



**MACHC Letter 18/2015**

Date, 15 October 2015

To: MACHC members, Associate members and Observers

**Subject: IRCC7 report to the MACHC**

It was my honour to represent the MACHC during the IRCC7 meeting in Mexico City last May. In this letter I will provide a back brief as part of the preparation for the upcoming MACHC meeting on Antigua in December.

During the IRCC7 I gave a short report on MACHC activities which was summarised as follows:

"The MACHC Chair informed the Committee on the progresses made on the membership and the success of the provision of English-Spanish interpreters during the meetings to overcome the language barrier. He reported the very good attendance during the meetings and outcomes of the MACHC Integrated Charting Committee in coordinating efficiently the solution of overlaps and gaps, the views for the Marine Economic Infrastructure Program Committee to act as a catalyst for the wider use of Hydrography, and the very active Capacity Building Committee and its structured plan for the region. He also reported the cooperation with regional organizations and the development of the Mexican CB project named "Strengthen the hydrographic abilities in Mesoamerican and the Caribbean sea" (FOCAHIMECA in Spanish) for improving the hydrographic capacity in the region".

In Annex A you will find a filtered list of IRCC7 decisions that affect the MACHC region or may be of immediate interest to its Members.

In Annex B I provide a filtered list of IRCC7 action items that relate to the MACHC region. A specific MACHC column is added that places the IRCC7 actions within the MACHC context and proposes the way ahead. This column will be the basis for discussion during MACHC agenda item 2.2 "IRCC7 Report".

Sincerely yours,

*Captain RNLN Marc C. J. van der Donck*  
Director Netherlands Hydrographic Office  
Hydrographer of the Royal Netherlands Navy  
Chairman, Meso American & Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission

**SEVENTH MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE  
IHO-IRCC7  
Mexico City, Mexico, 01-03 June 2015**

**FILTERED DRAFT LIST OF ACTIONS AGREED AT IRCC7 FOR RHC/MACHC ACTIONS**

Below you will find a filtered list of IRCC7 action items that relate to the Regional Hydrographic Commissions. On the right-hand a new MACHC column is added. In this column the IRCC actions are placed within the MACHC context and I propose an actual action to be taken. This column will be the basis for discussion during MACHC agenda item 2.2 “IRCC7 Report”.

Two actions require active attention of members **before** the 16th MACHC meeting (highlighted in yellow):

1. IRCC7/43: “Member States and Associated Member states are invited to provide access for the IHB to any of their relevant promotional material on CB and to consider using the posters displayed at the EIHC 5 CB, and to report back during 16th MACHC meeting if any such promotional material can be made available”.
2. IRCC7/62: “MACH Chair invites Members States to consider providing representatives of the IHO at the international meetings listed in doc. IRCC-10B on relations with stakeholders, and to report back at 16th MACHC meeting”.

(Updated: 11 July 2015)

<b>No</b>	<b>ACTION (AGENDA ITEM)</b>	<b>RESP.</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>MACHC actions to be taken</b>
IRCC7/01	Encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership	RHC Chairs	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2015	Permanent.	Adopt as continuous MACHC action item.
IRCC7/02	Continue to engage pending applicants in their region to encourage the ratification of the IHO Convention	RHC Chairs	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2015	Permanent.	MACHC action 15.5.1.1 applies. Add Guatemala and Jamaica besides Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.
IRCC7/03	Consider the participation of stakeholders at the RHC conferences	RHC Chairs	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2015	Permanent.	A wide audience has been invited for 16 <sup>th</sup> MACHC meeting. Also MACHC action item 15.13.1 applies.
IRCC7/04	Continue to engage suspended Member States (MSs) in their region to encourage their re-admission to the IHO	EAtHC MACHC MBSHC	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2015	Permanent.	Application of the Dominican Republic for Associated Membership to be formally accepted at the 16 <sup>th</sup> MACHC meeting

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<b>No</b>	<b>ACTION (AGENDA ITEM)</b>	<b>RESP.</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>MACHC actions to be taken</b>
IRCC7/05	Provide the IRCC Chair with progress reports on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2015 Work Programme	RHCs and IRCC subsidiary organs	Jan 2016	Permanent.	Chair to collate updates from MICC and MEIP chair, CB coordinator and member states on the various topics of work programs 1 (corporate Affairs), 2 (Hydrographic services and standards) and 3 (interregional coordination and support).
IRCC7/07	Provide to the IRCC Chair the estimated values of SPIs and agreed WPIs as of 31 December 2015 and target values for 31 December 2017, complemented by the comments on the difficulties encountered and suggestions for a way forward	RHC Chairs	Jan 2016	Permanent.	Chair, MICC Chair, MEIP Chair and CB Coordinator to collate updates on WPI en SPI as indicators for IRCC, WEND and CBSC. Chair to coordinate.
IRCC7/08	Invite GEBCO Guiding Committee / Bathymetric Regional Project Chairs to attend corresponding RHCs meetings, aiming at strengthening collaboration with a priority on improving high resolution shallow water bathymetry at the regional level	RHCs / GEBCO	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2015	Permanent.	By planning a IBCCA and a IHO DCDB (Data Center for Digital Bathymetry) presentation during 16 <sup>th</sup> MACHC meeting.
IRCC7/09	Encourage MSs and representatives of industry and academia to promote and to work together to ensure that the best possible use is made of Satellite Derived Bathymetry	RHC Chairs	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2015	Permanent.	By agenda cluster 5 on 'Survey and Risk' during the 16 <sup>th</sup> MACHC meeting. Also MACHC action items 15.9.1 and 15.9.2 apply.
IRCC7/15	Provide material to the IHB to promote the achievements of IRCC bodies	RHC Chairs and subsidiary bodies	Report to IRCC Chair Dec 2015	Permanent.	Adopt as continuous MACHC action item.

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IRCC7/17	Encourage National Hydrographers to invest in English language training in order to increase the chances of their candidates being selected to Cat A and Cat B training courses delivered in English	RHC Chairs	IRCC8	Permanent.	Adopt as continuous MACHC action item.
IRCC7/18	Facilitate resolution of important inconsistencies between paper charts and ENCs and between ENCs from different producers as identified by the RENCs or otherwise	RHC Chairs	IRCC8	Permanent.	Adopt the resolution of inconsistencies between paper charts and ENCs as part of an ongoing MICC activities. Also MACHC actions 14.2. and 14.1.34 apply.
IRCC7/19	Encourage MSs in their respective regions to use the Risk Assessment methodology to establish Hydrographic Survey priorities	RHC Chairs	IRCC8	Permanent.	By introduction of the dedicated Risk assessment meeting and the agenda cluster 5 on 'Survey and Risk' during the 16 <sup>th</sup> MACHC meeting. Also MACHC action 15.7.2.1 applies.
IRCC7/20	provide input to CBSC on how to identify possible sources of funding to support capacity building efforts and programmes across the regions	IRCC Members	CBSC14		Adapt MACHC action item 14.3.1 to include individual nations efforts next to those of the CB coordinator.
IRCC7/26	report to IRCC on the status of the RHC procedures for selecting their respective representatives to the Council	RHC Chairs	IRCC8		By agenda item 2.2.1 of the 16 <sup>th</sup> MACHC meeting.

No	ACTION (AGENDA ITEM)	RESP.	DEADLINE	STATUS	MACHC actions to be taken
IRCC7/27	<p>To task:</p> <p>a) New INT Chart Producer Nations to provide first edition INT chart to Regional INT Chart Coordinator (or ICCWG) for review as soon as convenient during the production cycle;</p> <p>b) INT Chart Coordinators/ICCWGs to manage the review of the first edition INT charts produced by new INT Chart Producer Nations to check their compliance with IHO standards, provide feedback to the Producer and to report progress to the next RHC meeting;</p> <p>c) All INT Chart Producer Nations to provide first edition and new edition INT charts to Regional INT Chart Coordinator (or ICCWG) 3 months prior to every RHC meeting to enable Regional INT Chart Coordinator (or ICCWG) to validate current INT chart Scheme;</p> <p>d) All editions of INT charts submitted under action 27 a) and b) to be subsequently transferred to the IHB to be included in the IHB reference collection for internal use; and</p> <p>e) Member States to provide an update of the list of on-line chart catalogues, either directly or systematically when updating the Yearbook.</p>	RHC Chairs	October 2015		Action item for the MICC. Initial finding to be reported at the 16 <sup>th</sup> MACHC meeting.

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No	ACTION (AGENDA ITEM)	RESP.	DEADLINE	STATUS	MACHC actions to be taken
IRCC7/28	implement procedures approved by Decision 3 and to report their processes for the review of first edition INT Charts produced by new Producer Nations to IRCC	RHCs	IRCC8		Action item for chair through the MICC chair; MICC Chair to provide necessary input for IRCC 8.
IRCC7/33	instruct the ICCWG Coordinators to investigate ways to improve communication across the regions and report back to IRCC	RHC Chairs	IRCC8		Action item for chair through the MICC chair; MICC Chair to provide necessary input for IRCC 8. Also MACHC action 15.7.2.4 applies.
IRCC7/41	consider incorporating hydrography in more comprehensive maritime projects as a way of raising awareness and funds from Donor agencies and to report progress to IRCC	RHCs	IRCC8		Adopt as MACHC action item with a concrete deliverable.: "Member States, Associate Member states and Observers are invited to consider incorporating hydrography in more comprehensive maritime projects as a way of raising awareness and funds from Donor agencies, and report back to the chair not later than 8 April 2016". Also MACHC action 14.3.1 applies.
IRCC7/42	invite Member States to update C-55 annually including reports of "no changes")	RHCs	July 2015		MACHC action 14.1.30 applies.
IRCC7/43	provide access to the IHB to any of their relevant promotional material on CB and to consider using the posters displayed at the EIHC 5 CB exhibition	RHCs	August 2015		Adopt as MACHC action item with a concrete deliverable : "Member States and Associated Member States are invited to provide access for the IHB to any of their relevant promotional material on CB and to consider using the posters displayed at the EIHC 5 CB, and to report back during 16 <sup>th</sup> MACHC meeting if any such promotional material can be made available".

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IRCC7/44	provide: a) an initial summary report on Technical Visits (TV) within two weeks of the visit; and b) full reports are expected within three months of completion of a TV	RHC Chairs and CB Co-ordinators	a) Two weeks after the TV b) Three months after the TV	Permanent.	Take on board as standing Chair/CB Coordinator instruction, no specific MACHC action required.
IRCC7/44 bis	provide full reports for those TVs undertaken in 2014 that have not yet been submitted to the IHB	RHC Chairs and CB Co-ordinators	July 2015		Action by CB Coordinator as required
IRCC7/48	Consider nominating regional representatives on the MSDIWG	RHCs	December 2015		The Netherlands as Vice Chair of the MSDIWG also acts as regional representative for the MACHC.
IRCC7/52	continue supporting GEBCO regional projects and report back to IRCC	RHCs	IRCC8	Permanent.	Is covered by IBCCA project in the MACHC region. Also MACHC action 14.1.16 applies.
IRCC7/53	remind HOs of the standing request to provide GEBCO with access to existing shallow water bathymetric data, at whatever resolution is permissible by the country and to report progress to IRCC	RHC Chairs	IRCC8		MACHC action items 15.3 and 14.1.16 apply.
IRCC7/56	provide comments on doc. WENDWG5-04B (Relevance of information overlay services and their status in the global IHO ENC programme) to IRCC	RHCs	IRCC8		Action is paused as the issue is still under consideration of the WEND WG (Overlay services as AIO). See also decision 27 agreed at IRRC7.

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No	ACTION (AGENDA ITEM)	RESP.	DEADLINE	STATUS	MACHC actions to be taken
IRCC7/62	consider providing representatives of the IHO at the international meetings listed in doc. IRCC-10B on relations with stakeholders and to inform the IHB	RHCs	as soon as volunteers are identified		Adopt as MACHC action item with a concrete deliverable: "MACHC Chair invites Member States to consider providing representatives of the IHO at the international meetings listed in doc. IRCC-10B on relations with stakeholders, and to report back at 16 <sup>th</sup> MACHC meeting".



**SEVENTH MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE  
IHO-IRCC7**

**Mexico City, Mexico, 01-03 June 2015**

**FILTERED DRAFT LIST OF DECISIONS AGREED AT IRCC7**

Below you will find a filtered list of IRCC7 decision that affect the MACHC region or may be of immediate interest to MACHC Member states and Associated Member states.

N.	Decision
3	<p>the IRCC agreed to the following procedures for Regional INT Chart Coordinators to monitor and validate of the INT Chart production as an experimental phase for two years before final approval:</p> <p>a. New INT Chart Producer Nations to provide first edition INT charts to Regional INT Chart Coordinator (or ICCWG);</p> <p>b. INT Chart Coordinators/ICCWGs to manage the review of the first edition INT charts produced by new INT Chart Producer Nations to check their compliance with IHO standards, provide feedback to the Producer and to report progress to the next RHC meeting;</p> <p>c. All INT Chart Producer Nations to provide first edition and new edition INT charts to Regional INT Chart Coordinator (or ICCWG) 3 months prior to every RHC meeting to enable Regional INT Chart Coordinator (or ICCWG) to validate current INT chart Scheme;</p> <p>d. All editions of INT charts submitted under paragraphs a and b, to be subsequently transferred to the IHB to be included in the IHB reference collection for internal use; and</p> <p>e. IHO Member States to provide an update of the list of on-line chart catalogues, either directly or when updating the Yearbook.</p>
4	the IRCC decided to add the topic of satellite-derived bathymetry as a standing agenda item at all future IRCC meeting.
7	the IRCC noted New Zealand's commitment to conduct additional hydrographic risk assessments and chart remediation programmes for a number of SW Pacific nations.
9	the IRCC agreed on the need to update IHO publication C-16 - <i>National Hydrographic Regulations</i> , and for the IRCC Chair to seek input from RHC Chairs, to allow a subsequent new edition of C-16 to be published by IHB.
11	the IRCC agreed to encourage greater communication between ICCWG coordinators.
13	the IRCC endorsed the proposed procedure for the maintenance of the IHO Publication S-53 which is to place the relevant annex to <u>MSC.1/Circ.1310/Rev.1</u> under the cover of IHO S-53 and its Preface.
14	the IRCC endorsed the proposal described in doc IRCC7-08B2, to submit proposed revised texts to MSI documents directly to IMO by the IHB due to the tight timeline for submission to the IMO.

N.	Decision
15	the IRCC noted the potential impact caused by the existing resource limitations of the IHB secretariat to support the administration of the CB programme.
16	the IRCC invited its members and the IHB to allocate additional contributions to the CB Fund.
20	the IRCC noted the establishment of the MSDI training syllabus by the MSDIWG.
21	the IRCC noted the potential impact caused by the existing resource limitations of the IHO secretariat to support the administration of IBSC activities.
22	the IRCC endorsed the new edition of S-5B.
23	the IRCC endorsed the IBSC work plan for the development of new edition of the standards S-5A, S-5B, S-8A, S-8B).
27	the IRCC noted the work items K.1 and K.2 in the proposed WENDWG 2015-16 work programme (as given in Annex) for addressing information overlay issues.
31	the IRCC agreed that no further action should be taken for the moment for amending the WEND Principles and Guidelines.
34	the IRCC noted the potential impact of the development of an IHO policy for trusted crowd-sourced bathymetry on the possible establishment of a Hydrographic Surveys WG.
37	the IRCC noted the relevance of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 on the applicable IHO Resolutions and activities.
38	the IRCC established a Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG) under the Terms of Reference contained in Annex A to doc. IRCC7-11A.
39	the IRCC appointed the Director of the IHO DCDB as the Chair of the CSBWG.
40	the IRCC noted the papers concerning access to bathymetric data (docs. IRCC7-11B and 11E) and decided to prepare a relevant supplement or additional chapter, as appropriate, to C-17-Spatial Data Infrastructures: <i>“The Marine Dimension” - Guidance for Hydrographic Offices</i> and to seek examples of national legislation that enable government access to bathymetric data collected for commercial or scientific purposes for inclusion in IHO publication C-16 - <i>National Hydrographic Regulations</i> (see also Action IRCC7-30).
41	<p>the IRCC noted the recommendations outlined in paragraphs 15 to 18 of the paper on <i>Considerations on the development of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO)</i> (doc. IRCC7-11D.) and agreed that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the development of the GEBCO Data Store should be coordinated with the current upgrade of the IHO DCDB that is intended to improve support for CSB and ocean mapping data discovery;</li> <li>2. mechanisms should be developed to promote the collection of bathymetric data from scientific and crowd- sourced cruises and to ensure that the data is made available to GEBCO, accompanied by appropriate metadata, through the IHO DCDB;</li> <li>3. methods and initiatives to improve the recognition of GEBCO as the “the most authoritative publicly available bathymetry of the world’s oceans” in support of global and regional programmes related with Earth observation and monitoring should be</li> </ol>

N.	Decision
	<p>identified; and</p> <p>4. affordable methods to produce geo-referenced raster copies of the repository of GEBCO ocean maps and plotting sheets that are held at the IHB should be further identified and, if appropriate, the relevant specifications should be developed.</p>
43	the IRCC noted the report on GIS developments at the IHB (doc IRCC7-12A).
44	the IRCC noted the reports from Japan and The Philippines on responses to natural disasters (docs IRCC7-13A and IRCC7-13B).