

13<sup>th</sup> Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission  
Conference Minutes

Casablanca (Morocco), 16-18<sup>th</sup> September 2014

## List of Abbreviations

AO	Angola
ARSTM	Académie Régionale des Sciences et Techniques de la Mer (Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire)
CB	Capacity Building
CD	Democratic Republic of the Congo
CG	Republic of the Congo
CI	Côte d'Ivoire
EAthC	Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission
ES	Spain
EU	European Union
FR	France
GH	Ghana
GN	Guinea
GW	Guinea Bissau
IAEA	International Agency of Atomic Energy
IALA	International Association of Lighthouse Authorities
IGA	Ingénieur Général de l'Armement
IHB	International Hydrographic Bureau
IHM	Instituto Hidrográfico de la Marina (ES)
IHO	International Hydrographic Organization
IHPT	Instituto Hidrográfico (PT)
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Organization
IODE	International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange
MOWCA	Maritime Organization of Western and Central Africa
MSI	Maritime Safety Information
NG	Nigeria

ODINAFRICA	Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa
PMAWCA	Port Management Association of West and Central Africa
PT	Portugal
RA	Rear Admiral (Contre-Amiral)
RHC	Regional Hydrographic Commission
RMU	Regional Maritime University, Accra (Ghana)
SHOM	Service Hydrographique et Océanographique de la Marine (FR)
SN	Senegal
SOLAS	Safety Of Life At Sea
UK	United Kingdom
UKHO	United Kingdom Hydrographic Office

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

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## 1. Opening

The Conference took place at the *Centre d'Entraînement et de Simulation Navale de l'École Royale Navale de Casablanca*.

### 1.1 Opening session

- **Host's Welcome Words**

This 13th EAtHC Conference's opening ceremony started with an address from Rear Admiral Dakhni, Deputy Inspector of *Royal Moroccan Navy*, who first welcomed all the participants to Casablanca for this 13<sup>th</sup> EAtHC Conference. RA Dakhni raised the importance of maritime aspects in the history and development of Morocco, together with the current expansion of the National Hydrographic Service. Even though the sovereignty of the national waters drove its creation, its role could be extended soon to supporting the development of marine renewable energies, naval support to universities' scientific initiatives and environmental protection. This national 'hydrographic reform' demands strong investment, strengthened by more human resources and new equipment acquisition, such as a new hydro-oceanographic vessel, and is achieved within the cooperation framework with SHOM. In conclusion, RA Dakhni stated the cooperation in Atlantic Ocean is a harmonious and peaceful raw model for all coastal States in that region.

- **Chairman's Opening Speech (Bruno Frachon, SHOM's Director General, France)**

*Bienvenue à cette 13eme conférence de la CHAtO, qui se tient pour la première fois à Casablanca. J'ai en particulier l'honneur de souhaiter la bienvenue à monsieur le ministre délégué à la marine marchande de la République du Congo (dont la présence marque toute l'importance des sujets que nous allons traiter dans cette conférence). J'ai également le plaisir de souhaiter la bienvenue à deux Hydrographes récemment nommés, le capitaine de vaisseau Nuhu J. Bala du Nigeria, et le contre-amiral José de Mélo du Portugal. Le capitaine de vaisseau Fernandez de Mesa Temboursy participe à sa deuxième réunion. Et nous avons la présence du BHI le directeur Gilles Bessero et l'assistant aux directeurs Yves Guillam.*

*Je salue également la participation de l'OMAOC, représentée par son directeur technique, et aussi par des responsables de l'ARSTM d'Abidjan, et de l'UMR d'Accra,*

*Je suis très heureux de nous voir aussi nombreux, et je suis persuadé qu'outre l'intérêt de l'ordre du jour, la réputation de l'hospitalité marocaine a facilité cette participation. Je tiens donc tout particulièrement à remercier le royaume du Maroc, la Marine Royale pour l'organisation logistique*

*de cette conférence. Les conditions de déroulement de la conférence dans ce Centre de Simulation et d'Entraînement Naval sont excellentes,*

*Les conférences des CHR sont des événements complexes, mais organiser la CHAtO, qui fait partie du petit nombre des CHRs qui concernent plusieurs continents, est un défi. Peut-être pourrions-nous à la fin de la conférence réfléchir aux moyens de faciliter la préparation des conférences.*

First of all, IGA Frachon thanked RA Dakhni for his welcome speech. He acknowledged the presence of the Merchant Navy Minister of the Republic of the Congo (CG) and welcomed the two new national Hydrographers of Portugal and Nigeria for their first participation in EAtHC events. The participation of several international organizations was also emphasized.

Before going through the administrative announcements, the Chairman invited all participants to introduce themselves. M. Coussoud-Mavoungou, Minister of Merchant Navy and Head of CG delegation indicated that he is also attending that Conference as Vice-Chairman of MOWCA and Vice-President of the administration board of the ARSTM. He pointed out that the development of hydrography is a high priority for his country and the whole region. He concluded his statement by announcing his intention to initiate the IHO membership process and asked for the support of the other coastal States of the region in that initiative.

- **IHB Director's Opening Statement**

*EAtHC13-01D      IHB Director' Statement / Déclaration du Directeur du BHI*

In his speech, M. Bessero outlined the fact that this EAtHC Conference is hosted for the first time by a North African country, which emphasizes the will of Morocco to play a major role in the hydrographic community of that region. Although this 13<sup>th</sup> Conference prequels the forthcoming 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Commission, progresses are still to be made in the region, and the recurrent absence of some coastal States of the region from EAtHC events is one signal among others. In that perspective of development, the IHB encourages the development of a voluntary strategy to move forward in the region. If joint initiatives and cooperative projects are welcome, it is also important that coastal States take ownership of the relevant actions as "hydrography" is inherent of any coastal infrastructure.

## **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 but Cameroon. 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.

Some administrative announcements were done about the conference by the Host Country.

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

The provisional agenda which had been circulated to Members and Associate Members of the Commission, was approved by the Members of the commission.

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

### **2.1 Chairman's report (France –SHOM General Director)**

*EAtHC13-02A Chairman's Report / Rapport du Président*

The Chairman gave a presentation of his report, highlighting the main events and milestones achieved since the last Conference. He indicated that the different topics will be addressed in details throughout the Conference agenda items. CG thanked the Chairman for a very comprehensive and detailed report. CG insisted on the importance to address the question of capacity building in the region.

### **2.2 Designation of the vice-chair of the Conference**

According to the EAtHC statutes, CV Abdelouahed Dihaji (Morocco) was confirmed as the Vice-Chairman of the Conference by all the members of the commission.

Before breaking for the official photo of that 13<sup>th</sup> Conference, the Chairman invited M. Coussoud-Mavougou, Head of CG delegation, to sign the EAtHC Statutes and officially become an Associate Member of the EAtHC.

### **2.3. Status of the action list from the 12<sup>th</sup> EAtHC Conference**

*EAtHC13-02B Actions List from EAtHC-12 and Status / Liste des actions de la CHAtO-12 et état d'avancement*

An update on the status of the action list from the 12<sup>th</sup> EAtHC Conference was presented by France.

**Action EAtHC 12-1** – *Representatives in the EAtHC Observers' countries are requested to contact their national authorities to encourage to sign the EAtHC Statutes.*

The Chairman suggested that EAtHC Observers indicate whether they are willing to sign the EAtHC Statutes when they present their national reports (see also **Action EAtHC 13-1**).

**Action EAtHC 12-2** – *Coastal States to report regularly to IHB all information relevant for updating the status of hydrographic services and capabilities, including the provision of the list of POCs for the IHO Yearbook. IHO Yearbook to be updated by EAtHC once a year. IHB to add the date of the update for every Coastal State. No changes need to be reported as well.*

A contact form provided by the IHB was circulated to update EAtHC coastal States details in the IHO Yearbook. Coastal States are expected to fill this form and to give it back to the IHB by the end of the following day, before the hosted dinner (see also **Action EAtHC 13-2**).

**Action EAtHC 12-3** – *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.*

A questionnaire was also provided by the Regional CB co-ordinator to the participants in order to indicate their national organization of key hydrographic components (MSI contacts, charting authority, bilateral agreement, etc). Coastal States are expected to fill this form and to give it back to the EAtHC CB Co-ordinator by the end of the following day, before the hosted dinner (see also **Action EAtHC 13-3**).

**Action EAtHC 12-4** – *Continue to engage pending applicants in the region to encourage the ratification of the IHO Convention.*

This action is still pending, as two EAtHC coastal States which have received the approval of the required 2/3 majority haven't ratified the IHO Convention.

**Action EAtHC 12-5** – *Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership (e.g. Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam, Georgia).*

This action is still pending, as several EAtHC coastal States haven't given their approval to some pending applicants.

**Action EAtHC 12-6** – *New candidates to IHO should proceed in parallel through diplomatic channels to get approval from IHO Member States (See Pub M-2).*

This action is considered as permanent for the EAtHC Conference (**Action EAtHC 13-6**). Besides, it is to be reported CG has the intention of applying for IHO membership.

**Action EAtHC 12-7** – *Continue to engage suspended Member States in the region to encourage their re-insertion in IHO.*

The only suspended member of that region, CD, had registered for this 13<sup>th</sup> EAtHC Conference, as for the 6<sup>th</sup> HSSC meeting to be held in Chile next November.

**Action EAtHC 12-8** – *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).*

This action is to be rephrased to include all types of vessels concerned by the mandatory ENC carriage rules.

**Action EAtHC 12-9** – *To liaise with NAVAREA II Coordinator for Maritime Safety Information (Nil report requested, if applicable, at least every 3 months). To inform NAVAREA II Coordinator regarding oil platforms locations and moving forecasts.*

This action is still pending. It is to be reported that only CG provided the locations of oil platform in their national waters. For the other coastal States, those pieces of information are to be provided through the EAtHC13 questionnaire (see also **Actions EAtHC 13-9 and 13-10**).

**Action EAtHC 12-10** – *To identify all NAVTEX projects POCs, and respond to questions raised by IMO NAVTEX Panel in cooperation with the NAVAREA II co-ordinator.*

This action is still pending. Those pieces of information are to be provided through the EAtHC13 questionnaire (see **Action EAtHC 13-11**).

**Action EAtHC 12-11** – *To provide IHB and EAtHC Chair with official documents related to national hydrographic committees, organization and general procedures set up, to be considered for inclusion in C-16.*

This action is still pending. Those pieces of information are to be provided through the EAtHC13 questionnaire (see **Action EAtHC 13-12**).

**Action EAtHC 12-12** – *To review the procedures for the transmission of survey data, in order to make sure that all relevant national organisations can access the survey data covering their national waters.*

This action is still pending. Those pieces of information are to be provided through the EAtHC13 questionnaire.

**Action EAtHC 12-13** – *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.*

This action is to be rephrased by the EAtHC ICC co-ordinator to provide coastal States with a generic clause to be included in every contracting document referring to the conduct of surveys in their national waters. This provision will ensure the transmission of survey data to the relevant charting authority.

**Action EAtHC 12-14** – *To invite Coastal States to make official agreements with the actual cartographic authorities of the region, in accordance with SOLAS Chap. V.*

This action is still pending. Besides, planned or signed agreements are to be reported through the EAtHC13 questionnaire (see **Action EAtHC 13-18**).

**Action EAtHC 12-15** – *To consult the IHO website ([www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int)) on a regular basis to keep abreast of IHO activities, e.g. all relevant Capacity Building letters and documents.*

This action is considered as a permanent EAtHC action (**Action EAtHC 13-19**).

**Action EAtHC 12-16** – *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.*

This action is considered as a permanent EAtHC action. Capacity building topics will be specifically addressed under the Capacity building agenda item (see also **Action EAtHC 13-20**).

**Action EAtHC 12-17** – *To implement the recommendations stated in the technical visits reports, namely:*

1. to implement the SOLAS obligations through bilateral arrangements;
2. to create a National Hydrographic Committee.

This action is considered as a permanent EAtHC action.

**Action EAtHC 12-18** – *EAtHC members and associated members to provide information (actual status, needs) about training courses in hydrography to develop a regional hydrographic capability.*

This action is to be considered as effected. A questionnaire has been disseminated to all EAtHC coastal States through circular letter EAtHC CL02/2013 dated April 16<sup>th</sup> 2013. The results of that survey will be presented under the Capacity Building agenda item (8.1).

**Action EAtHC 12-19** – *To explore possible ways of coordination between training centres in the region.*

This action is considered as a permanent EAtHC action. Training opportunities and issues will be addressed further on, under the Capacity building agenda item (8.1).

**Action EAtHC 12-20** – *To set up a meeting between the IHO, the Maritime Organization of West and Central Africa (MOWCA) on Hydrography and Cartography and the EAtHC members of the region.*

This action is to be considered as effected. A seminar was held on November 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> 2013 in Pointe Noire (CG) with representatives of IHO (IHB Director and EAtHC Chairman), MOWCA and of several EAtHC coastal States. A report of that meeting was issued through EAtHC circular letter 04/2014 dated May 14<sup>th</sup> 2014.

**Action EAtHC 12-21** – *To suggest PMAWCA to consider including special session on hydrographic capacity as an agenda item for discussion at its subsequent meetings. To invite PMAWCA through a letter to encourage its members to comply with IMO SOLAS Chap. V Reg. 9. To inform MOWCA about this initiative.*

This action is to be considered as pending. Indeed, the 37<sup>th</sup> PMAWCA Annual Council that was supposed to be held in Equatorial Guinea in the last 2014 quarter has been postponed to a later date due to the sanitary situation in Western Africa. A letter will be sent to PMAWCA prior to the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Council raising those concerns, after seeking MOWCA endorsement (**Action EAtHC 13-30**).

**Action EAtHC 12-22** – *To invite non-IHO EAtHC Member States, PMAWCA and MOWCA to participate in the fifth Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (2014).*

This action is to be considered as effected. All circular letters have been disseminated to EAtHC coastal States by the EAtHC Secretariat. IHB reported that only PMAWCA has been invited to EIHC5 in the framework of the MoU with the IHO. MOWCA could not be invited as there is no pending MoU between the IHO and this organization. The EAtHC Chairman apologized to the Commission as a draft MoU had been submitted by MOWCA to the EAtHC but has not been finalized yet.

**Action EAtHC 12-23** – *To define a list of National priorities on hydrographic surveying with the aim of improving the hydrographic coverage in the region, as a response to the XVIII International Hydrographic Conference, decision 17.*

This action is considered as pending. Coastal States are invited to provide those pieces of information through the EAtHC13 questionnaire distributed earlier on (see **Action EAtHC 13-24**).

**Action EAtHC 12-24** – *To establish a priority list of large scale ENC's for region G non covered main harbours.*

This action is to be considered as effected. EAtHC circular letter 01/2013 dated March 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 invited the coastal States to provide such information. Results will be presented by the Region G ICC Co-ordinator under the ENC Coverage Agenda item (7.2).

**Action EAtHC 12-25** – *EAtHC members and associated members to check and update the MSI Points of Contact to NAVAREA II coordinator, even in case of no changes at all.*

This action is to be considered as a Permanent EAtHC action. FR indicated that since the last Conference, Coastal States have been solicited at several occasions to update their MSI Points of Contacts: EAtHC Circular letter 04/2013 dated July 15<sup>th</sup> 2013 and E-mails dated December 2013 and February 2014. Every solicitation received few punctual replies. Coastal States are now invited to provide those pieces of information through the EAtHC13 questionnaire distributed earlier on.

**Action EAtHC 12-26** – *To respond to EAtHC CL 1/2012 (3May2012) regarding IHO Response to Marine Disasters.*

This action is to be considered as effected. Since then, it is to be noticed that the 1/2005 resolution has been amended to encompass the contribution of HOs to the regional Tsunamis alert and prevention systems.

**Action EAtHC 12-27** – *To send an invitation letter to IBSC for a technical visit to the Nigeria Hydrographic School.*

This action is to be considered as effected. EAtHC letter 01/2013 dated April 12<sup>th</sup> 2013 was sent to IBSC to raise that concern on the NNHS. FR reported IBSC took this request into consideration prior to their annual meeting in April 2013, but responded that the certification process is focused on training courses rather than on training centres.

**Action EAtHC 12-28** – *To send the 12th EAtHC report with a dedicated cover letter from the Chair stressing the importance of setting up national hydrographic committees.*

This action is to be considered as effected. EAtHC Circular letter 02/2013 dated April 18<sup>th</sup> 2013 was sent to EAtHC coastal States, together with the EAtHC12 Minutes.

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

*EAtHC13-03A IHO/IHB Matters (IHB) / Sujets concernant l'OHI / le BHI (BHI) (présentation)*

The IHO Director Gilles BESSERO gave a brief report on IHO/IHB matters covering the following issues: IHO administration (status of approval of the Protocol of amendments to the IHO Convention, status of approval of new Member States to the IHO); 5<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference; Region G INT Chart and ENC production issues; IHO GIS project; C-55 updates; IHO publicity (World Hydrographic Day and International Hydrographic Review).

The Conference noted the report. The Chairman thanked the IHB for this 'crystal clear' and accurate presentation. He also indicated that the coastal States are invited to express their views and concerns on the importance of hydrography in their maritime development as for the prevention of marine disasters during their national report presentation. Regarding Capacity Building, the importance of building up a five years plan remains one of the Commission priorities. The Chairman indicated that some actions are required to take account of the IHO GIS in our reflexion related to this region. Besides, it is to be noted that the IHB and PRIMAR are preparing a WMS web-service which will allow Member States to visualize ENC contents.

## **4. National Reports**

The sequence of the presentation of the National Reports followed the alphabetical order of the countries in English, from members to observers.

### **4.1 France Report**

*EAtHC13-04B France National Report / Rapport national de la France*

FR presented the main lines of its national report.

SN expressed its satisfaction about the cooperation between the two States in the scope of their bilateral arrangement. However, SN outlined the rather long delays before receiving the survey data: the data from the 2010 survey were transmitted in 2013, and those from the 2013 surveys have not been transmitted yet.

FR explained that delay by mentioning the processing time is rather long and that data sets are transmitted once the data have been entirely processed. However, FR stated that from now, efforts will be made to transmit intermediary results of surveys shortly after their achievement.

### **4.2 Morocco Report**

*EAtHC13-04C Morocco National Report / Rapport national du Maroc*

MA gave a comprehensive presentation of its national report, emphasizing the development of the future national hydrographic office and the various cooperation initiatives with France. It was also requested that the Region G Chart Coordinator makes sure that the new INT charts in progress are duly included in S-11 Part B.

The Chairman outlined the good level of cooperation between the different national bodies. He asked if the tidal data are available in real time, in order to assist tsunami alert and prevention systems. MA replied only data acquired by the Moroccan Meteorological Office are available in real time so far. MA added that every aspects of the harmonization of skills and responsibilities between the different national bodies in terms of hydro-oceanographic data will be clarified by the end of 2015, with the signature of the 'Dahir', royal decree announcing the creation of the National Hydrographic Office.

### **4.3 Nigeria Report**

*EAtHC13-04D Nigeria National Report / Rapport national du Nigeria*

The Nigerian Hydrographer first apologized for not attending the first day of the Conference. He gave a summary presentation of Nigerian activities, namely the Navy's Hydrographic Office activities, emphasizing the ongoing survey works in Lagos entrances in cooperation with Norway, the training opportunities offered by India and Bangladesh, the lack of GIS skills and the need to initiate a procedure to improve the NNHS level of recognition for which NG invited the IHO officials to visit the school.

The president asked NG if it could be possible to know more about the contents of 'Survey recorder' (SR) courses (SR1 and SR2) provided at the NNHS. NG reported that SR courses are designed for Nigerian Navy able seamen to fulfill the needs of the Navy in field operators. However, the small budget and the few equipment available prevent it from being further developed. It was then noted down as an action for NG to provide further details regarding the content of its 'survey recorder' course (**Action EAtHC 13-25**).

#### **4.4 Portugal Report**

*EAtHC13-04E Portugal National Report / Rapport national du Portugal*

PT gave an interesting presentation on IHPT activities, emphasizing the survey work planned in Cabo Verde in 2015 within the framework of a bilateral agreement and the current cooperation with Spain (IHM) to achieve joint surveys and maybe on operational oceanography.

The Chairman asked PT how the IHPT intent to use the water column reflectivity data it has acquired, and if the bottom reflectivity is actually exploited. PT replied that water column reflectivity is used to determine or confirm minimum depth values where there are some specific structures or objects in the bottom. The bottom reflectivity (backscatter) data are used to support seafloor type classification.

The Chairman noted the survey work planned in Cabo Verde waters in 2015, asking if it would be relevant to organize capacity building actions during this deployment. PT indicated that those survey works are conducted in the scope of a bilateral agreement between the two States which does not include capacity building.

Then the IHB congratulated the IHPT for the significant amount of foreign students (6 per year over the last 35 years) trained at the IHPT Academy and asked under which conditions foreign students can be accepted. PT replied the main conditions for student access are the language and the financial cost, outlining that external funding would be more than welcome (EU, World Bank, etc).

#### **4.5 Spain Report**

*EAtHC13-04F Spain National Report / Rapport national de l'Espagne*

The ES representative gave a comprehensive presentation of the IHM activities since EAtHC12, pointing at the ongoing partnership with several civilian Spanish organisations in terms of vessels mutualization, the validated S-44 special order procedure validated for the use of interferometric echosounder, the current development of an IHM data portal and the cooperation with PT (IHPT) on tides, surveys and oceanography.

Noting the strong cooperation between IHM and IHPT in various fields, the Chairman acknowledged all cooperation between Hydrographic Offices in the region. In the meantime, he pointed out the

studies achieved by ES on interferometric echosounder performances, asking if ES could provide its results to the EAtHC community. ES answered they would be willing to provide such information (**Action EAtHC 13-32**).

Then the Chairman pointed out the need for a better understanding of how GIS tools could be used to collect information related to survey status, echoing the compilation work achieved by ES in relation with the status of surveys in the Mediterranean region (region F).

#### **4.6 Republic of Congo Report**

*EAtHC13-04H Congo (Rep. of the) National Report / Rapport national du Congo (Rép .du)*

The CG delegate informed the Conference about the improvements since the last meeting, emphasizing the national role ensured by the hydrographic department of the Port of Pointe Noire, the hydro-sedimentary phenomena in Pointe Noire causing significant changes of the local bathymetry, the MBES equipment acquisition project, the planned survey works and the need for training which are to be formalized with a national training programme to be published. It was also requested to speed up, if possible, the new editions of nautical charts following recent surveys.

The Chairman acknowledged the work achieved in the development of the Port of Pointe Noire.

#### **4.7 Côte d'Ivoire Report**

*EAtHC13-04I Côte d'Ivoire National Report / Rapport national de la Côte d'Ivoire*

The CI delegate provided a complete review of hydrographic activities, insisting on the existing MBES equipment since 2014, some scattered and uncoordinated private survey works achieved which suffer from lack of supervision, the role of Abidjan Autonomous Port in MSI as national co-ordinator in charge of AIS and aids-to-navigation deployment and the oceanographic data pooling programme under the IOC framework (ONDINAFRICA programme) for online publication.

The Chairman asked if there is an ongoing national initiative to coordinate hydrographic surveys. He also noted the fact that there's a current pooling process on oceanographic data, wondering if this could be extended to hydrographic data. CI delegate replied that the coordination process is pending reminding that such major decisions are up to the political level.

SN agreed with CI on the fact that hydrography shall be addressed as a national concern at the political level, and that it is the responsibility of governments to guarantee navigation safety in their national waters, as it stands as a strong IMO requirement.

The Chairman added that raising the awareness of hydrography at the political level is to be addressed during the technical visits performed by the IHO.

#### **4.8 Ghana Report**

*EAtHC13-04L Ghana National Report / Rapport national du Ghana*

GH gave an informative presentation on the activities of the Maritime Administration, pointing at the ongoing process to become an IHO member and the recent creation of a National Hydrographic Committee, with the involvement of the offshore industry.

The Chairman thanked GH for this report, asking if GH wishes to become an Associate member of the EAthC. GH delegate replied this question will be addressed together with the IHO membership. The Chairman asked if some documents referring to the creation of the National Hydrographic Committee exist. GH indicated that since this Committee has just been created, such documents do not exist yet.

#### **4.4 Guinea Report**

*EAtHC13-04M Guinea National Report / Rapport national de la Guinée*

GN presented their activities since the last Conference, emphasizing on survey work, port development and beaconing renewal. The GN delegate also pointed out there's no hydrographic service but a specific committee to address the safety of navigation and the nomination of a maritime prefect.

The Chairman raised the importance of port development in GU and the whole sub-region, adding the current regional chart scheme seems relevant with regards to the ongoing settlement of port facilities.

#### **4.4 Guinea Bissau Report**

*EAtHC13-04N Guinea-Bissau National Report / Rapport national de la Guinée-Bissau*

The GW delegate gave a presentation of hydrographic activities, noting that since the military uprising in his country, all cooperation funding have been cut off.

#### **4.8 Senegal Report**

*EAtHC13-04P Senegal National Report / Rapport national du Sénégal*

The SN delegate reported the past activities regarding hydrography, emphasizing the navigation channel issues in the St. Louis mouth of Senegal river due to sedimentary hydrodynamic, the need of creating a specific sub-regional hydrographic course taking advantage of the Maritime Academy already in place (ARSTM, RMU Accra) and the lack of support on survey equipment due to heavy public contract procedures. SN asked to raise hydrography as a national public utility concern, in order to avoid cumbersome procedures for equipment acquisition.

#### **4.10 UK Report**

*EAtHC13-04R UK National Report / Rapport national du Royaume-Uni*

The UK delegate gave a comprehensive presentation of their activities in the region, emphasizing on the production of the anti-piracy Q6114 chart covering West Africa and the Gulf of Guinea, and of a *Port Approach Guide*, based on S-49 IHO Standards.

IHB asked if those guides will be available in a digital format, which UK could not confirm.

NG asked about the need to maintain the production of an overview usage band ENC of its waters, assuming NG could decide about the coverage of its own waters and instruct UK to produce accordingly. UK noted that this usage band is mainly used for passage route, and that ENC production is based on existing paper chart coverage. Then NG pointed out the lack of training sessions organized by UKHO, which UK justified with the financial cost of those courses.

## 4.12 Angola Report

*EAtHCA3-04T* Angola national report / rapport national de l'Angola

For their first attendance to an EAtHC Conference, AO gave a full presentation of its organization and activities, pointing at the recent purchase of catamarans vessels in Spain, the training support provided by IHPT and the upgrade of their charts by private companies. Angola representatives were invited to consider the signature of the statutes of the EAtHC so this country can become Associate Member.

## 5. Committees and working groups with EAtHC representatives

### 5.1 IRCC

*EAtHC13-05.1A* IRCC6 report / Rapport de l'IRCC6

*EAtHC13-05.1B* Action, decisions, tasks from IRCC-6 of interest to EAtHC, and Status / Actions, décisions, tâches de l'IRCC-6, qui intéressent la CHAtO, et leur état d'avancement

The Chairman gave a brief on the two IRCC meetings that took place in 2013 (Wollogong, Australia) and in 2014 (Paris, France), emphasizing on the following main achievements below:

- The revision of B-6 publication on the Standardization of Undersea Feature Names;
- The amendment of resolution 1/2005 concerning the response to marine disasters to take account of the contribution of tidal observation networks to tsunami alert systems;
- The revision of the IHO Capacity Building strategy;
- The constitution of a working group in charge of the liaison between the Hydrographic Community and the European Commission;
- The validation of the revisions on the IHO S-5 publication on standards of competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Cartographers and the approval of the work programme to issue a new version of those documents;
- The improvements related to the implementation of the principles on developing a worldwide electronic nautical charts database lead by the WEND WG;
- The confirmation of the interest of risk management analysis to prioritize hydrographic surveys;
- A first analysis on the use of unconventional survey methods to acquire hydrographic data (satellite derived bathymetry, crowd-sourcing bathymetry), and the need for RHC to address their use within their area of interest;
- The proposal of transferring the Maritime Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDI WG) from HSSC to IRCC;
- The identification of the need to improve the access of the Primary Charting Authorities to survey data acquired by outsiders in coastal States' waters.

Then all IRCC6 actions relevant for EAtHC and their status were addressed and some of them were commented.

**Action IRCC6/05** – IRCC6 05/2014 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 is already a Commission's permanent action (**Action EAtHC 13-5**).

**Action IRCC6/17** – Invite Hydrographic Office representatives to be prepared to discuss Proposals 4 (Crowd Sourced Bathymetry - CSB) and 6 (Satellite Derived Bathymetry- SDB) during EIHC5.

The Chairman pointed out the fact those topics encompass both technical and conceptual issues.

**Action IRCC6/42** – Notify Member States in their regions of opportunities for interaction and encourage participation with relevant stakeholders in accordance with CL 8/2014.

The Chairman recalled that HSSC issued a list of events thought to be opportunities for IHO to be represented by its Member States, taking into account available resources. The IHO CL 8/2014 summarizes the MS participation linked with those events. MS that wish to represent IHO to 'unattended' events are invited to liaise with the IHB.

In line with that initiative, the Chairman announced that France will represent the IHO to the 9<sup>th</sup> SeaTech Week in Brest on October 13-17<sup>th</sup> 2014 and to the 11th Plenary Meeting of the Group On Earth Observations GEO-XI to be held in Libreville<sup>1</sup> (Gabon) on November 13-14th 2014. Therefore, it was decided that France would confirm its participation to that GEO-XI under an appropriate action (**Action EAtHC 13-31**).

NG suggested organizing a seminar to raise awareness on the use of hydro-oceanographic data, asking the EAtHC to take it into consideration. The Chairman asked NG if they meant to raise the awareness of political decision makers or the regional hydrographic community on the potential uses of those data. NG emphasized the importance to elaborate a strategy taking account of the particularities of the region, mentioning the potential threats of marine disasters on Nigerian coasts. The Chairman recalled the existence of a framework for marine disasters with IHO Resolution 1/2005, pointing out the need to think about what more can be achieved in this field for the region.

## 5.2 WEND-WG

*EAtHC13-05.2A WEND-WG report / Rapport du WEND-WG*

As confirmed at the EAtHC12, France, international charting Co-ordinator for the region G, represented EAtHC to the third and fourth WEND WG meetings. France gave a brief report on the work achieved by that WG, emphasizing the progresses made on an application guide to the WEND Principles, the definition of a procedure to deal with ENC overlaps, and some aspects regarding ENC distribution and accessibility.

IHB then mentioned the amendment to the Guidance for the Establishment of ENC Production Boundaries annexed to the WEND Principles (IHO Resolution 1/1997 as amended) which introduces the definition of cartographic boundaries. The amended text of IHO Resolution 1/1997 is now available in publication M-3 posted on the IHO website.

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<sup>1</sup> Due to sanitary conditions in Africa, this event actually took place in Geneva (CH)

## **6. Feedback from related bodies**

### **6.1 RENCs**

*EAtHC13-06.1A PRIMAR presentation*

*EAtHC13-06.1B IC-ENC presentation*

Both RENCs gave very informative and comprehensive presentations to the floor about their activities. IC-ENC mentioned the creation of a branch in Latin America. Primar emphasized the release of its Inspector tools to help vessels to get the appropriate ENC coverage for their journey.

Following those presentations, NG shared its will to see RENCs supporting other organizations to produce ENCs. IC-ENC agreed with that statement, adding that other stakeholders can be supported as well. The Chairman asked the floor about the best moment in the development of hydrographic capacities to benefit from support in ENC production. He also noted that the contribution of RENCs tools to the different Capacity Building phases could be considered within the IHO Capacity Building Strategy. UK, as Primary Charting Authority for NG, stated that the question of responsibility remain central in addressing that issue. It cannot be considered as a simple technical issue. M. Bjorn Rohlich, SevenCs representative stated there is still several areas in the Region G with no ENC coverage (based on existing charts) that need to be filled urgently, considering the mandatory ECDIS carriage requirement now in force for several ship categories. IHB disagreed with this statement, noting that the reports provided to the IMO do not identify any significant gaps in both small and medium scales regional schemes. The Chairman stated that better production methods does not prevent from setting up a proper organization around maritime safety information (gathering, dissemination, update) which constitute the core of any ENC production. UK expressed its full support to both Chair and IHB comments, adding it is a national obligation for coastal States through the SOLAS convention to dispose of a full ENC coverage.

### **6.2 IALA –AISM**

*EAtHC13-06.2A IALA report / Rapport de l’AISM*

M. Jacques Manchard presented IALA activities in the region, among them the IALA World Wide Academy achievements and the change of status project, from a non-governmental organization (NGO) to that of an international intergovernmental organization (IGO).

Following up that presentation, CI explained that the Autonomous Port of Abidjan has been appointed as the national authority for the provision of aids to navigation along the whole coasts of Côte d’Ivoire. CI asked IALA for a technical visit to assist them in that task, and how to initiate such a request. M. Manchard invited CI to send a formal letter to IALA by the end of October 2014 so that request can be taken into account in IALA’s 2015 work programme.

### **6.3 GEBCO**

*EAtHC13-06.3A GEBCO committee report / Rapport du comité GEBCO*

Ms. Marzia Rovere (ISMAR) gave a complete overview of the GECBO activities and projects. IHB pointed out the need to address the potential connections between GEBCO and EMODNET, a task

which could be taken care of by the IHO-EU Network. FR ensured that such a focus between those two projects will be considered in the agenda of the forthcoming IHO-EU Network meetings (**Action EAtHC 13-36**).

IHB also asked GEBCO to provide status of the IBCEA project, or at least to determine whether it should be abandoned or revived. GEBCO replied that the Commission has to take a decision upon the future of that project in liaison with the GEBCO Sub-Committee on Regional Undersea Mapping (SCRUM) (**Action EAtHC 13-35**).

## 6.4 IOC-COI

*EAtHC13-06.4A NEAMTWS presentation/présentation du NEAMTWS*

Ms. Francesca Santoro, IOC representative, provided the floor with a complete presentation on IOC activities, emphasizing on Africa as the UNESCO priority, the Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa (ONDINAFRICA), one of the projects of the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange programme (IODE), and announcing the Regional Workshop on Tsunami Warning and Emergency Response for the North-Eastern Atlantic, Mediterranean and connected seas (NEAMTWS) to be held on 23-24 September 2014 in Rabat.

After that presentation, the Chairman suggested to address the IOC recommendations made by the IOC. IOC stressed the need to organize awareness seminars for the stakeholders of the region, in line with the ONDINAFRICA project of which IOC is responsible for. IOC suggested to organize an IHO-IOC seminar on marine disasters. NG raised the need for African coastal States to address the management of marine disasters, more precisely how the development of hydrography (coordination, data exchange) in the region could improve the prevention of such disasters.

The Chairman then suggested to setup a correspondence WG lead by NG, in liaison with IOC, with the purpose of identifying the stakeholders, the networks and the questions to address. This WG could then issue some recommendations towards the political level and the IRCC, and eventually towards the African Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIM Strategy 2050). NG accepted to lead this WG.

After further discussions, and in order to develop the assessment of the impact of marine disasters in the region, the members of the commission finally agreed, as a Conference action, that this correspondence WG would address the following points (**Action EAtHC 13-26**):

- identify stakeholders/networks/sectors vulnerable to Marine Disasters issues,
- define a common framework in line with both IHO and IOC mandates,
- adopt a strategy to be used in a IHO-IOC awareness programme;
- organize an IHO-IOC regional workshop on marine disasters.

An additional action was agreed to support the implementation of the NEAMTWS and exchange bathymetric data relevant for tsunami and coastal inundation modelling (**Action EAtHC 13-34**).

## 6.5 MOWCA-OMAO

*EAtHC13-06.5A MOWCA report/ Rapport de l'OMAO*

Colonel Mariko, MOWCA representative, presented the MOWCA objectives and mandates, emphasizing the existing Maritime fund, the importance of the coast guard function in the region, as much as the Information and Communication Centre in Abidjan (for Maritime Security), then concluding with the main conditions to develop hydrography in the region: government commitment, technical training and equipment mutualization. He also pointed out the need to formalize the IHO-MOWCA cooperation through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The Chairman stressed the importance of getting support from such an organization as MOWCA in the region, adding that MOWCA could provide support: technical, human, at the political level or to raise awareness and even the interaction with other maritime components (**Actions EAtHC 13-21 and 22**). The floor was then informed that a MoU project has been circulated and will soon be disseminated to the EAtHC Member States for approval under an EAtHC13 action (**Action EAtHC 13-23**).

## 7. Aspects concerning to EAtHC

### 7.1 INT chart scheme for Region G

*EAtHC13-07.1A Status of INT Chart Scheme / Etat du schéma de cartes INT*

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. This presentation led to a discussion on the INT chart scheme over Gibraltar Strait, in order to address the production plan regarding this area.

Following up on this presentation, three actions suggested by the regional co-ordinator were agreed by the EAtHC members, regarding the transmission of data survey when contracting surveys with third parties (**Action EAtHC 13-14**), regarding the provision of a generic clause in contracting document to ensure survey data provision (**Action EAtHC 13-15**) and finally concerning the provision of INT charts details to the regional co-ordinator by MS (**Action EAtHC 13-17**).

### 7.2 Development of the EAtHC ENC Scheme

*EAtHC13-07.2A ENC Coverage status / Etat de la couverture ENC*

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 then reported on the setup of the priority list of ports non-covered by large scale ENCs decided at EAtHC12. Among the 68 different harbours listed, one is only covered at UB2, 53 harbours only covered at UB3, 14 covered at UB4, of which 7 planned to be at UB5.

Following up this presentation, two actions suggested by FR were agreed by the EAtHC members, regarding the need to update the priority list on a yearly basis (**Action EAtHC 13-16**), and the need for MS to report on the current or planned routes for every ship categories under IMO regulations,

adapting the previous action EAtHC12-8 to IMO's Mandatory ECDIS carriage plan (**Action EAtHC 13-8**).

IHB recommended to have those actions completed before the next WEND meeting in February 2015 and to synchronize it with the provision of the Performance indicators to the next IRCC.

### **7.3 Hydrographic Survey Status (C-55)**

*EAtHC13-07.3A Status of C-55 for Region G / Etat de la C-55 pour la région G*

France provided an overview on the C-55 publication for the region G, emphasizing the need to update the information on a yearly basis, and introducing the new online version of the C-55 publication issued by the IHB.

Therefore, EAtHC members agreed to include the former EAtHC action 12-13 into a new EAtHC13 action, regarding the transmission and access of survey data (**Action EAtHC 13-13**).

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

*EAtHC13-07.4A NAVAREA II - Status Report / NAVAREA II - Rapport de situation*

France provided an overview of the activity within NAVAREA II, stressing the lack of feedback regarding NAVAREA II Points of Contacts, and no points of contact at all for some coastal States. France also commented the status of some NAVTEX stations, more particularly the Dakar stations which has stopped emitting for more than 2 years now. SN mentioned that ANAM, Agence Nationale des Affaires Maritimes, is now appointed to be the most appropriate administration to liaise with concerning the status of the Dakar NAVTEX station, but that organization is not aware of IHO. The Chairman recalled that as ANAM operates an component of the WWNWS, it is mandatory to liaise with its NAVAREA co-ordinator.

### **7.5 Marine / Hydrographic Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI)**

*EAtHC13-07.5A examples of MSDI applications / exemples d'applications MSDI*

This item was not addressed due to lack of time.

### **7.6 Risk assessment methodology**

*EAtHC13-07.6A Risk assessment methodology présentation/ présentation de la méthodologie relative à la maîtrise des risques*

This item was not addressed due to lack of time.

### **7.7 IMO Audit Scheme**

*EAtHC13-07.7A Audit schedule for the mandatory scheme/Calendrier du schéma d'audit de l'OMI*

IHB presented the objectives, scope, benefits, definition and implementation of the future audit scheme.

Among the 150 coastal States concerned by this audit scheme, most of the African States are listed in the first third of that list. Five coastal States in the EAtHC region will be among the first States to be audited in 2016.

The Chairman stressed the vocation of the commission to assist the Coastal States concerned by this audit. He suggested offering a pre-audit on hydrographic capacities to those States, whose conclusions and recommendations could be used as a reference to prepare this audit.

## 8. Capacity Building

### 8.1 Regional Co-ordinator report

*EAtHC13-08.1A Report on Capacity Building / Rapport sur le renforcement des capacités*

France presented the report on CB activities and initiatives within the region since the last Conference.

Following up that report, IALA stated its intention to liaise with MOWCA to develop several CB actions in the region. IHB reminded about the three existing IHO funded courses to be held in 2015, for which a call for nominations will be issued in due course, inviting the regional CB coordinator to disseminate the courses schedule and the deadline for submissions to CBSC13.

M.Omotoso from NG delegation stressed the need for coastal States to dispose of a universal document on Maritime Safety Information to organize MSI courses in Africa, then on the importance of good English knowledge by potential candidates before applying to IHO courses. M. Omotoso finally emphasized the need to set up an African certified course in hydrography.

The Chairman confirmed that the MSI course programme could be provided to the coastal States. IHB indicated that the materials already exist both in French and English. UK described the contents of the MSI course provided by UKHO, which is composed of a three-day MSI session followed by a two-day session dedicated to nautical charting production and update. UK insisted on the fact that this course has to be provided by appointed experts. NG pointed out the fact that MSI sessions are to be multiplied considering the importance of that topic and the training needs in the region. The possibility to perform their own MSI courses would help them to raise concern on the importance of MSI in the region according to NG. NG mentioned their intention to organize a maritime signalization conference. The Chairman then invited NG to provide the programme and details of the organization of that conference (**Action EAtHC 13-28**).

As for the importance of mastering the English language to attend IHO courses, the Chairman noted that this will be highlighted when informing coastal States about the different calls for nominations (**Action EAtHC 13-29**).

Regarding that aspect, Guinea-Bissau raised their difficulties to apply for those courses due to lack of English knowledge, asking the commission to consider the importance of training in other languages, such as Portuguese, in the region and to dedicate appropriated funding accordingly suggesting the creation of a training Lusophone pole. PT stated that it will be prepared a proposal to the frequency of IHPT courses by attendees of African Portuguese speaking countries, financed by CB or other donors, mentioning that the global estimation of costs need some time to be achieved properly. Morocco then pointed out the need to address the question of training as a regional project led by one or two EAtHC States. UK added that the question of funding is not an issue concerning MSI courses, as MSI courses are already available in French, English and Spanish and that there will always be funded by the CBSC as part of phase 1 of IHO capacity building strategy.

*EAtHC13-08.1B Design Study for a sub-regional CB Project / étude de définition pour un projet sous-regional de renforcement des capacités*

FR gave an informative presentation of the study for a comprehensive regional CB project submitted and approved at the last CBSC meeting. UK congratulated FR for that definition study, pointing at the

similarities between that project and other initiatives (like the OECS project in the MACHC region) and noting that they would be happy to contribute.

The Chairman emphasized the interest for that study to benefit from tools and methods settled in other RHCs, echoing the will of the IRCC Chairman to develop cooperation initiatives between the regions. This study aims at reaching the same objectives as defined in the IHO CB Strategy, using existing components and assets. The Chairman then suggested to the ARSTM of Abidjan and the RMU to provide their views and present their activities.

After presenting its activities, RMU concluded with the proposal of establishing a French and an English hydrographic course, one in Accra and the other in Abidjan. The ARSTM followed the proposal made by the RMU as they would take care of the French language course.

The Chairman recognized the importance of the maritime dimension in that region, stressing the need to base those regional CB initiatives on existing resources, such as maritime training facilities. UK insisted on the need to inform the RMU and ARSTM of Abidjan about the certification procedures of the International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC).

Following that remark, the Chairman added that the question of the training level for those regional hydrographic courses will be addressed in the definition study. CG pointed out the role of providing survey equipment in addition to appropriate training to develop hydrographic capacities in the region.

To conclude that topic, the Chairman suggested that the CB coordinator would keep the EAtHC regularly informed about the status of the definition study (**Action EAtHC 13-27**).

## **9. 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.

SevenCs, Kongsberg and CARIS presented their companies, equipments, products, emphasizing on capacity building projects and initiatives in which these companies were involved.

## **10. Closure**

### **10.1 Any other business**

The Chairman informed the commission about the change of status of the French Hydrographic Society, becoming the Francophone Hydrographic Society, whose Chairman M. Nicolas Seube happens to be the IBSC Chair as well.

The Chairman also informed the floor about a forthcoming forum from the International Federation of Hydrographic Societies at the end of 2015 in South Africa.

## **10.2 Decisions, resolutions and recommendations**

The Action List of EAtHC13 was submitted to the floor for approval. France noted to add the actions proposed in the IHB report to the current action list before disseminating it to the EAtHC Members and Observers for final approval (see *Actions EAtHC 13-4, 13-7 and 13-33*).

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

The Chairman asked if some coastal States wish to host the next EAtHC Conference (EAtHC14). ES proposed to host the next EAtHC Conference in Spain. NG proposed to host the 15<sup>th</sup> EAtHC Conference.

The Chairman thanked those countries for their generous offer, emphasizing on the fact that EAtHC encompasses countries from two different continents, and the need to alternate the hosting continent between from one Conference to another, in order to raise the awareness of stakeholders from the whole region in a more effective way.

### **10.4 Closing session and transfer of Chair**

As final words Chairman thanked all participants for the fruitful discussions and noted that there are still many pending issues. Once again, he addressed his warmest thanks to the host of the Conference, saluted by a round of applause from the whole floor.

The Chairman then invited the Vice-Chairman, Captain CVM Mohammed TAOUDI from Morocco, to take over as the new Chairman.

Captain CVM Mohammed TAOUDI thanked France, especially the former Chairman, on how this Conference was successfully conducted with ample room for debate and outstanding organization by our host here in Casablanca.

After that, Captain CVM Mohammed TAOUDI thanked all the participants and acknowledged all the personnel involved in the organization of that event. He then declared the Conference closed.

