

Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (EAtHC)
Commission hydrographique de l'Atlantique orientale

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IHO/IHB Matters
Sujets concernant l'OHI / le BHI

As of 12 September 2016 / A jour le 12 septembre 2016

Approval of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention

1. As reported in IHO CL 41/2016 dated 23 August, the 48th approval of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention required for its ratification was notified to the Government of Monaco on 8 August 2016. The Government of Monaco had received notification of approval of the Protocol of Amendments from all IHO Member States of the EAtHC eligible to respond except Nigeria. Cameroon was not required to accede to the Protocol of Amendments because these were adopted before Cameroon joined the IHO.

2. The amendments to the IHO Convention will enter force three months after the ratification of the Protocol, that is on 8 November 2016. Accordingly, the 1st Session of the IHO Assembly will take place from 24 to 28 April 2017, in accordance with the new General Regulations of the IHO (not yet in force) which are available on the IHO website, together with the new basic documents at *Home > Letters & Documents > Basic Documents > IHO Basic Documents not yet in force (pending ratification of the Protocol of Amendments to the Convention of the IHO)*.

Status of IHO membership

3. Following the admission of Brunei Darussalam, Georgia and Viet Nam in March 2015, IHO membership stands at 85. With three Member States remaining suspended (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic and Serbia), the current thresholds for IHO decisions are:

- 42 when a simple majority is required, and
- 55 when a two-third majority is needed.

4. The Directing Committee reminds Member States that not responding to a Circular Letter which requires a vote is equivalent to voting NO under the current General Regulations. The following table shows the response rate of EAtHC Member States to IHO CLs issued in 2015 which required a vote (IHO CLs 19, 23, 48, 49, 53, 73, 74, and 92/2015).

EAtHC Member State	Response rate to IHO CLs issued in 2015 which required a vote
Cameroon	0/8
France	8/8
Morocco	3/8
Nigeria	5/8
Portugal	8/8
Spain	8/8

EAtHC Member State	Response rate to IHO CLs issued in 2015 which required a vote
<i>Cumulative %</i>	67%

5. In the future, according to the Protocol of Amendments, where voting by correspondence is required, through the Council, decisions will be taken based on a majority of the Member States that cast a vote, rather than the existing arrangements where a majority of all the Member States entitled to vote is required. A minimum number of at least one-third of all Member States eligible to vote will be required to vote positively for the vote to stand.

6. The States listed below, whose membership applications were approved in earlier years, have not yet deposited their Instrument of Accession to the IHO Convention:

- Mauritania (application approved in April 1991);
- Bulgaria (application approved in April 1992);
- Sierra Leone (application approved in September 2010);
- Haiti (application approved in November 2012).

The Directing Committee has continued to be in communication with the authorities of these States to encourage them to complete this final formality.

7. As announced in IHO CL 32/2015 and 62/2015, applications for IHO membership were received from Malta, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Congo. The Directing Committee copied the initial diplomatic requests for the approval of their application to all Member States (see IHO CL 67/2015). As of 1st September 2016, the status of approvals of the applications was as follows:

States applying for IHO membership	Status of approvals notified to the Government of Monaco	EAtHC Members which have not yet notified their approval
Malta	37 of 53 approvals required	Cameroon Morocco Portugal
Vanuatu	37 of 54 approvals required	Cameroon Morocco Portugal
Solomon Islands	39 of 55 approvals required	Cameroon Morocco Portugal
Congo	39 of 55 approvals required	Cameroon Morocco Portugal

8. When the Protocol of Amendments enters into force, the amended Convention on the IHO shall then be open for accession by any State that is a member of the United Nations, without the current requirement to seek the majority approval of two-thirds of the existing Member States of the Organization. Pending applicants are invited to consider depositing their Instrument of Accession with the Government of Monaco at their earliest convenience. Their accession will take effect on 8 November 2016 or on the date on which the Instrument of Accession is received by the Government of Monaco, if this is later than 8 November 2016.

IHO GIS and Databases (including C-55)

9. Work has continued on the development of the IHO GIS which is composed of two main parts: a country information database and a regional information database.

10. The country information database has been progressively upgraded to include additional administrative information and facilitate the maintenance of the **Yearbook (IHO Publication P-5)** and related lists posted on the IHO website.

11. An Esri-based GIS solution is being implemented to develop further the regional information database. This will enable access to various layers of information through the IHO website and through cloud-based on-line GIS options. The IHO ENC Catalogue and the IHO GIS for Antarctica have been transferred to this new environment.

12. Work has continued on developing a GIS database application to support **C-55 - Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide** and the work of the IHO. In response to the request to complement C-55 composite data (percentage of areas adequately surveyed / requiring re-survey / not surveyed) with CATZOC (Category of Zone of Confidence) information (see IHO CL 52/2015), CATZOC data was provided by PRIMAR - on behalf of IC-ENC, PRIMAR and Canada, Singapore, Sweden and Thailand. Portrayal options in the IHB C-55 GIS are being investigated.

13. The latest updated information from countries in the EAHC region available in P-5 and C-55 is as follows:

State - Dependency - INT Region	P-5 Last update received	C-55 Last update received
Benin	Before 2012	Sep 2015*
Cabo Verde	May 2016	May 2016**
Cameroon	Dec 2015	Sep 2015*
Congo	Apr 2016	Sep 2015*
Côte d'Ivoire	Sep 2014	Sep 2015*
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Jun 2016	Jan 2004
Equatorial Guinea	May 2016	May 2016*
France - Mainland – G	Jun 2015	Sep 2015
Gabon	Nov 2012	Sep 2015
Gambia	Apr 2014	Sep 2015****
Ghana	Sep 2014	May 2007
Guinea	Oct 2014	Sep 2015*
Guinea Bissau	May 2016	May 2016
Liberia	Feb 2014	May 2004****
Mauritania	Jan 2015	Sep 2015*
Morocco - Atlantic coast - G	Aug 2016	Sep 2015*
Nigeria	Nov 2014	May 2007****

State - Dependency - INT Region	P-5 Last update received	C-55 Last update received
Portugal	Jan 2016	Sep 2014
Portugal - Azores		Sep 2014
Portugal - Madeira		Sep 2014
Sao Tome & Principe	May 2016	May 2016**
Senegal	Sep 2014	Sep 2015*
Sierra Leone	Before 2012	
Spain - Mainland - G	Nov 2015	Sep 2014
Spain - Canary Islands		Sep 2014
Togo	Mar 2016	Sep 2015*
Western Sahara		Nov 2004***

Source:

* France

** Portugal

*** Spain

**** United Kingdom

14. Countries in the EAtHC Region are invited to review their P-5 and C-55 entries on an annual basis and provide the IHB with the appropriate updates or report no change.

15. Following the development of the regional database for Antarctica, the IHB, with support provided by the Republic of Korea, initiated an "INToGIS" project in order to 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 scheming and coverage is also envisaged. As announced in IHO CL 89/2015, the new INT Chart Web Catalogue and the associated INT Chart on-line Web Manager services were made available in January 2016 through the IHO website at: www.iho.int > Standards & Publications > S-11 > Part B (link). The IHB discontinued the maintenance of the pdf version of the S-11 Part B - Catalogue of INT Charts on 1 April 2016. Only four EAtHC Members, Associate Members or Observers (France, Spain, UK and USA) who produce and/or re-print INT charts in Region G have requested and obtained an ID and password for the maintenance of the on-line S-11 database.

16. Feedback and lessons learned from the initial use of the services and from the implementation of the experimental procedure for the review and monitoring of INT charts decided at IRCC-7 (IHO CL 64/2015 refers) were addressed during the workshop for Regional INT Chart / ENC Coordinators that was held at the IHB on 25 April 2016, just before the second meeting of the Nautical Cartography Working Group. The INT Chart / ENC Coordinators of 14 out of 15 charting regions, including the Coordinator of Region G (France), were present or represented. A comprehensive demonstration of the INToGIS web-based INT chart scheme management tool was provided. The workshop confirmed the need to maintain the INT chart concept for the foreseeable future, at least for small scale charts.

INT Chart and ENC Production Coordination - Region G

17. The current web-based version of S-11 Part B for Region G is edition 3.0.1 dated March 2016. This new edition reports that 135 INT charts are available to date, out of 172 charts in the scheme. It is expected that a new edition will be released, in liaison with the regional INT Chart Coordinator, after EAtHC-14.

18. At its 6th meeting (March 2016), the WENDWG invited:

- Regional Hydrographic Commissions to define and adopt ENC Schemes (as it is done for INT Charts Schemes) and provide basic metadata to the IHB, and
- the IHB to consider including a layer of "Approved" ENC Schemes in the IHO ENC Catalogue or as an extension of the INT Web Chart Catalogue.

19. A few minor ENC overlap issues in region G were reported to the WENDWG.

20. IHO CL 61/2015 dated 24 August 2015 informed Member States of the promulgation of Circular MSC.1/Circ.1503 of 24 July 2015 on *ECDIS - Guidance for Good Practice* by the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Noting that the Circular refers to the IHO online ENC Catalogue and that the mention includes a reference to the provision of coastal State information on any requirements for ECDIS back-up arrangements using paper charts, the Directing Committee reiterated its earlier request (see IHO CL 41/2014) that Member States ensure that the relevant information which has been posted on the IHO website since 2008 (see IHO CL 10/2008) is kept current and to provide the IHB with updates as appropriate. Member States were invited to consider the provision of pending updates before the end of 2015 and the provision of subsequent updates, or confirmation of no change, at least once a year. Where relevant information has been provided by Member States, it is located at:

- Home > ENCs & ECDIS > ENC Availability > Backup Paper Charts, and
- Home > ENCs & ECDIS > ENC Availability > Online Chart Catalogues.

The latest information received from EAtHC countries is as follows:

Country	Date of requirements for ECDIS back-up arrangements using paper charts	Link to on-line chart catalogue
France	2014	Yes
Morocco	NA	Yes*
Portugal	2007	Yes
Spain	2007	Yes

* *Link to French on-line chart catalogue*

Capacity Building Programme

21. The level of activity of the IHO Capacity Building (CB) Programme continued to increase. Expenditure in the IHO 2015 CB Work Programme (930,907 Euros) was 118% greater than the budget for the previous year. This was a result of the ongoing financial support provided by the Nippon Foundation of Japan and the Republic of Korea, supplemented by a contribution from the IHO budget and in-kind support from Member States and from industry. The Directing Committee is continuing its campaign to find additional donor States and funding organizations. In 2015, 86% of the budgeted work program was executed and paid for.

22. The following table summarizes the status of CB activities related to EAtHC as planned in the CB Work Programmes (CBWP) for 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

CBWP	No.	Event	Status
2014	A-09	MOWCA (all western Africa coastal and island states from Mauritania to Angola) high level visit	Postponed to 2015
2014	A-11	Technical visit to Liberia	Postponed to 2015
2014	P-5	MSI Regional Workshop	Done*
2015	A-06	Technical Visit to Liberia (former 2014 CBWP A-11)	Postponed to 2016
2015	A-08	MOWCA (all western Africa coastal and island states from Mauritania to Angola) high level visit (former 2014 A-09)	Postponed to 2016
2015	P-01	Definition Study for Long Term CB Project	Done
2016	A-09	Technical Visit to Liberia (former 2015 CBWP A-06)	Done
2016	A-10	High level visit to the Maritime Security Conference of Lomé (former 2015 A-08)	Planned (15 October 2016)
2016	P-06	E-learning experimentation (MSI)	On-going
2016	P-29	IMO/IHO Regional Training Course in Hydrographic Field Operator for Francophone Africa	Cancelled
2017	A-01	Technical visit to Gambia	
2017	P-05	MSI E-learning guided sessions	
2017	P-12	HydroMOWCA study follow-up	
2017	P-14	E-learning on specifications for hydrographic surveys	
2017	P-29	IMO/IHO Regional Course in Basic Hydrography and Hydrographic Governance for Lusophone Africa	EAtHC and SAIHC To be confirmed.

* Led by France, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 16-18 December. Participants: Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Senegal and Togo.

23. One candidate from Nigeria was selected for the 2015-2016 session of the Master of Science Programme in Hydrographic Surveying at the University of Southern Mississippi, USA sponsored by the Republic of Korea. It is expected that a call for applications will be issued in September 2016 for the 2017-2018 session. Hydrographic Offices are invited to invest in the preparation of candidates, especially with respect to English proficiency, for future sessions of this programme.

24. A call for applications for the 2017 course of the IHO – Nippon Foundation CHART Project (Cartography, Hydrography and Related Training) and a call for applications for the 14th course of the IHO-IOC-Nippon Foundation GEBCO Training Programme are expected in early 2017.

25. The revised IHO Capacity Building Strategy approved in October 2014 by the 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC-5) limits capacity building support to non-IHO Member States to Phase 1 (Collection and circulation of nautical information). Thus only applicants from Member States of the IHO are considered for selection for courses related to Phase 2 (Creation of a surveying capability) and 3 (Production of nautical charts and publications).

26. At its 14th meeting, the CB Sub-Committee (CBSC) agreed that there is a need for a much better formal communication between the CBSC and the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee WWNWS-SC) for the assessment of the status of Maritime Safety Information and the provision of proper support to the Regional Hydrographic Commissions. In his previous self-assessment report submitted to the WWNWS-SC, the NAVAREA II Coordinator had noted the persistent difficulty to obtain information and even to keep in contact with some National Coordinators in the EAHC area.

Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry

27. In accordance with Decision 8 of the EIHC-5, IRCC7 established the Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG) to provide guidelines on the collection and use of crowd-sourced bathymetry. Member States and other interested parties were invited to nominate representatives to participate in the CSBWG (see IHO CL 42/2015). France and Portugal are participating in the working group. Following IRCC8, draft CSB guidelines will be circulated to Member States for comments.

28. Meanwhile, the web-based interface portal to the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry, hosted by the USA in Boulder, Colorado, as part of its commitment to the system of World Data Centres, is being upgraded to be compatible with the crowd-sourced bathymetry concept. This will enable an IHO-led CSB infrastructure to be established and promoted in the IMO and across the wider maritime community.

Report on the Overall Status of the IHO Work Programme

29. As a result of the EIHC-5 discussion on Proposal 5 concerning the assessment of the IHO Work Programme, Conference Decision No. 3 reinforced the reporting requirements by introducing a six-monthly reporting regime for all IHO bodies. The outcome of the first three bi-annual assessments was submitted to Member States through IHO CL 17/2015, 66/2015 and 14/2016. Only 6 Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) did submit a status report (EAHC, MACHC, NIOHC, NHC, NSHC, and SAIHC).

Preparation of the 1st Session of the IHO Assembly (A-1)

30. The first Session of the IHO Assembly (A-1) is scheduled from 24 to 28 April 2017 (see paragraph 2 above). IHO Assembly Circular Letter (ACL) 8 dated 23 August 2016 detailed the impact of the new rules and regulations governing the IHO on the preparation of the Session.

31. As indicated in IHO CCL 1 dated 21 April 2016, the Directing Committee has decided that registration for the Assembly will be available on-line via the IHO website from 1 September 2016. Because of IT security issues, the initial version of the tool is self-contained, with no connection to the IHO Country Information System (CIS). The initial registration of the identity of applicants is validated by the Secretariat. After this initial approval, legitimate applicants will be able to register for further IHO meetings without having to re-enter their details. A full-scale testing was undertaken through the on-line registration of HSSC8 participants (see IHO CL 25/2016).

32. In accordance with the General Regulations of the IHO that will enter into force on 8 November 2016, A-1 will have to approve the list of the members of the IHO Council. The selection process for the establishment of the Council should be initiated by the Secretary-General not later than October 2016. Therefore it is expected that all RHCs will have agreed before that date on the process by which they will allocate their seat(s) in the Council, and possibly instruct, the relevant representative(s).

33. The agenda of the Assembly will include a review of the IHO Strategic Plan and consideration of the IHO Work Programme for the next 3-year cycle. In accordance with IHO Resolution 12/2002 as amended the relevant documents will be prepared by the IHB in consultation with the HSSC, the IRCC and the Member States (see IHO CL 17/2016 and 31/2016).

34. In that perspective, the EAtHC is invited to consider appropriate arrangements to prepare the IHO Assembly.

IHO Outreach

Cooperation with regional organizations

35. As reported in IHO CL 32/2016 and in accordance with action EAtHC 13-23, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishing cooperation between the IHO and the Maritime Organization of West and Central Africa (MOWCA) was signed on 15 July 2016. The Commission is invited to provide its views on the impact of this MoU on the relations with the specialized organs of the MOWCA, in particular on the previous MoU between the IHO and the Port Management Association of West and Central Africa (PMAWCA).

36. The Directing Committee recommended to the organizers of the African Union (AU) Extraordinary Summit on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa to be held in Lomé, Togo in October 2016 that the Summit should consider the underpinning role of hydrography and charting in support of the implementation of the AU 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy.

World Hydrography Day

37. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2015 "*Our seas and waterways - yet to be fully charted and explored*" concentrated on the fact that much of the world's seas, oceans and navigable waters remain unsurveyed. The theme for 2016 "*Hydrography – the key to well-managed seas and waterways*" is meant to enable all stakeholders involved in hydrography to highlight the significance and importance of their particular activities which could include, but is not limited to, the support of safety of navigation, protection of the marine environment, coastal zone management, marine spatial data infrastructures, defence, resource exploration, and all other components of the blue economy.

38. Background briefs and reports on events hosted in connection with WHD 2015 and 2016 are available at www.iho.int > Home > About IHO > World Hydrography Day.

39. IHO CL 40/2016 dated 22 August proposes the following theme for 2017: "*Mapping our seas and oceans - more important than ever*". Member States are invited to provide their comments, if any, to the Secretariat no later than 01 November 2016.

International Hydrographic Review

40. Twice a year, the International Hydrographic Review (IHR) provides an opportunity for Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in their region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. The representative for the EAtHC is Mr. Olumide Omotoso (Nigeria).

41. 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). The deadlines are:

- End of January for the May Edition;
- End of July for the November Edition.

42. The IHB worked with the University of New Brunswick (UNB), Canada, in a project to develop a digital repository of the complete library of the IHR. As a result, the first phase of the project has provided volumes from 1963 to 2015. They can be found at: <https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/ihr>.

Action Requested of EAthC

43. EAthC Members are invited to:

- **Note** this report;
- **Encourage** countries in the region which are not yet members of the IHO to join the Organization in accordance with the simplified procedure introduced by the Convention as amended;
- **Review** entries related to IHO C-55, P-5 (Yearbook) and ECDIS back up arrangements at least annually;
- **Provide** continuous updates to S-11 Part B for INT Region G through the INTtoGIS tool;
- **Report** to the IHO Secretariat on the status and description of the ENC schemes in the Region;
- **Invest** in the preparation of candidates for the fully-funded Master of Science Programme in Hydrographic Surveying at the University of Southern Mississippi, USA;
- **Consider** ways and means to consolidate the liaison between national MSI Coordinators and the NAVAREA II Coordinator;
- **Consider** appropriate arrangements to prepare the 1st IHO Assembly to be held in April 2017;
- **Consider** the impact of the MoU between the IHO and the MOWCA on the relations with the specialized organs of the MOWCA;
- **Provide** comments, if any, on the proposed theme for WHD 2017;
- **Consider** submitting papers for publication in the IH Review;
- **Take any other actions** as considered appropriate.