

MESO AMERICA – CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (MACHC)

Disaster Response Plan (Version 27/07/2018)

Reference: IHO Resolution 1/2005 as amended

1. Introduction

This plan aims at preparing the MACHC to respond to disasters in accordance with the Reference. This will be done in two steps:

- a) Preparation phase; and
- b) Implementation phase following a disaster.

These two phases are described below.

2. Preparation of the Contingency Plan by MACHC coastal States:

- a) Inform the MACHC Chair on points of contact and the means of communication (attention should be given to provide alternative means of communication in case the country has no telephonic and email access):
 - i) Senior Point of Contact
 - ii) Working Point of Contact
 - iii) Communication means
- b) Prepare and keep updated with the MACHC Chair a checklist for the key infrastructure in order to assess whether they are intact or need some urgent action. A generic template is provided in Annex A.
- c) Prepare and keep updated a National Communication Plan identifying the stakeholders that will need to be contacted in order to obtain/to pass relevant information.

3. Preparation of a GIS layer to support coordination

A GIS layer representing the hydrographic efforts to help the Chair in his/hers coordinating role. For example, the layer could indicate the affected ports and routes, the deployment of surveys teams, supporting imageries, status of MSI, outcomes of Analyzed Imagery, recommended routes for humanitarian ships, etc. Such a system has the potential to avoid duplications and assure the establishment of the priorities by the governments providing support.

4. Preparation of the Contingency Plan by the MACHC Chair:

- a) Compile the information provided in 2 and prepare a Communication Plan based on the information provided.
- b) Prepare a list of (possibly) available assets that coastal States can consider for request via diplomatic channels to the neighboring States. A generic template is provided in Annex B.

5. Implementation phase by a coastal State following a disaster:

- a) Conduct the initial assessment of the key infrastructure using the checklist prepared in 2b.

- b) Assess the specific effects on shipping of the existence of obstacles and any changes to the seafloor that can hinder navigation, taking full account of the effects of drifting obstacles which may also hinder preliminary survey results.
- c) Prepare a priority plan for survey and charting to ensure that the passage of support and supplies through maritime channels and ports, and the marking of new dangers where necessary
- d) Inform the MACHC Chair the result of the assessment performed in 4a, b and c as soon as practicable.
- e) Prepare a list of necessary support (3c) and communicated to the minister of foreign affairs via the chain of command.

6. Implementation phase by the MACHC Chair:

- a) Establish communication with the coastal State in distress in order to obtain the initial assessment (4b)
- b) Take the necessary actions in coordination with the coastal State.
- c) Prepare a situation awareness report to be disseminated to all the coastal States as established in the Communication Plan. Disseminate updates as deemed necessary.
- d) Ensure the NAVAREA Coordinators are aware of the situation and the necessary navigational information is disseminated.
- e) Liaise with the IHO Secretariat.
- f) Communicate with the following Regional and International Organizations to coordinate the efforts:
 - i) CDEMA (<http://www.cdema.org>)
 - ii) RAC-REMPEITC Caribe (<http://www.racrempeitc.org>)
 - iii) IMO (<http://www.imo.org>)
 - iv) IALA (<http://www.iala-aism.org>)
- g) Decide, based on the information collected, whether an Extraordinary Meeting of the MACHC is needed, in order to discuss in detail the problems, evaluate the damage and respond to requests for support.

7. Establishment of the MACHC Contingency Plan

The MACHC Contingency Plan will be approved by each MACHC meeting or by correspondence as necessary, based on the information provided by the coastal States. The Chair should ensure that a permanent agenda item on RHC meetings in order to monitor the readiness of the Commission to respond to disasters and conducting regular table-top exercises to evaluate the procedures.

Annex A - Template for the definition of the key infrastructure components in coastal States

Annex B - Template for the establishment of possible support to be requested to neighboring States via diplomatic channels

Annex A

Template for the definition of the key infrastructure components in coastal States

- 1) Situation in each of the key ports, their accesses and critical passage points:
 - a) Existence of debris and obstructions
 - b) Possible changes to the charted depths
 - c) Working condition of tide gauges
 - d) Working condition of AtoN
 - e) Capacity to disseminate key navigational information to the National MSI Coordinator
- 2) Capacity of the National MSI Coordinator to:
 - a) promulgate the appropriate navigational warnings and necessary information and advice to shipping through existing channels (e.g. NAVTEX, SafetyNET, etc.)
 - b) communicate with the NAVAREA Coordinator.
 - c) communicate with the other national agencies as established in the National Communication Plan.

Annex B

Template for the establishment of possible support to be requested to neighboring States via diplomatic channels

- 1) reconnaissance/assessment flights
- 2) assessment using satellite imagery, including satellite-derived bathymetry
- 3) deployable survey teams
- 4) production of interim-ENC
- 5) preparation of situational awareness maps