



**HCA Letter 01/2015**

**14<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF IHO HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON ANTARCTICA  
POSTPONED UNTIL 2016**

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2 February 2015

To: [HCA Members, Observers](#) and Invited Industry Contributors

Reference: HCA Letter 01/2014 dated 19 December

Dear HCA Colleagues,

**14<sup>th</sup> Conference of HCA postponed until 2016 (2<sup>nd</sup> quarter)**

1. After careful consideration and with the agreement of the hosts of the next meeting (INOCAR (Ecuador), I inform you, as Chair of the HCA, that the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA-14) is postponed until the completion of the Antarctic 2015-16 Summer Season.
2. As discussed at the 5<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference in October 2014 (Decision No 3 refers), it is important for the IHO to focus on results-based programming by taking into account all resources available.
3. In the case of HCA-14, there are several reasons to postpone the Conference until next year:
  - some regular attendees have confirmed that they are facing significant travel budget constraints and only 11 out of 23 HCA Members have indicated their possible attendance;
  - no Observer Organization (COMNAP, SCAR, IAATO, et al) has registered as yet;
  - no Members of HCA or Observer Organisations have raised specific agenda items that need to be addressed at HCA-14; and
  - there are no significant outstanding action items that require to be reviewed and decided upon at a meeting.
4. All the HCA Members and one Industry Contributor that have already registered for the Conference have confirmed that there will be no significant financial impact if the Conference is postponed.
5. On behalf of the IHO, the IHB thanks INOCAR (Ecuador), for its offer to host the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the HCA in Guayaquil in March this year. The IHB will liaise with INOCAR to confirm that it will host HCA-14 in 2016. However, in the case that INOCAR is unable to host the meeting in 2016, HCA Members are kindly invited to consider offering an alternative venue. In order to assist in longer-term planning and scheduling, offers to host HCA-15 in 2017 or 2018 would also be welcome.

**Action required**

6. Proposals to host meetings of HCA-14 and HCA-15 should be sent to the HCA Secretary (adcs@iho.int) **not later than 31 March 2015**.

**Submission of Reports on hydrographic plans and activities in Antarctica 2015-16**

7. All HCA Members and Observer organizations were requested to provide the Secretary of HCA with their reports not later than 28 February 2015 (see HCA Letter No 1/2014). No reports have been received so far.

8. Due to the postponement of the meeting, it is proposed that HCA Members and Observer Organizations redraft and shorten their reports by providing an outline of their relevant hydrographic plans, marine science campaigns/opportunities, charting programmes and any other matters of mutual interest for the region from now until the end of the Antarctica summer 2015-16. These activity-based reports will then be circulated by the secretariat of the HCA to inform all Members and Observers who can then coordinate and cooperate with the relevant organizations on a bilateral basis where there are activities of mutual interest that have been identified in the reports.

**Action required**

9. Country and Organization reports covering relevant hydrographic plans, marine science campaigns/opportunities, charting programmes and any other matters of mutual interest are requested to be submitted **not later than 28 February 2015**.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Ward  
President, IHB  
Chair, HCA