

## 14<sup>th</sup> Meso America and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission Meeting

### Stakeholders' day

General. This report provides feedback to the plenary session of the 14<sup>th</sup> MACHC on 7 topics discussed during the stakeholders day under the banner of "Blue Economy".

1. Propose to establish a Hydrographic Society in the MACHC Caribbean region. This society could, among other items deal with issues like encouragement to establish national hydrographic legislation incorporating IHO standards, improvement of standards, acts as focal point for data sharing etc. There are two ways to set up such a society:

a. Establish a Caribbean/Latin American Chapter along the Hydrographic Society of America or Hydrographic Society UK. This is relatively easy to establish but does not always guarantee membership of all MACHC member nations.

b. Establish a Caribbean/Latin American Society along the principles of the International federation of Hydrographic Societies. This a more complex and timely process, requiring firm ownership by some nations/individuals in region.

**Proposed action:** Select option A or B, than establish lead group to set up Hydrographic Society.

2. Increase awareness that Capacity Building is more than training. It should also include education and research, Standards and training on the job, National regulations on C-16, inland ENCs.

**Proposed action:** Incorporate these concerns in documentation CB WG.

3. Increase awareness of benefits of the RENC membership. Countries were briefed on benefits of RENC membership. Currently 2/3 of ENC-producing nations is part of a RENC. With the expected increased use of ENC's by 2018, this is an important issue. Participants were briefed on the RENC activities like advisory visits and technical assistance.

**Proposed action:** ENC producing HOs consider joining a RENC, according to IHO Resolution 1/1997 as amended.

4. Encourage all data from hydrographic work to be provided to the HOs. The concern is that results of many surveys are not provided to HO's. This could be solved by legislation, forcing surveys in territorial waters and EEZ to be made available to HOS, this is likely to be a lengthy process. (This links with item 7).

**Proposed action:** HOs actively promote this issue to industry and consider legislation.

5. Use of ENCs outside ECDIS for non SOLAS. Industry experiences the problem of restrictions of use of ENCs to just SOLAS navigation. This is a subject for discussion by both RENCs in January 2014.

**Proposed action:** RENCs to feedback to MACHC and IHO.

6. Investigate improving co-operation between Hydrography and Oceanology. It was felt that the link between both could be improved, which would benefit the Blue Economy. Hydrography tends to link more and more with Land information possible losing the link with Oceanology. Issues to be addressed could be standards, practical application of Oceanography and customer orientation.

**Proposed action:** IHO to investigate if these concerns are realistic, if so consider whether cooperation could be improved.

7. Open availability of Hydrographic data. It was felt that data is not easily available to other parties, once they have been incorporated in Hydrographic products. Reasons for this are possibly ignorance, national laws, lack of trust, willingness to pay for data, strategic commercial aspects. (This links with item 4)

**Proposed action:** Publish data via hydrographic society for those nations where national legislation does not already allow/enforce this. Additionally, nations might consider revising national policies. (publish bathymetric data via DCDB?)