



INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION
MESO AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION



MACHC Letter
01/2015

Date, 13 January 2015

To: Mr Timothy Lewis,
Defence Collaboration and Business Change Manager,
United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
Admiralty Way
TAUNTON, TA1 2DN
United Kingdom

Subject: Confirmation of International leadership

To whom it may concern,

In my recent capacity as chair of the IHO's Meso-American and Caribbean Sea Regional Hydrographic Commission, I hereby provide a short confirmation summary of Mr Lewis' leadership role in the advancement of Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure.

Early in 2012, Mr Lewis was selected to establish an international technical working group, following acknowledgement that this important maritime region lacked a coherent marine spatial planning capability. The group established is known as the Marine Economic Infrastructure Programme (MEIP). Of significant importance is the "economic" element as one of the primary goals of this group was to develop in order to support regional economic development and sustainability. For many coastal states, understanding and effectively exploiting the marine environment is critical to this economic element. Furthermore, good hydrography and efficient access to good data also underpins safety of navigation, national security, mineral exploitation and environmental protection.

During Mr Lewis' two year tenure in this position, the MSDI within MACHC grew from no MSDI to the delivery of two working demonstrator tools using world leading Geographic Information Systems (GIS) vendors (at no cost to the MACHC). This was done with the active participation of the following nations: Brazil, France, Mexico, Netherlands, Suriname, United Kingdom, United States, International hydrographic Bureau (IHB), and key industry partners. This work was undertaken in the margins of his busy portfolio during an overseas posting at the British Embassy in Washington DC.

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Background to this initiative can be found under the IHO MACHC website here
<http://www.iho-machc.org/#meip>

Sincerely yours,



Mr. M. Amafo LL.M (IMLI)
MACHC Chair

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