the Conference). Decisions can only be made by consensus of the Members and Associate Members [article 8.a].

At the end of the Conference, the Chairman shall present the decisions taken during the Conference, and all decisions become operative immediately after the conference.

Participants were then invited to introduce themselves for the benefit of participants attending EAtHC Conference for the first time.

Some administrative announcements were done about the conference program and a list was circulated to update EAtHC contacts.

### **1.3 Adoption of the agenda, timetable and list of documents**

According to the EAtHC Statutes a provisional agenda was circulated to Members and Associate Members of the Commission, and some modifications were made with the contributions from the Vice-Chairman and the IHB.

The France delegate proposed to add an item to the agenda: 8.1 - IHO and European Commission cooperation (MoU).

The IHB Director proposed to add two items under any other business: 9.1.1 - Mandatory IMO Audit Scheme and 9.1.2 - World Maritime Day 2013 and 2014.

The France delegate and IHB Director emphasized the matter of “capacity building” and the need to elaborate documents about the capacity building visits that will be carried in the future.

These suggestions and changes were accepted by the Conference.

## **2. Management of the Commission**

### **2.1 Chairman’s report (Portugal – IHPT Director)**

The report summarized the most important activities and events directly related to the Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission occurred since the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting, held in Accra (see **Document EAtHC12-02A**).

After more than seven and a half years since the approval of the amendments to the Convention of the IHO, the number of Member State Governments who have ratified the Protocol of Amendments is still below the required number for its entry into force.

Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDI) reported to the XVIII International Hydrographic Conference the key role of the Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC) and the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) in assisting the States to contribute to MSDI through education of both developing and developed Members States on the benefits of SDI.

It is being developed a new framework to enhance C-55 publication for the input, presentation and the assessment of the survey and nautical cartography status.

The XVIII International Hydrographic Conference approved some updates to the Resolution 1/1997 – The WEND Principles, the text at Annex A of the WEND-WG Report to the XVIII IHO Conference and Annexes B and C of the same Report back to the WEND-WG:

- invite MS/RHCs to identify ENC gaps and overlaps in their area and elaborate a program to complete what is still missing;
- invite RHCs to identify their regional shortcoming to be able to comply with SOLAS V Regulation 9 (what services they are not able to provide);
- define a methodology to monitor the coverage and availability of ENC and the priority areas which still need to be covered.

The XVIII International Hydrographic Conference agreed to amend Resolution 1/2005 – IHO Response to Disasters by Member States following the text in the proposal presented by Japan.

The Chairman emphasized the participation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Guinea as observers of the XVIII International Hydrographic Conference.

Cameroon became the 81<sup>st</sup> IHO Member State and so the 6<sup>th</sup> EAtHC effective Member State.

Since the 11<sup>th</sup> EAtHC Conference three Capacity Building visits were conducted in the EAtHC region – Gabon, Guinea-Bissau and Cameroon, and a basic course in hydrography and cartography, sponsored by the IMO and delivered by SHOM, was planned to the Maritime University of Abidjan, 19<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December.

The Chairman emphasized that, despite these achievements, the last two years have not been successful with regard to the Coastal States involvement and contributions for planning the future activities in the Regional Hydrographic Commission and, regrettably, no Capacity Building activities were proposed to the CBSC for the forthcoming five-year period.

Since the last EAtHC Conference, this Commission was represented in the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee – IRCC 3 (2011, Brazil) and IRCC 4 (2012, Singapore) where the activities that might benefit from a regional approach were emphasized: capacity building, training and education, promulgation of radio navigational warnings, general bathymetry and ocean mapping and the implementation of policies related to the World-wide Electronic Navigational chart Database (WEND).

EAtHC has also been represented in the WEND-WG and CBSC. Chairman mentioned the new CBSC Vice-Chair Mr. Olumide Omotoso from Nigeria and pointed out that this relevant position may also stimulate the coastal States in the Region to strengthen the cooperation activities on capacity building.

As final remarks and recommendations the Chairman referred that in this Conference 11 out of 25 Coastal States from the region were represented. Some efforts were done to update the contact list before the Conference, but only 4 EAtHC Coastal States and 2 observer States responded. Improving communication is essential in this region. Capacity Building events constitute the suitable environment to stimulate the involvement of coastal States in the activities of the Regional Hydrographic Commission. For example, the basic course in hydrography and cartography in Abidjan has 11 recipient countries from EAtHC, 4 of those with no contact with this Commission since, at least, the last meeting in Accra.

UK delegate emphasized that a two week training course sponsored by IMO took place in April 2011 with 19 participants.

Guinea delegate raised the issue of not having been informed of the training course in Côte d'Ivoire, and stressed the need of training in this area.

Portugal delegate remembered that the training course was being organized by IMO with IHO collaboration and information was sent to IMO national focal points.

The Chairman stressed the problems in communication and contact update.

Nigeria delegate mentioned the “Proposal for Upgrade, Accreditation and Recognition of Nigerian Navy Hydrographic School Port Harcourt Nigeria as a Regional Center” (see **Document EAtHC12-08.3.3A**).

Togo delegate emphasized the importance of the education and training referred by Nigeria.

Some Member States questioned about the IMO selection of countries for the two-week training course in Abidjan. UK delegate informed that IMO is the owner of the course and IHO was not consulted about who could attend the course.

IHB Director indicated that this unsatisfactory situation was being addressed with IMO.

## **2.2 Designation of the Vice-Chair of the Conference**

IGA Bruno Frachon (France) was confirmed as the Vice-Chair of the Conference.

## **2.3. Status of the action list from the 11<sup>th</sup> EAtHC Conference**

The status of the action list from the 11<sup>th</sup> EAtHC was presented by Cdr Fernando Artilheiro. Action items that had been executed (Status: done) were deleted during the review session from the list of actions. Other actions considered as Permanent (Status: ongoing) should be kept.

**Action EAtHC 11-1** – To send a letter to IMO representatives in the EAtHC Observers’ countries (excepting UK & US), with a copy to existing IHO Point of Contact, requesting to consider the appropriate IHO Focal Point to sign the EAtHC Statutes.

Although with a done Status, since there was no feedback so far, except for Guinea, this action was rewritten and adopted as an action for the Coastal States concern to encourage the National authorities to sign the EAtHC Statutes (**Action EAtHC 12-1**).

**Action EAtHC 11-2** – To report regularly to IHB all information relevant to updating the status of hydrographic services and capabilities, including provision of the list of POCs for IHO Yearbook.

Permanent action (**Action EAtHC 12-2**).

**Action EAtHC 11-3** – For Coastal States not IHO members, to set up a table of national responsibilities (MSI, surveys, charts) based by default on the current charting authorities, in order to update C-55 database.

Permanent action (**Action EAtHC 12-3**). This action was addressed under agenda item 8.3.2.

**Action EAtHC 11-4** – a) To invite Cameroon, Mauritania and Sierra Leone to deposit their instrument of accession to the IHO.

Cameroon deposited the instrument of accession to the IHO in April 2012 and became the 81<sup>st</sup> IHO Member State and so the 6<sup>th</sup> EAtHC effective Member State.

b) New candidates to IHO should proceed in parallel through diplomatic channels to get approval from IHO Member States, for example Senegal and Togo.

Togo delegate referred that is important to know the stage of the information and this action should be kept as permanent.

This action was endorsed by the conference and split in two parts (**Action EAtHC 12-4** and **Action EAtHC 12-6**).

**Action EAtHC 11-5** – To report to CHATINTCHART Coordinator (FR) on current or planned high speed crafts routes in region G, in order to be able to meet IMO requirements (ECDIS carriage and related ENC coverage).

Permanent action (**Action EAtHC 12-8**). This action was addressed under agenda item 8.1.

**Action EAtHC 11-6** - To liaise with NAVAREA II Coordinator for Maritime Safety Information (Nil report requested, if applicable, at least every 3 months).

Permanent action (**Action EAtHC 12-9**). This action was addressed under agenda item 8.4.

**Action EAtHC 11-7** - To identify all NAVTEX projects POCs, and respond to questions raised by IMO NAVTEX Panel.

Permanent action (**Action EAtHC 12-10**). This action was addressed under agenda item 8.4.

**Action EAtHC 11-8** - To provide IHB and EAtHC Chair with official documents setting up national hydrographic committees, organization and general procedures, to be considered for inclusion in C-16.

Permanent action (**Action EAtHC 12-11**). No documents or information was received from Coastal States not IHO members, since the last Conference.

**Action EAtHC 11-9** - To send the 11th EAtHC report with a dedicated cover letter from the Chair stressing the importance of setting up national hydrographic committees.

Done. It was agreed to reiterate this action with the 12<sup>th</sup> EAtHC report (**Action EAtHC 12-28**).

**Action EAtHC 11-10** - To review the procedures for the transmission of survey data, in order to make sure that relevant national organizations can access the survey data covering their national waters.

Permanent action for chart producer States (**Action EAtHC 12-12**).

UK delegate gave a CD with survey data to Morocco making the point that data exchange is very easy.

**Action EAtHC 11-11** - To include systematic procedures for the transmission of survey data collected by third parties to the concerned cartographic authority, in the relevant diplomatic clearances or contracting documents with private companies, in order to enable swift updating of nautical documents and charts.

Permanent action (**Action EAtHC 12-13**).

France delegate mentioned that it is necessary to pay attention to this issue due to the importance and complexity of this matter. It cannot be settled only by technical relation between cartographers. Coastal States should have procedures covering work with third parties.



**Action EAtHC 11-12** - To continue capacity building development, phase by phase and on a case by case basis, requesting assistance of EAtHC Chair and CBSC Regional Representative (FR) if needed.

Permanent action (**Action EAtHC 12-16**). This action was addressed under agenda item 8.3.

**Action EAtHC 11-13**- To consult the IHO website on a regular basis to keep abreast of IHO activities, e.g. all relevant Capacity Building letters and documents.

Permanent action (**Action EAtHC 12-15**).

IHB Director welcomes any feedback on the site.

**Action EAtHC 11-14** - To invite Coastal States to make official agreements with the actual cartographic authorities of the region, in accordance with SOLAS Chapter V.

Permanent action (**Action EAtHC 12-14**).

Several delegates expressed interest to know what countries do not have cartographic production agreements. Following the suggestion made by France delegate a table was circulated among the delegates to identify the agreements of EAtHC Coastal States and the respective cartographic Producers (see **Annex A**).

**Action EAtHC 11-15** - To invite Maritime University at Abidjan to deliver Hydrographic Basic Course for French speaking countries.

Action done. This issue was addressed by the Chairman in a letter to the Maritime University of Abidjan (MUA). The University expressed interest to evaluate offering the Basic Course in Hydrography. The IMO sponsorship of a Basic Course in Hydrography and Cartography for French speaking countries in MUA was considered an excellent opportunity for establishing the initial contacts.

The Chairman considered this action as a good start for the beginning of better relations between IHO and IMO.

Nigerian delegate proposed the creation of a similar course for English speaking countries to take place, for example, at the Nigerian Navy Hydrographic School.

France delegate clarified that this action, as worded in the French version, was addressed to French speaking audience and not French speaking countries, so the term used should be English speaking audience and not English speaking countries.

UK delegate remembered that the course addressed is an IMO course and proposed, when the capacity building issues were to be addressed, to come up with an IHO CBSC sponsored course.

**Action EAtHC 11-16** - To inform NAVAREA II Coordinator regarding oil platforms locations and moving forecasts.

Permanent action (**Action EAtHC 12-9**). This action was addressed under agenda item 8.4.

**Action EAtHC 11-17** - To propose to PMAWCA to consider including special session on hydrographic capacity as an agenda item for discussion at its subsequent meetings and to invite PMAWCA through a letter to encourage its members to comply with IMO SOLAS Chapter V Reg. 9 (Ref: IMO MSC Circ. 1373 dated 1 June 2010).

This action was considered done. Although the Chairman sent a letter to PMAWCA in March 2011 there was no response. Despite of this, Chairman suggested that the Commission should find another way to solve this issue.

Some comments were done by Nigeria, Guinea and Congo about the Port Authority and the cartography in harbour areas. The delegate of the Republic of Congo considering that PMAWCA is an organ of the Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa (MOWCA) suggested involving this organisation.

The Commission decided to send another letter to get some response and action from PMAWCA and to inform MOWCA (**Action EAtHC 12-21**).

**Action EAtHC 11-18** - To develop a 5-years long term strategy for hydrographic capacity building in the Region, for consideration and implementation.

This action was addressed under agenda item 8.3.

**Action EAtHC 11-19** - To conduct follow-up technical visits on hydrographic capacity building to Gabon, Cameroon and Guinea-Bissau in 2011.

Done. This action was addressed under agenda item 8.3.

**Action EAtHC 11-20** - To respond to Capacity Building Regional Coordinator (FR) e-mail dated 20 October 2010.

This action was addressed under agenda item 8.3.

**Action EAtHC 11-21** - Organize the 12<sup>th</sup> EAtHC Conference in Lisbon, Portugal in November 2012.

Done.

### **3. IHO/IHB Matters**

The IHB Director Gilles BESSERO gave a brief report on IHO/IHB matters (see **Document EAtHC12-03A**), covering the following issues: New Directing Committee – duties and responsibilities; new IHB staff members; status of approval of the amendments to the IHO Convention; status of approval of new Member States to the IHO; INT Chart and ENC production in Region G; IHO ENC reference collection and ENC availability catalogue; C-55 updates; IHO publicity (World Hydrographic Day and International Hydrographic Review); Capacity Building programme and sustainability of IHO work programme.

The Conference noted the report.

## **4. National Reports**

The sequence of the presentation of the National Reports followed the alphabetical order of the countries in English, except for the Cameroon report which was not present at the beginning of the session.

### **4.1 Côte d'Ivoire Report**

The report of Côte d'Ivoire appears as **Document EAtHC12-04L**.

Côte d'Ivoire delegate reported that the country has no hydrographic service and lacks training and trainees.

Côte d'Ivoire presented two applications for the IMO basic course in hydrography and hopes to be able to repeat it every year.

Delegate stressed the difficulties with equipment and asked IHB how could acquire such material and how could digitize information in order to find the best way to manage the available data.

Port of Abidjan is the major port and tried to form a national hydrographic committee, but this is a political issue.

### **4.2 Congo (Rep. of the) Report**

Congo delegate informed the conference about the improvements since the last meeting.

There is no hydrographic service. Port authority has that responsibility, but there is no staff assigned to it. At the administration level, a bureau of hydrography and lighthouse (*bureau de l'hydrographie et de la signalization maritime*) has been set up, with a role of coordination. It has been decided to create a national hydrographic committee and to seek adhesion to IHO.

Congo signed with France a bilateral agreement for cooperation in hydrography and cartography which is very important to fulfill SOLAS responsibilities. SHOM and the port of Pointe-Noire have been designated as the point of contact for this arrangement.

Congo delegate declared that capacity building and training is in motion with seminars and training, but the real problem is the lack of awareness on hydrography of all the States in the area.

The Chairman referred to the economic aspect and the importance of the bilateral relationship between the EAtHC Member States.

France delegate highlighted the importance of supporting the concern with hydrography of high level officials of Congo.

### **4.3 France Report**

The report of France appears as **Document EAtHC12-04A**.

France mentioned the surveys and photogrammetric works carried out in different States of this Commission. As new hydrographic surveys, France referred to the surveys carried out in Gabon

(Port-Gentil), Sao Tome and Principe (Sao Tome harbour), Morocco (Tanger harbour), and Cameroon (Limbe and Douala harbours). As photogrammetric surveys France mentioned the ones conducted in Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.

New ENC Coverage from last EAtHC Conference:

- 4 ENC from French Coast;
- 8 ENC from African Coast;
- 6 new INT charts;
- Participation in the Capacity Building visits to Cameroon, Guinea Bissau and Gabon.

France already made agreements with some EAtHC Member States and others are under preparation. It was mentioned the bilateral cooperation with Congo (Rep. of the) concerned about hydrographic, oceanographic and nautical cartography aspects.

Congo delegate asked France how and when Congo could get the survey data collected in the two major ports. France delegate replied that once accepted and integrated in database, France is able to provide the survey information to Congo.

#### **4.4 Guinea Report**

The report of Guinea appears as **Document EAtHC12-04H**.

The Guinea delegate referred to the hydrographic and dredging works conducted since the last Conference.

It was also mentioned that Guinea does not have a national hydrographic service but created a specific service to address the safety of navigation.

After the dredging of Port of Conakry entrance channel, all buoys have been repositioned and are in good condition, so the channel has conditions to be navigable during day and night. Hydrographic surveys conducted in the harbour, including those made by private companies, will be communicated to SHOM.

Two staff members were trained in Navigational Safety; this action was a result of recommendations from last conference. It would be interesting to provide an IHO CAT B course to two more staff members.

The Chairman emphasized the many issues that have been developed since last meeting.

Guinea stated that in harbour issues Guinea does not have sufficient equipment to carry out own harbour hydrography and nautical cartography.

#### **4.5 Morocco Report**

The report of Morocco appears as **Document EAtHC12-04B**.

Morocco delegate mentioned the bilateral cooperation in hydrography and cartography between Morocco and France (SHOM) and the importance of a memorandum of understanding signed with the US Navy in the matter of hydrography and oceanography.

It was also referred to the training provided to staff members.

Nowadays Morocco is reorganizing the service to fulfill the national and international needs.

The Chairman referred to two Morocco staff members' visit to the IHPT a few months ago and the benefits of it in organization sense.

#### **4.6 Portugal Report**

The report of Portugal appears as **Document EAtHC12-04C**.

Portugal delegate referred to the surveys carried out between 2011 and 2012, particularly the surveys conducted for the Task Group for the Extension of the Portuguese Continental Shelf and how it increased the area surveyed mostly in the Azores Archipelago.

He also mentioned the new charts and updates and the progressive cartographic production with CARIS HPD.

The Chairman emphasized the cooperation between IHPT and Port Administrations and the existing Cooperation Agreement between Portugal and Cape Verde.

Nigeria delegate reported that it is trying to develop its own Hydrographic Institute and asked information about IHPT organization which he considers a good example to orient the implementation of an institute in Nigeria.

IHB Director commended the single point access to maritime safety information on the IHPT web page and suggested to add a link to the NAVAREA coordinators. He recommended this approach to all States.

#### **4.7 Spain Report**

The report of Spain appears as **Document EAtHC12-04D**.

There have been no relevant changes in the Spanish hydrographic office (IHM) operation since the last EAtHC meeting.

In the last two years, 16 hydrographic surveys were carried out in the EAtHC area to update the national chart scheme, in the North of the Iberian Peninsula, Gulf of Cádiz, and the Canary Islands.

Spanish Navy Oceanographic Research Vessel "Hespérides" is available 1 month every year, for bathymetry surveys in the Spanish Exclusive Economic Zone.

In addition to the surveys focused on updating the national chart scheme and EEZ bathymetry, some specific surveys have been carried out in the west of the Canary Islands to support the extension of the Spanish Continental Shelf.

Likewise, IHM takes part in several committees and working groups of the IHO. Since the last meeting, IHM has joined the Finance Committee and the Staff Regulations Working Group (both this year after the Hydrographic Conference).

Even though capacity building matters will be treated on the agenda later on, it was mentioned the last hydrographic cooperation that was carried out between IHM and other EAtHC Hydrographic

services. This cooperation consisted of a joint set of surveys carried out between IHM and the DHOC of Morocco from 2001 to 2005, as part of the project SEAPOWERS SYMPOSIUM. The results of these joint surveys were reflected on the INT Chart 3150, which covers the Strait of Gibraltar.

Regarding new technologies and equipment, a big effort has been made by the Spanish Navy for the last two years to upgrade hydrographic equipment. As a result, the following equipment is now available for IHM: two shallow water multibeam echosounders, two portable bathymetric interferometric sonars for very shallow waters which can be easily deployed from small boats and operate very near the coast, one synthetic aperture sonar and one sidescan sonar.

IHB Director asked Spain if they have done some evaluation of the new equipment for shallow waters and invited Spain to share their experience through an article in the International Hydrographic Review.

Spain delegate answered to IHB Director that with portable bathymetric interferometric systems for very shallow waters (0-50 meters) that can be deployed from small boats, the requirements for IHO special order surveys can be achieved.

Gabon delegate asked if there is some cooperation between Portugal and Spain, and with Morocco, what kind of cooperation exists.

It was stated that there is a good dynamic between France/Spain/Portugal/Morocco and also with UK.

The Chairman emphasized the information share in the boundary areas and also in notices to mariners.

Spain delegate stressed the need for cooperation and that it is necessary to encourage the relationship between Portugal and Spain.

During this debate Nigeria delegate said there should be an endorsement from most of the EAtHC African States to achieve the interaction and cooperation between African countries to optimize resources and share information between these States.

As PMAWCA did not answer to the EAtHC Chair Letter of 28 March 2011, Nigeria suggested the creation of "hydrographic" ambassadors from African States to achieve the future goals and start with some initiatives to improve the hydrographic panorama.

Togo delegate emphasized the cooperation between Morocco and US Navy and Spain and also the cooperation between Portugal and Cape Verde. It was also referred to the cooperation between Nigeria and China. This issue brought a question to the table: what kind of cooperation is this one and what kind of interests are involved?

The Chairman answered that each country is free to cooperate with any other country, but it is important for this Commission to establish agreements between the EAtHC States Members.

France delegate stated that improvement of the cooperation and capacity building is the most important matter. France also stated that the bilateral cooperation agreements are not exclusive, so if a country can improve its technical and survey capacity from agreements with third parties then

the goal is accomplished, but any kind of information should be communicated and shared with all interested States, including the primary charting authority.

Nigeria delegate clarified that they want another level of cooperation and he suggested to IHB Director to say something about this issue.

Togo delegate stated also that IHO/IHB should clarify the cooperation and agreements regarding hydrographic and topographic survey issues, such as the geodetic systems.

IHB Director indicated that whatever form cooperation agreements may take, two principles should be followed: the coastal State should have free use of the data collected in the waters under its jurisdiction and should ensure that the data can be re-used, notably by the primary charting authority when this responsibility is carried out by another State. In order to facilitate the re-use of data, it should be collected in accordance with IHO standards, such as IHO publication S-44 which recommends that position should be referred to ITRS geodetic system.

#### **4.8 Senegal Report**

Senegal delegate mentioned the necessity of international experience to get enough knowledge to improve in national hydrographic and navigation security issues.

Gabon delegate stated that sometimes the relationship and communication, regarding hydrography, between the Ports Authorities and the governments are a complex process.

#### **4.9 Togo Report**

The report of Togo appears as **Document EAtHC12-04K**.

Togo delegate informed that Togo has its own work committee for hydrographic (15 institutions), oceanographic and navigation security issues (CtHONSM - *Comité de travail sur l'Hydrographie, l'océanographie et la sécurité de la navigation maritime*). Togo does not have an HO but is willing to create a national Hydrographic Institute in the next few years.

Togo signed the EAtHC statutes in December 2008 and, since 2010, is working in cooperation with SHOM. A French company conducted some surveys, the results of which were not communicated to Togo hydrographic committee. It was also mentioned the efforts done in some projects with universities and the cooperation with other EAtHC Coastal States, such as Ghana and Benin for regional navigational security.

The Chairman stated that Togo is a good example for complex organization. In terms of equipment it is not enough to have the equipment but it is also necessary to have the capacity and human resources to repair them.

#### **4.10 UK Report**

The report from UK appears as **Document EAtHC12-04E**.

UK delegate presented the national report highlighting the following issues: chart production in the region, capacity building and new publications.

UK delegate stressed that, in terms of capacity building, it is presently running the 4<sup>th</sup> Nippon Foundation funded course at Taunton for hydrographic data processing and marine cartography. Seven students are attending the course but none is from this region.

UKHO relies on information from the region on developments that are taking place and only if that information reaches the office it will be placed on charts and made available to all mariners.

Similarly, regarding offshore activities, the information available is normally given by the oil and gas industry but not always. UK delegate requested that the coastal states which have updated information make it available to chart producing authorities.

To facilitate the transmission of data to the UK, it has produced a document to set out the best way to transfer data from a local region to the chart producer.

UK delegate finished his report stating that they will support any local data gathering initiatives in order to have the best data available.

#### **4.11 US Report**

US Hydrographic Office is part of the US Department of Defense and gets requirements from fleet commanders. There is a deployable survey team ready to assist if a hydrographic request for African countries reaches the 6th fleet.

US Hydrographic Office provides training classes all over the world. Since the last 5 years US was helping African Countries in Maritime and Humanitarian Assistance, for example Morocco with whom US has a memorandum of understanding.

#### **4.12 Cameroon Report**

Cameroon delegate made a brief report on the status of port and coastal developments and highlighted the intention to develop co-operation with SHOM. He stressed the rapid changing of seabed in access to major ports and referred to the possible acquisition of a MBES.

#### **4.13 Nigeria Report**

Nigeria delegate gave a summary presentation of Nigerian activities, namely the Navy Hydrographic Office activities.

The creation of the National Hydrographic Commission is being put forward in order to coordinate all hydrographic activities in Nigeria.

Presently the HO coordinates all hydrographic and oceanographic operations, such as approvals for offshore surveys, exploration, and exploitation of natural resources, together with coastal surveys, collaboration with other offices. Also it produces tide predictions and operates tide gauges in ports.

Some key activities were described such as the use of research vessels and joint ventures with private stake holders.

There are new developments in terms of ports, deep sea ports and inland updates, the data will be available to UKHO to produce charts and inland waterways which will be available to all navigation.



## 5. Committees and working groups with EAtHC representatives

### 5.1 IRCC

Chairman gave some introductory words about the two meetings where Portugal represented EAtHC. These meetings take place every year. However, being the EAtHC Conferences every second year, there is a lack of new information in one of the IRCC meetings.

The List of actions and IRCC tasks agreed at IRCC4 (Singapore) appears as **Document EAtHC12-05.1A**.

All relevant actions for EAtHC and status were analyzed and some of them were commented.

**Action IRCC4/01** – Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership.

This issue was already emphasized by IHB Director during the presentation of IHB Report. This action was proposed for adoption as a Commission's permanent action (**Action EAtHC 12-5**).

**Action IRCC4/02** – Continue to engage pending applicants in their region to encourage the ratification of the IHO Convention.

This IRCC action was already addressed under the list of actions from the 11<sup>th</sup> EAtHC Conference (see agenda item 2.3, Action EAtHC 11-4) and was adopted as **Action EAtHC 12-4**.

**Action IRCC4/03** – Continue to engage suspended Member States in their region to encourage their re-insertion in IHO.

The Chairman sent a letter to the Democratic Republic of Congo to encourage its reinsertion in the IHO. This action was proposed also for adoption as a Commission's permanent action (**Action EAtHC 12-7**).

**Action IRCC4/06** – Comply with the CBSC Procedures and ensure the timely provision of the appropriate documentation that justify expenses associated to CB projects, and to demand refund, if needed, not later than one month after the event has finalized.

Since the 11<sup>th</sup> EAtHC Conference three Capacity Building visits were conducted in EAtHC region – Gabon, Guinea-Bissau and Cameroon. The States who conducted these visits were aware of such procedure.

**Action IRCC4/07** – Invite GEBCO Guiding Committee / Bathymetric Regional Project Chairs to attend corresponding RHCs meetings, aiming at strengthening collaboration with a priority on improving high resolution shallow water bathymetry at the regional level.

IHB Director recalled that the GEBCO web site has a section about Regional Projects and noted that the IBCEA Project had been suspended due to lack of IOC funding. Portugal confirmed that their participation had been frozen.

Nigeria delegate mentioned that it is necessary to know and understand the needs and hydrographic priorities for the nations. It is also necessary to have the right skills and tools to get the message through to all different African governments and try to create a project to integrate all the hydrographic data/information.

## 5.2 WEND-WG

The representative of EAtHC moved last year from Nigeria to France which gave an update on the work of WEND-WG.

The EAtHC WEND-WG representative highlighted the most relevant issues of the working group, namely: the collection and distribution of ENC's; the development of the most appropriate RENC structure for IHO to achieve the WEND vision.

IHB Director referred to the IHO commitment to IMO to provide adequate world-wide ENC coverage and stressed that each nation is responsible to guarantee coverage of the waters under its jurisdiction. He invited participants to note the basic difference between paper charts and ENC's. The navigator is well aware of the physical boundaries of any paper charts and can easily identify its producer. These characteristics are not so obvious with ENC's which are merged into a seamless ECDIS display. Therefore the quality of ENC's is much more a collective responsibility than the quality of paper charts.

## 6. Feedback from related bodies

### 6.1 IALA –AISM

Mr. Jacques Manchard did a presentation about IALA (see **Document EAtHC12-06.1A**) for the region.

Gabon delegate asked about the involvement of IALA in VTS.

IALA representative replied that their role is to propose good methods for VTS.

Togo asked if there is also cooperation with meteorological organizations for risk management.

IHB Director informed of a coordination mechanism between IHO/IMO/IALA/IAEA to improve the capacity building efforts of these organizations.

Togo delegate referred to the capacity building and training for some African States and, although it exists, how can a particularly nation or region benefit from it? We have to be pragmatic in the matter of training versus benefits. The IHO, Portugal and other states can give specific training. The Commission can give/supply some equipment and technologies?

Togo delegate also suggested that, since the EAtHC member states are not all at the same level, the Commission should create a way to decrease the difference of knowledge between developed and under development member states.

In response to Togo, IHB director suggested to use the World Hydrography Day which main topic for 2013 is the "Blue Economy" as an opportunity to raise awareness. IHB Director stated that there is definitely a need for a regional approach to solve the equipment problem and also that it is necessary to attract financial support from different agencies for this kind of projects. This is a challenge for IHO/EAtHC.

In response to Togo, the Chairman stated that it is necessary for Togo to determine what its needs are, to improve capacity building in order to enable the commission to design a suitable proposal.

## 7. Presentations from Industry

According to IRCC recommendations and as common practice in other RHC, the industry was invited to participate in this Conference for the very first time.

On behalf of the EAtHC the chair expressed appreciation for the presence of CARIS BV and Kongsberg Maritime, which represented a good opportunity for national delegates to have contact with these two companies and with the products they are developing to make the hydrographer's life easier.

Kongsberg and CARIS presented their companies, equipment, products and talked about some capacity building projects in which these companies were involved.

## 8. Aspects concerning to EAtHC

### 8.1 INT chart scheme for Region G

The INT chart coverage and production appears as Document EAtHC12-08.1A.

The Regional Coordinator (France) gave a brief on the INT chart scheme for Region G (CHATINTCHART – Region G International Charting Coordination Working Group) referring to the updates from Spain, Portugal, France, United Kingdom and Morocco.

It resulted in two permanent actions (already considered in the 11<sup>th</sup> EAtHC-CHAtO Conference):

- To report to CHATINTCHART Coordinator on current or planned high speed crafts routes (**Action EAtHC 12-8**);
- To review the procedures for the transmission of survey data, in order to make sure relevant national organizations can access the survey data covering their national waters (**Action EAtHC 12-12**).

### 8.2 Development of the EAtHC ENC Scheme

The ENC coverage appears as Document EAtHC12-08.2A.

The Regional Coordinator (France) gave a brief overview about ENC coverage for the EAtHC Region with national ENC reports from Spain, France, United Kingdom and Portugal and overlap or gaps issues.

France emphasized the good coverage in Band 2 and Band 3. For ENC Bands 4-5 it is necessary to know which harbours do not have coverage (**Action EAtHC 12-24**).

The issue of some ENC overlap was noted by UKHO which expressed the intention to mail IC-ENC to solve it.

### 8.3 Capacity Building

#### 8.3.1 Report on Capacity Building

- France

The report on Capacity Building appears as Document EAtHC12-08.3.1A.

The Chairman stated that the Special session on Capacity Building, as mentioned in EAtHC Circular Letter 3/2012, was proposed and planned by the Capacity Building Regional Coordinator in coordination with him. Moreover, he stated that since the establishment of the Capacity Building Committee (presently Capacity Building Sub-Committee – CBSC) several technical visits were conducted and training courses were offered to the EAtHC's countries. Despite these successful activities, it is necessary to strengthen Capacity Building initiatives in the region, identify more efficient strategies that could be shared by the countries themselves and guarantee the commitment and participation of the concerned coastal States.

The Capacity Building Regional Coordinator provided a status report on the capacity building program for the EAtHC Region. Since the last meeting in Accra three capacity building visits were conducted in our region – Gabon, Guinea-Bissau and Cameroon.

As a result some actions were recommended to these 3 countries (**Action EAtHC 12-17**):

- Implement the recommendations;
- Create a National Hydrographic Committee.

The participants were informed that only a few coastal States of EAtHC non-IHO members attended the XVIII International Hydrographic Conference (Democratic Republic of Congo and Guinea) and that PMAWCA was not present. This resulted in the adoption of one action:

- IHB to invite EAtHC non-IHO member States to participate in the EIHC5 in October 2014 (**Action EAtHC 12-22**).

It was emphasized the nomination of Olumide Omotoso from Nigeria as CBSC Vice-Chair, which is an important fact that can make the difference in the next years in the improvement of capacity building in the Region.

One of the biggest issues of EAtHC is the contact list management. So it was stated, as an action, that once a year, IHO Yearbook should be updated by EAtHC and IHB should add the date of the update for every coastal State (**Action EAtHC 12-2**).

From capacity building status report, the conference was informed that Nigeria is requesting for upgrade, accreditation and recognition of NG Port Harcourt Navy Hydrographic School as Regional Center, the many new and pertinent suggestions presented by Togo and the hydrographic survey and cartography course financed by IMO in Abidjan.

In the end of presentation Nigeria emphasized that the school already has what is necessary, the stakeholders were informed about this situation and now it is necessary to have some technical advice and course recognition and accreditation.

Also Guinea emphasized that the course accreditation is an important issue and Togo stated that having their own schools is the first biggest step to improve the hydrographic capacity in this region. So Guinea suggested to IHB or even SHOM to analyze the state of the art of the schools.

As a response France suggested to send a questionnaire to the States that needs this type of accreditation. The questionnaire should include some important points such as the needs of each country, the number of students, the qualification level (Cat A or Cat B) and the support needed in

the areas regarding hydrography and/or cartography. The response to this questionnaire should be presented to the next CBSC meeting in June 2013 (**Action EAtHC 12-18**).

France also emphasized that there are some Maritime Academies that can help in the accreditation process and the other EAtHC States should be able to express their opinion and experience. The Capacity Building Coordinator was requested to ask IBSC to create a small group to go to Nigeria and give them some technical advice and orientation (**Action EAtHC 12-27**). Nigeria suggested the creation of a sub-commission formed by African States.

Chairman clarified that the accreditation is not enough, it is also necessary to keep a constant update of the course content according to the IBSC.

Despite of these actions, it was well evident that there are many aspects to improve and work such as:

- It is urgent to update the hydrographical state of the countries (namely African States);
- General maritime training: Maritime Safety, Economy (Blue Economy);
- The necessity to have Regional courses in Human Safety and particularly in Maritime Safety;
- French / English courses;
- What kind of support and training is needed: equipment, software, training in different areas such as pipelines, hydrography, cartography and Maritime Law;
- Trying to reduce costs in maritime safety with a regional approach.

France delegate stated that it is important to profit from the technical visits, to create national hydrographic committees, to clarify the responsibilities about SOLAS convention and to establish some bilateral agreements.

Nigeria delegate said that they want to be self sufficient and they are working on it.

Côte d'Ivoire delegate stated that all data should be shared and cooperation with the Navies should be implemented.

Congo and Gabon delegates stated that the Commission should think and try to find solutions collectively, and that in several States they already have the education and training but now they are in a transitional period and it is very important to have the European vision to take the next step.

The Chairman stated that the Commission is already aware of the differences between the coastal States, but EAtHC has a wide variety of countries and now we have to focus in the southern part of the Commission. Definitely, our region could benefit in the future from a regional approach in most of the concerning issues.

France delegate suggested the creation of a Regional Academy for Maritime Matters based on coordination between existing training centres in the Region (**Action EAtHC 12-19**). France also suggested making a meeting for West Africa with IHO representation to discuss all problems mentioned along the Conference. Congo delegate accepted this challenge and was invited to establish the contacts with African States and the Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa (MOWCA / OMAOC) on hydrographic and cartographic update (**Action EAtHC 12-20**). France delegate thanked Congo for taking up this action.

### **8.3.2 Hydrographic Survey status (C-55)**

The Hydrographic Surveys appears as **Document EAtHC12-08.3.2A**.

Portugal delegate presented a brief introduction about C-55 Publication and mentioned that the aim of this publication is described in its Executive Summary. Also stated that C-55 Publication is a relevant tool for capacity building assessment and the content of the reports is held in a live database on IHO website from where up to date reports can be extracted at any time.

Document EAtHC12-08.3.2A was not presented in detail but the Portuguese delegate highlighted the coastal States where the source of information for the update of C-55 is based on technical visits from capacity building and that most of them were conducted from West Africa Action Team since January 2004.

It was mentioned that according to Action EAtHC11-3 the secretariat sent an email for setting up a table of national responsibilities based by default on current charting authorities, but has not received so far information from Region G non-IHO coastal States members. In sequence, during this item the coastal States had the opportunity to update the information about the availability of maritime safety information in order to update C-55.

IHB Director commented on how the Commission can contribute to the C-55 publication to improve the quality of information and the coverage of the hydrographic surveys and recollected the decision 17 adopted by the XVIII International Hydrographic Conference about improving the hydrographic and cartographic coverage worldwide.

IHB Director made some suggestions to the commission: to identify in Region G what are the critical areas with insufficient surveys which should be addressed in priority and, along the line that Togo suggested during this meeting, if there is sufficient background and knowledge to develop regional programs in order to speed up the improvement of survey coverage in Region G.

United Kingdom delegate stated that he can raise support to anyone who needs it.

Chairman stated that it is important to define survey priorities and adopt an action that should be appended to 12<sup>th</sup> EAtHC list of actions as a regional response to decision 17 adopted by the XVIII International Hydrographic Conference and proposed that coastal States identify their national priorities on hydrographic surveys (**Action EAtHC 12-23**).

### **8.3.3 Assistance, training and education: offers and needs**

This item was discussed under agenda item 8.3.1.

## **8.4 Promulgation of radio navigational warnings within NAVAREA II area**

The report from NAVAREA II Coordinator appears as **document EAtHC12-08.4A**.

France delegate gave a brief overview on promulgation of radio navigational warnings within NAVAREA II area. Also stated that about oil platforms movements, even if the oil companies provide this information to NAVAREA II Coordinator, it is essential that each national coordinator be able to send the most recent updates, for nautical purposes, in order to guarantee that all users have access to actualized information (**Action EAtHC 12-9**).

Due to the communication problems identified during this presentation, France delegate also suggested an action to check and update the MSI Points of Contact to NAVAREA II Coordinator that appears as **Action EAtHC 12-25**.

Nigeria delegate suggested the possibility of NAVAREA II Coordinator to inform the national coordinator when receiving information from oil companies, before updating it in official documents, in order to enable the confirmation in the field if information is correct.

## **8.5 Response to Marine Disasters**

See **document EAtHC12-08.5A** (CL 73/2012).

IHB Director informed that the XVIII<sup>th</sup> International Hydrographic Conference agreed to amend Resolution 1/2005 (related with the tsunami that had occurred in 2004), in accordance with the text submitted by Japan after the tsunami of Fukushima in 2011.

IHB Director indicated that the Resolution contains three levels of recommendations: recommendations addressed to coastal States, Regional Hydrographic Commissions and to other appropriate International Organizations that could support IHO co-ordination in a catastrophe situation.

IHB Director invited the Commission to consider and prioritize the actions required to implement Resolution 1/2005 in the Region.

Nigeria delegate stated that they are looking to the opportunity to do some research and developing an assistance project in terms of disaster environmental consequences in West Africa Sub Region, whether due to tectonic activity or oil disasters. Also stated that West Africa Sub Region Coastal States should collaborate in an action plan, for example, in terms of human safety and presented it to IHO to support it. Nigeria delegate believes that it is possible and is an opportunity to get commitment from Coastal States, collaboration and to stand ready to face disaster situations.

France delegate stated that it is a good suggestion from Nigeria, the Commission can support it in this plan of action and should also arise with some actions in cartography and hydrography to respond to maritime disasters. As an example, France delegate mentioned two important issues that should be known in catastrophe situation, such as the bathymetry in coastal States and the sea level and its variation. As a suggestion, France delegate requested all Member States to bring to the next commission conference their national priorities and cartographic and hydrographic needs to support the plan of action to catastrophic disasters.

The Chairman requested the delegates to answer EAtHC CL 1/2012 regarding the identification of national focal points (**Action EAtHC 12-26**).

## **8.6 Marine / Hydrographic Spatial Data Infrastructures (MSDI)**

This item was not addressed during the Conference. The Portuguese Hydrographic Institute delivered a presentation on publication C-17 - Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure.

## **8.7 IHO/EC agreement**

See **document EAHC12-08.7A**– CL 97/2012 (15 November 2012) *“Cooperation between the IHO and the European Commission”* which has as reference the IHO CL87/2012 dated 21 September 2012 – *“Memorandum of Understanding between the IHO and the European Commission”* that establishes cooperation on maritime affairs between EC and IHO.

France delegate did a brief presentation about the MoU established between IHO and EC. The MoU was signed on the occasion of the 18<sup>th</sup> International Hydrographic Conference. After, it was organized a meeting by the North Sea Hydrographic Commission where was discussed the Green Paper document on *“Marine Knowledge 2020 (from seabed mapping to ocean forecasting)”*.

France delegate mentioned that the Green Paper supports Maritime Structure in European Union and emphasized the importance of IHO work taken so far in standardization due to the Green Paper establishment.

IHB Director alerted to the consulting deadline of Green Paper document, i.e. 15 December 2012. Also he stated that the questionnaire was online and IHO distributed the CL97/2012 with the report from the first meeting between the IHO and the EC that took place in Brussels, Belgium, together with a draft response of the IHO to the EC Green Paper questionnaire, where it was proposed that Member States considered additional responses at international level, either directly from individual HO or through national European Union focal points, and at regional level, for example at the level of this Commission.

Togo delegate stated that European Union and African Union already have cooperation since 2007 related with Global Monitoring for Environment and Security issue. In sequence of the IHO and EC agreement presentation, Togo delegate proposed to the Commission and IHO to establish a contact with African Union and European Union in order to strength the aim of the Green Paper.

## **9. Closure**

### **9.1 Any other business**

#### **9.1.1 Mandatory IMO Audit Scheme**

IHB Director invited delegates to read again EAHC CL4/2012 (Mandatory IMO Audit Scheme).

IHB Director stated that it is a good leverage point to raise awareness in all Coastal States of the importance of hydrography in the context of maritime regulations in general. It was emphasized that, in the present, Audit Scheme is in a voluntary basis but IMO is changing to a Mandatory Audit Scheme that will start in January 2015. So, IHB director suggested Coastal States to consider being voluntarily audited as soon as possible.

United Kingdom delegate emphasized that UK is the chart producer of several States and so the audit process could be improved if there would exists a signed arrangement between UK and those States which will be audited in the future, in order for them to provide evidences to the auditors.

The Chairman mentioned that the audit document could help the countries if they want to establish some agreements with their charting authorities.



### **9.1.2 World Maritime Day 2013 and 2014**

Under this item IHB Director informed the Commission of the IMO arrangements for the World Maritime Day 2013 and 2014.

The first information was about the World Maritime Day theme for 2013: “Sustainable Development: IMO’s contribution beyond Rio+20” that is in line with World Hydrography Day theme: “Hydrography – underpinning the Blue Economy”.

The second information was about the World Maritime Day 2013 and 2014 Parallel Event. IHB Director recalled that traditionally World Maritime Day is organized in two sequences: there is a diplomatic celebration at IMO Headquarters in London and there is a parallel event which takes place in an IMO State which volunteers to host this parallel event. The IMO Council already accepted the offer of Peru to host the 2013 Parallel Event and, more important for EAtHC, IMO Council accepted Morocco’s offer to host the Parallel Event in 2014.

IHB Director suggested to EAtHC to consider how the Region could benefit from this event to promote the importance of hydrography in the maritime activities.

## **9.2 Decisions, resolutions and recommendations**

At the end of the Conference, Cdr Fernando Artilheiro read the list of actions proposed during the Conference. The decisions and actions were reviewed and will be circulated by the Commission for approval.

France delegate stated that some issues were missing: questionnaire, training, to organize a maritime meeting by Congo.

## **9.3 Date and venue of the next Conference**

The next EAtHC Conference will take place in September 2014 but it was not decided which country will host the meeting. It was decided that this issue should be addressed in due time (**Action EAtHC 12-29**).

Although no decision had been taken about the place for next conference, the IHB Director raised the issue of the convenience for this Commission to have extraordinary meetings, whether they are done before, during or after the next IHO extraordinary conference in 2014.

The Chairman agreed about the importance of this suggestion and recommended to coastal Members to take note of this issue in order to be prepared to discuss it in the conference that will take place in Monaco.

Chairman also reminded that all the coastal Members have to give information to IHO about the dates and venue of the EAtHC 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting, in order to avoid overlapping issues in the coastal Member agenda at the time.

## **9.4 Closing session and transfer of chair**

As final words Chairman thanked all participants for the fruitful discussions and stated that there are still many issues to do and improve. In spite of this, Chairman emphasized that since last meeting in Accra this Commission has come a long way of growth and now all Coastal Members know each other and are conscious about the problems and committed to improve in the future.

The Chairman then invited the Vice-Chairman IGA Bruno FRACHON from France to take over as the new Chairman.

IGA Bruno FRACHON thanked Portugal, special to the Chairman, on how this conference was successfully conducted with ample room for debate.

As final remarks, IGA Bruno FRACHON stated that in the next two years it is not only important to strengthen the Capacity Building that works for the benefit of safety of navigation, which is the principal mission, but also important is the development of maritime economy and the environmental awareness policy.

After that, IGA Bruno FRACHON declared the conference closed.

## ANNEX A – Agreements and Cartographic Producers

**XII EAthC-CHAtO MEETING**  
**LISBOA, PORTUGAL14-16 November 2012**  
*List of agreements / Liste des accords*

<b>EAtHC Member States / Etats Membres de la CHAtO</b>	<b>AGREEMENTS / ACCORDS</b>	<b>CARTOGRAPHIC PRODUCERS / PRODUCTEURS CARTOGRAPHIQUES</b>
Cameroon/Cameroun	FRANCE (SHOM)	FRANCE
France	USA ; UK ; SPAIN ; PORTUGAL ; BÉNIN (SOLAS) ; CONGO (SOLAS) ; MAROC (SOLAS) ; SÉNÉGAL (SOLAS) ; TOGO (SOLAS)	FRANCE
Morocco / Maroc	DHOC –France (SHOM) DHOC – USA (Dep. Oceano. Meteo )	Coproduction of NC and ENC withFRANCE
Nigeria / Nigéria	NNHO – UK (UKHO) NPA – UK (UKHO)	UK
Portugal	CAPE VERDE; SPAIN(IHM); UK(UKHO); FRANCE(SHOM)	PORTUGAL
Spain / Espagne	PORTUGAL (IHPT) FRANCE (SHOM) UNITED KINGDOM (UKHO) USA (NGA)	SPAIN
<b>EAtHC Associated States / Etats Associés de la CHAtO</b>	<b>AGREEMENTS / ACCORDS</b>	<b>CARTOGRAPHIC PRODUCERS / PRODUCTEURS CARTOGRAPHIQUES</b>

Cape Verde/Cap-Vert		PORTUGAL
Congo	FRANCE (SHOM)	FRANCE
Guinea / Guinée		FRANCE
Guinea-Bissau / Guinée-Bissau		PORTUGAL
Senegal / <i>Sénégal</i>	FRANCE (SHOM)	FRANCE
Togo	FRANCE (SHOM)	FRANCE
<b>EAtHC Observer States / Etats Observateurs de la CHAtO</b>	<b>AGREEMENTS / ACCORDS</b>	<b>CARTOGRAPHIC PRODUCERS / PRODUCTEURS CARTOGRAPHIQUES</b>
Gabon	FRANCE (SHOM)	FRANCE and UK
Ghana		UK

Liberia/Libéria		UK and USA
Sao Tome and Principe/São Tomé et Príncipe		PORTUGAL
Sierra Leone		UK
UK / Royaume-Uni	FRANCE; SPAIN; PORTUGAL; NIGÉRIA (NPA + NNHO); US (NGA + NOAA); GHANA (GMA)	UK
USA	FRANCE; UK; MOROCCO	