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HCA Letter No. 3/2009

To: Members of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) (*see list in Annex A*)¹

Subject: Actions Resulting from the 9th HCA Meeting. South Africa, 12-14 October 2009.

Dear Sir or Madam,

The 9th Meeting of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) took place in Simon's Town, Cape Town, South Africa, 12-14 October 2009, organized with great success by Captain Abri KAMPFER, Hydrographer of South Africa with the cooperation of the South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP).

12 IHO Member States (Australia, Brazil, Chile, France, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom and Venezuela), five international organizations (COMNAP, IAATO, GEBCO, IBCSO and SCAR) and the South African National Antarctic Program attended and participated actively in the event. The Minutes of the meeting are under preparation and will provide detailed information on the very good discussions held and actions agreed at the meeting.

Some of the agreements deserve a prompt action from the Chair either due to the imminent start of the Antarctic season or due to its relevance in the hydrographic survey or chart production programs, and that is the reason for this letter:

1.- HCA Members with no hydrographic platform to conduct hydrographic activities in Antarctica are invited to take advantage of IAATO's offer to make use of their ships to conduct surveys in Antarctica using these vessels as so-called Ships of Opportunity. The coordination of the details to embark hydrographic surveyors and equipment should be made by the interested HCA Member directly with IAATO (Attn: Mrs. Kim Crosbie, e-mail kimcrosbie@iaato.org). Outline information on vessels and their voyages can be found on the IAATO web site, but full details should be confirmed with Mrs. Crosbie.

¹ This letter is sent by e-mail only.

- 2.- USA as an HCA Member is invited to clarify the following two issues:
- a) To confirm the need for INT Chart 9062 at scale 1:200.000 in the South East Weddell Sea area. If yes, to kindly report on how its production can be progressed.
 - b) To clarify US intentions with regard to INT 9105 at scale 1:25.000 on Palmer Station and approaches, noting that HCA considers that this is a very important area which should be covered by an INT chart as soon as possible; further noting that a national US chart of the area exists.

3.- HCA Members are reminded that in accordance with the WEND Principles, INT chart producers for INT Region M are assumed to also be the producers of the corresponding ENC's and that those ENC's should be distributed through RENC's. At HCA9, it was decided to reinforce this concept to avoid misunderstandings and unnecessary duplications.

4.- HCA Members are also reminded to observe the objective of the INT Chart concept and the role of INT Chart Producers. It has been made evident that for some particular areas, there exist, in addition to an INT Chart, different versions of national charts covering the same area and at the same scale. This undesirable situation is not only a duplication of effort but could be a serious source of confusion for mariners that have different charts of the same area - an INT version and national versions.

HCA Members should avoid the production of different national charts covering the same area as an INT Chart and are strongly encouraged to provide the most reliable data to the nominated Producer Nation of the relevant INT chart. The Producer, in turn, should compile, produce and make available to the mariner the most reliable and up to date INT chart of that area. The Producer should also observe the INT chart policy of including the badges of contributing HOs.

I would appreciate receiving any comment/feed back on these four important matters.

Finally, I have received, as Chairman of HCA, a letter from Commander Enrico Antonino, who has represented Italy at the HCA several times, in which he announced that he has been appointed to the Navy Logistic Department in Rome. As a result, he was not able to attend HCA9 and has had to step down from HCA activities, much to his personal regret. He requested that I extend his best regards and thanks to all colleagues at HCA.

Personal regards,



Hugo M. GORZIGLIA
Captain – Chilean Navy
IHB Director and Chairman of HCA

Enclosures: Annex A – HCA Membership List

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