



Meso American and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC)

13th Meeting – Antigua, Guatemala

19-22 November 2012

IHB Report

New Directing Committee - Duties and Responsibilities

1. The new Directing Committee assumed office on 1 September. Details of the allocation of responsibilities were promulgated in IHO Circular Letter 77 dated 6 August 2012. In summary, Director Mustafa Iptes will oversee IHO Programme 3 concerning regional cooperation and capacity building. Director Gilles Bessero will oversee Programme 2 - the IHO technical programme. President Robert Ward will be the IHO Directing Committee representative in the MACHC.

New IHB Staff Member

2. Mr David Wyatt joined the IHB in April this year as an Assistant Director (AD). He replaced Mr Stephen Shipman who retired after nine years' service at the IHB. Assistant Director Wyatt is a hydrographic surveyor who previously served in the UK Royal Navy, finally retiring in the rank of Commander. AD Wyatt has experience of working in various hydrographic services around the world. As well as service in the UK Hydrographic Service, both at sea and ashore, he has spent two years on an exchange posting to the Australian Hydrographic Service and completed his Navy career as the Hydrographer of Oman.

Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention

3. By October 2012, 36 of the required 48 approvals to the protocol of amendments to the IHO Convention had been received by the Government of Monaco.

4. The Government of Monaco has not yet received notification of approval of the Protocol of Amendments from the following IHO Member States of the MACHC eligible to be counted: Colombia, Guatemala, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela. Dominican Republic and Suriname were not considered in the calculation of the required majority (48) since both States were suspended when the Protocol was adopted. Their subsequent accession to the Protocol of Amendments would therefore not be counted.

Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO

5. Haiti has 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 instrument of accession from Haiti that will formalise the membership of Haiti.

6. Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam, and Georgia have applied for membership of the IHO. By October 2012, the status of approvals was as follows:

| State | Voting Status |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Viet Nam | 29 of 52 required |
| Brunei Darussalam | 26 of 52 required |
| Georgia | 4 of 54 required |

7. The following IHO Member States of the MACHC have not yet indicated positive support:

| State Applying for Membership | No response as yet from: |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Viet Nam | Brazil, Cuba, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, UK, Venezuela |
| Brunei Darussalam | Brazil, Cuba, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, UK, Venezuela |
| Georgia | All except Colombia |

8. 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.

INT Chart and ENC Production Coordination - Region B

9. The current version of S-11 Region B on the IHO website is dated April 2010. No updates have been received at the IHB since then. Brazil, as INT coordinator, is invited to provide the IHB with regular updates to S-11.

IHO ENC Reference Collection and ENC Availability Catalogue

10. CL 51/2012 dated 18 May reminded Member States to provide their ENCs to the IHB in accordance with IHO General Regulation 19. This will enable the IHB to maintain an authoritative and up to date reference collection of ENCs and also to create a global information catalogue showing all ENCs that are published. The ENC data will be maintained on a secure stand-alone server and used for internal IHB reference purposes only, it will NOT be provided to any other parties.

11. Responses to CL 51/2012 are as follows:

| State | Remarks |
|--------------------------|--|
| Brazil | ENCs to be provided through IC-ENC |
| Colombia | no information provided to IHB |
| Cuba | no information provided to IHB |
| France | ENCs to be provided through PRIMAR |
| Guatemala | no information provided to IHB |
| Jamaica | no information provided to IHB |
| Mexico | ENCs to be provided through IC-ENC (?) |
| Netherlands | ENCs to be provided through IC-ENC |
| Suriname | no information provided to IHB |
| Trinidad and Tobago | no information provided to IHB |
| United Kingdom | ENCs to be provided through External Relations |
| United States of America | Download via FTP |
| Venezuela | no information provided to IHB |

12. Those ENC Producer States that have not yet responded to CL 51/2012 are requested to do so as soon as possible.

C-55 Updates

13. The latest updated information in C-55 - *Status of Charting and Surveys Worldwide* submitted by States in the EAHC region is as follows:

| State | C-55 last updated |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Brazil | 23 May 2006 |
| Colombia | 9 June 2009 |
| Cuba | 1 January 2005 |
| France | 21 May 2010 |
| Guatemala | - |
| Jamaica | 16 May 2007 |
| Mexico | 14 December 2011 |
| Netherlands | 9 August 2010 |
| Suriname | 2 December 2011 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 16 May 2007 |
| United Kingdom | 25 January 2010 |
| United States of America | 1 May 2012 |
| Venezuela | 9 February 2010 |
| | |

IHO Publicity

14. World Hydrography Day. The proposed theme for World hydrography Day 2013 is “*Hydrography - supporting the blue economy*”. The purpose of this theme is 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. The IHB will be providing some supporting material on the IHO website beginning in the new year.

15. 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 region has been established. The representative for the MACHC is Dr. Rob HENSLEY (UKHO).

16. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the IHB (ihreview@iho.int) with copy to the Editor (ian.halls1@defence.au.gov).

Capacity Building Programme

17. Funding for the IHO Capacity Building programme over the next five years is forecast to be considerably lower than in the last five years. In these circumstances, the IHO and the RHCs will need to explore alternative mechanisms to fulfill their requirements. In many RHCs, the involvement of the commercial sector has provided mutual benefits, as is the case in the MACHC. This has taken the form of industry representatives attending some or

all parts of RHC meetings as observers, and included participation and the provision of equipment and instructors in technical workshops and training, both as part of an RHC meeting and in separate RHC training events.

Action Requested of MACHC Member States

18. MACHC Member States are invited to:

- **Note** this report,
- **Report** in-country progress on approving the Amendments to the IHO Convention and approving New Member States, including any difficulties being encountered or IHB assistance required;
- **Continue to provide** updates to S-11, through Brazil as coordinator for INT Region B;
- **Respond** to CL51/2012 as appropriate;
- **Provide updates** to C-55 as appropriate; and
- **Take any other actions** as considered appropriate.