

Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (EAtHC)***Commission hydrographique de l'Atlantique orientale***13th Conference - Casablanca (Morocco) - 16-18 September 2014*13^{ème} Conférence - Casablanca (Maroc) - 16-18 septembre 2014***IHO/IHB Matters*****Sujets concernant l'OHI / le BHI*****Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention**

1. As of 15 August 2014, 41 of the required 48 approvals of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention had been received by the Government of Monaco.
2. The Government of Monaco has received notification of approval of the Protocol of Amendments from all IHO Member States of the EAtHC eligible to respond except Nigeria. Cameroon is not required to accede to the Protocol of amendments since these were adopted before Cameroon joined the IHO.
3. The first Assembly of the IHO will take place at the earliest in 2017, subject to another seven approvals being received by the Government of Monaco not later than three months before the opening day of the next ordinary session of the International Hydrographic Conference.

Status of IHO membership

4. Montenegro has become the 82nd Member State of the IHO on 3 December 2013.
5. With Serbia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Dominican Republic remaining suspended, the current thresholds for IHO decisions are 40 when a simple majority is required and 53 when a two-third majority is needed. The Directing Committee reminds Member States that not responding to a Circular Letter which requires a vote is equivalent to voting No.
6. Bulgaria, Haiti, Mauritania and Sierra Leone have all received the required number of votes to be accepted as a Member State of the IHO. However, the Government of Monaco has yet to receive the instruments of accession from these countries which will formalise their membership.
7. Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam, and Georgia have applied for membership of the IHO. As of 15 August 2014, the status of approvals was as follows:

State	Voting Status
Viet Nam (2011)	47 of 52 required
Brunei Darussalam (2012)	45 of 52 required
Georgia (2012)	47 of 53 required

8. The following IHO Member States of the EAtHC have not yet approved these applications:

State Applying for Membership	No response as yet from:
Viet Nam (2011)	Morocco Nigeria Portugal Spain
Brunei Darussalam (2012)	Morocco Nigeria Portugal Spain
Georgia (2012)	Cameroon Morocco Nigeria Spain

9. Cameroon is not required to approve the applications of Viet Nam and Brunei Darussalam which were deposited before Cameroon joined the IHO (IHO Resolution 2/2009 refers).

10. The Directing Committee is particularly keen that the approval formalities are completed in time to allow full participation of the three countries in the discussions at the 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC-5). A reminder letter was sent on 5 August 2014 to Morocco, Nigeria, Portugal and Spain to that effect. The Directing Committee, in cooperation with the representatives of the Government of Monaco, stands ready to assist, through diplomatic or other channels, any States' representatives that may be encountering difficulties in progressing the outstanding approvals through their respective governments.

5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC-5)

11. EIHC-5 will take place from 6 to 10 October 2014 in the Auditorium Rainier III in Monaco. Fourteen Conference Circular Letters covering various administrative matters have been issued. The Provisional Conference Programme, Draft Agenda, Red Book and Reports to be considered by the Conference have been circulated to Member States (CCL 10, 12 and 13 refers).

12. In addition to considering progress and proposals related to the three parts of the IHO Work Programme, four special sessions of the EIHC-5 have been allocated to presentations and discussions on topical issues. The selected themes are:

- Theme 1: The place of hydrographic data in a geospatial world,
- Theme 2: E-navigation - its impact on the IHO and Member States,
- Theme 3: New and emerging technologies (including crowd-sourced bathymetry),
- Theme 4: Capacity Building.

13. Besides the Industry Exhibition (CCL 14 refers), there will be an extensive poster display of IHO capacity building activities, supported by alumni from the IHO capacity building programme. Graduates from the IHO-Nippon Foundation Cat-B Cartographic Training (CHART) programme for nautical cartographers at the UKHO, graduates from the Masters Programme in hydrographic science at the

University of Southern Mississippi sponsored by the Republic of Korea through the IHO, and alumni from the IHO-IOC GEBCO Project-Nippon Foundation ocean mapping programme at the University of New Hampshire will be present to display their progress and achievements since graduating.

INT Chart and ENC Production Coordination - Region G

14. The IHB maintains IHO Publication S-11 - Part B - Catalogue of INT Charts on the basis of:

- the inputs from the INT regional coordinators (France for Region G),
- the new publications or editions of INT charts forwarded to the IHB in accordance with IHO General Regulation 19, and
- the information provided in Notices to Mariners.

15. The current edition of the Region G Section is Edition 2.0.4 - November 2012.

IHO ENC Reference Collection and ENC Availability Catalogue

16. As a follow up to CL 51/2012 dated 18 May, about the provision of ENCs to the IHB in accordance with IHO General Regulation 19, PRIMAR has offered IHB access to its Web Map Service (WMS) that contains all the ENCs available in the WEND (RENCs) database, continuously updated. The WMS service will be for the use of the IHB only and will enable the secretariat to view relevant ENCs when required.

C-55 Updates

17. The latest updated information in C-55 - *Status of Charting and Surveys Worldwide* from EAthC countries is as follows:

State - Dependency - INT Region	C-55 last updated	Update to be processed
Benin	17/07/2013	19/06/2014
Cameroon	17/07/2013	19/06/2014
Cape Verde	01/08/2011	
Congo	17/07/2013	19/06/2014
Côte d'Ivoire	17/07/2013	19/06/2014
Democratic Republic of the Congo	01/01/2004	
Equatorial Guinea	17/07/2013	19/06/2014
France - Mainland - G	17/07/2013	19/06/2014
Gabon	17/07/2013	19/06/2014
Gambia	16/05/2007	
Ghana	16/05/2007	
Guinea	17/07/2013	19/06/2014
Guinea Bissau	01/06/2004	
Liberia	01/05/2004	

State - Dependency - INT Region	C-55 last updated	Update to be processed
Mauritania	17/07/2013	19/06/2014
Morocco - Atlantic coast - G	21/01/2009	19/06/2014
Nigeria	16/05/2007	
Portugal	01/08/2011	14/11/2012
Portugal - Azores	28/01/2013	14/11/2012
Portugal - Madeira	01/09/2009	14/11/2012
Sao Tome & Principe	17/07/2013	
Senegal	16/05/2007	19/06/2014
Sierra Leone		
Spain - Mainland - G	01/02/2011	01/10/2012
Spain - Canary Islands	20/05/2011	01/10/2012
Togo	16/05/2007	19/06/2014
Western Sahara	05/11/2004	

18. EAthC countries are invited to provide the IHB with regular updates or confirmation of their C-55 entries on at least an annual basis, together with update or confirmation of their IHO Year Book entries. Updates should be submitted using the appropriate form available on the IHO website.

IHO GIS Data Base

19. Work has continued on the development of the IHO GIS composed of two main parts: a country information database and a regional information database. Development so far has relied on open source software which has proven to be time-consuming. The IHB is considering switching to professional off the shelf tools.

20. The country database is intended to contain all relevant information about the coastal States in the world - similar to the information contained in the IHO Yearbook.

21. The regional database is intended to contain geospatial information about the coverage and location of charts, surveys and related information. It is expected to provide the principal resource for managing international chart coordination, ENC coverage, as well as the identification of survey or charting “hotspots”. It is expected that there will be an upload capability that will allow States to keep the relevant information up to date.

22. The country database and a beta version of the regional database for Antarctica are now under evaluation (IHO CL 23/2014 and 27/2014 refer).

23. The current digital C-55 has been reformatted to facilitate the maintenance and take into account the establishment of INT Region N (Arctic Ocean).

24. The need to improve the current maintenance process for S-11 Part B has been raised on many occasions in several Regional Hydrographic Commissions. Following the development of the regional database for Antarctica, the IHB, with support provided by the Republic of Korea, is commencing

specifying an “INToGIS” project that will move S-11 part B into an interactive GIS/S-100 compliant environment. The objective of the project is to provide the Regional International Charting Coordination WGs with relevant on-line updated information and the necessary tools to review and maintain INT chart schemes and monitor the implementation of the INT chart schemes. Extending the capability to include ENC schemes/coverage/production is also envisaged in due course. As soon as the “INToGIS” project tasks are defined, they will be submitted to the Regional International Charting Coordinators for comment and feedback. This is likely to occur in early 2015.

IHO Publicity

25. World Hydrography Day. The theme for World hydrography Day 2014 was “*Hydrography - much more than just nautical charts*”. The purpose of this theme was to provide Member States with the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance and the benefits of hydrography, particularly in economic terms that will appeal both the public and to politicians. A compilation of WHD presentations and reports is available on the IHO website. The intention of the Directing Committee is that the focus of World Hydrography Day 2015 will be on the fact that much of the world’s seas, oceans and navigable waters remain unsurveyed. The tag-line for the theme has yet to be formulated.

26. Post-2015 agendas. The development of the post-2015 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction under the aegis of the United Nations offer an opportunity to highlight the fundamental role of hydrography in underpinning sustainable development and the reduction of marine disaster risks. The Directing Committee strives to make the best of this opportunity, both directly and through related initiatives and programmes such as the UN initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and the activities of the Group on Earth Observation (GEO). As the negotiation processes are driven and controlled by Member States, the efforts of the Directing Committee need to be taken forward at the national and regional levels (IHO CL 53/2014 refers).

27. IHO Stakeholder Forum. An IHO Stakeholder Forum is planned on the occasion of the next Conference of the International Federation of Hydrographic Societies (IFHS), Hydro14, which will take place in Aberdeen, United Kingdom, from 28 to 30 October 2014. The Forum will explore how to improve the two-way interaction between the IHO and industry (IHO CL 24/2014 refers).

28. International Hydrographic Review. The IHR provides an ideal opportunity for Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in the region. An Editorial Board comprising a representative from each RHC has been established. The EAtHC representative is Mr. Olumide Omotoso (Nigeria). Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the Editor (ihreview@iho.int, copy to ian.halls1@defence.au.gov).

Action Requested of EAtHC

29. EAtHC Members are invited to:

- **Note** this report,
- **Consider** the Commission contribution to the 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference;
- **Provide** update or confirmation of their C-55 and Year Book entries as appropriate;
- **Consider** the Commission contribution to promoting the views and interests of the IHO in the post-2015 UN processes; and

- **Take any other actions** as considered appropriate.

30. The Region G ICCWG is invited to:

- **Consider** the IHB “INToGIS” project specifications and tasks when they are made available (early 2015).