Report of the Extraordinary Meso-American and Caribbean Hydrographic Commission

Monday 23rd April 2012, Monaco

Attendance: France, Netherlands, Mexico, UK, USA, Denmark (Invited observer), CARIS, ESRI, Pelydryn.

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introduction- MACHC Chair, R.Adm Nick Lambert, UK National Hydrographer
2. MEIP progress update – WG Chair, Mr. Tim Lewis, UK
3. MSDI presentation – CARIS – Mr. Andy Hoggarth
4. MSDI presentation – ESRI – Mr. Raphael Ponce
5. Feedback – All

Agenda items:

1. The chair provided an introduction on the growing need for wider stakeholder engagement for hydrography and stressed that the Marine Economic Infrastructure Programme Working Group (MEIP - WG) should be the vehicle to reach all stakeholders.
2. The MEIP chair, Tim Lewis (UK) provided an update on the progress of the MEIP working group since its establishment in St. Kitts at the 12th MACHC. It was stressed that the WG has identified a broad range of stakeholders and uses for MEIP, but one of the primary purposes is to help bid for donor funding to increase survey capacity in region. MEIP chair was pleased to report active engagement from Brazil, British Virgin Islands (BVI), UK, USA, IHB, PAIGH, Suriname and industry over four teleconferences.
   1. Overall progress -Terms of Reference have been approved for the WG alongside a draft vision statement. High level base layers have been identified along with more specific sub-layers. These layers have also been considered against the potential stakeholders/uses of MEIP, to start to shape requirements. A meeting was convened to consider the opportunities of using online resources using a live demonstration. Active participants have been tasked to articulate priority layers, data already available and the releasability of these data. ECC-WG2 has approved the release of ENC M\_COVR metadata to host as an initial layer.
   2. Key considerations – Technical solution in the MSDI must be affordable for MS; possibly in the form of a web based or free GIS software. This approach would make the MEIP accessible to all MS regardless of funding ability. The solution must have the ability to upload, not just consume data.
   3. Information gathering – MEIP chair described the need to get a greater understanding of MS views on requirements and priorities that the MEIP could support. It was noted that the initial layers and priorities .xls had only been returned by two nations to date. To move this forward MEIP chair suggested building a questionnaire to collect this information from MS. Denmark pointed out they had also built and distributed a similar fact finding document as part of the BSHC MSDI and offered to pass this and other information on to the MEIP chair.

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| **No.** | **EMACHC Action** | **Action By** | **Deadline** | **Status** |
| EMACHC 1 | BSMSDIWG chair to pass questionnaire and other relevant doc to MEIP chair | BSMSDIWG chair | 1st May 2012 | Completed. |
| EMACHC 2 | MEIP WG Chair To produce questionnaire and submit to MACHC Chair for distribution to MS. | MEIP WG Chair, MACHC Chair | 18th May 2012 |  |
| EMACHC 3 | MACHC Chair to distribute draft questionnaire to MS. | MACHC Chair | 25th May 2012 |  |

* 1. Related activity – MEIP chair pointed out other related activity within the IHO, such as C-55 development, Baltic Sea Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (BSMSDIWG). MS are asked to look at [www.data.gov/catalogue/geodata](http://www.data.gov/catalogue/geodata) as an example of what can be achieved.
  2. MACHC Chair commended the MEIP WG on their progress so far.

1. CARIS, (Andrew Hoggarth) provided a presentation on MSDI which highlighted the need to consider which standard the data will be provided in; IHO, ISO, OGC, etc. CARIS also provided a synopsis on the recent NIOHC MSDI WS and how training should be a important to consider. MACHC CB Coordinator (Jeff Bryant) stated that MSDI courses are included in the CB 5 year plan and scheduled for 2013 & 2014.
   1. Denmark reinforced the need for data compatibility to enable full interoperability between datasets. Also, need to consider the land component of the MSDI; possibly involve other MS mapping agencies to ensure land and hydrographic data joins as per the European BLAST (Bringing Land And Sea Together) project.
2. ESRI (Rafael Ponce) provided a presentation on MSDI and cloud computing. He highlighted the fact that technology is becoming more mobile (phones, notebooks etc) and that the maritime community has an opportunity to receive, store and pass data more efficiently and effectively.
   1. ESRI can envisage a few GIS specialists inputting data into the MEIP and MS using a web based browser to create products from the data.
   2. MEIP WG Chair requested what costs would be associated with this solution. ESRI stated that the MS could use the browser at no cost but licenses would be required to input data into the MEIP.
   3. MACHC Chair requested that ESRI provide sample costings for the MEIP (Action).

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| **No.** | **EMACHC Action** | **Action By** | **Deadline** | **Status** |
| EMACHC 4 | ESRI to provide MACHC and MEIP WG chairs with costings for sample MEIP, | ESRI | 25th May 2012 |  |

* 1. USA enquired if data hosted elsewhere and linked to the MEIP would it be updated automatically? ESRI stated that it is possible but would require some intervention by ESRI staff and that would not be free.
  2. MACHC Chair stated that the WG need to continue its momentum as Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) has become aware of MEIP and its possibilities; this needs to be shown to MS. Possibly set up a demonstrator MEIP for MS to obtain experience of (action).

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| **No.** | **EMACHC Action** | **Action By** | **Deadline** | **Status** |
| EMACHC 5 | Create demonstration MEIP for MS to access | MEIP WG | By MACHC 13 |  |
| EMACHC 6 | What information is required to support business case for funding application | MACHC Chair | Ongoing |  |

1. Feedback/discussions
   1. USA delegation stated that the MEIP needs to be user driven, find regional issues that could be of use and build the demo around – such as hurricane data. Would the MACHC consider inviting non MACHC MS for involvement? MACHC Chair stated yes as they would benefit the MEIP.
   2. UK stated that it would be beneficial to include examples all ready in place within the region and link layers that currently exist.
   3. Mexico stated that lessons could be learnt from the INSPIRE and BLAST projects and the experience learnt regarding use of strategic data.
   4. MACHC Chair commended the MEIP WG on their progress so far.
   5. The MACHC Chair thanked all delegates for attending the EMACHC and stressed the need to actively engage with actions emerging form the MEIP – WG to ensure its success.