

58th NHC Conference
Helsinki, Finland
18-20 August 2014

Agenda item B1
Report from the IHB

Report from the IHB

23 July 2014

Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention

1. As of 15 July 2014, 41 of the required 48 approvals of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention had been received by the Government of Monaco. All five NHC Member States have notified their approval of the Protocol of Amendments.
2. The first Assembly of the IHO will take place at the earliest in 2017, subject to the missing seven approvals being received by the Government of Monaco not later than 3 months before the opening day of the next ordinary session of the International Hydrographic Conference.

Status of IHO membership

3. Montenegro has become the 82nd Member State of the IHO on 3 December 2013.
4. With Serbia, Congo and the Dominican Republic remaining suspended, the current thresholds for IHO decisions are 40 when a simple majority is required and 53 when a two-third majority is needed. The Directing Committee reminds Member States that not responding to a Circular Letter which requires a vote is equivalent to voting no.
5. Bulgaria, Haiti, Mauritania and Sierra Leone have all received the required number of votes to be accepted as a Member State of the IHO. However, the Government of Monaco has yet to receive the instruments of accession from these countries which will formalise their membership.
6. Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam, and Georgia have applied for membership of the IHO. As of 15 July 2014, the status of approvals was as follows:

State	Voting Status
Viet Nam (2011)	45 of 52 required
Brunei Darussalam (2012)	42 of 52 required
Georgia (2012)	41 of 53 required

All five NHC Member States of the NHC have approved the applications.

5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC-5)

7. EIHC-5 will take place from 6 to 10 October 2014 in the Auditorium Rainier III in Monaco. Thirteen Conference Circular Letters covering various administrative matters have been issued. The Provisional Conference Programme, Draft Agenda, Red Book and Reports to be considered by the Conference have been circulated to Member States (CCL 10, 12 and 13 refers).
8. In addition to considering progress and proposals related to the three parts of the IHO Work Programme, four special sessions of the EIHC-5 have been allocated to presentations and discussions on topical issues. The selected themes are:

- Theme 1: The place of hydrographic data in a geospatial world,
- Theme 2: E-navigation - its impact on the IHO and Member States,
- Theme 3: New and emerging technologies (including crowd-sourced bathymetry),
- Theme 4: Capacity Building.

9. The Theme 3 will contribute to progressing action NHC57/3.

10. In addition to the Industry Exhibition, an IHO Capacity Building exhibition and poster celebration of ten years of Nippon Foundation IHO-IOC GEBCO scholars will be arranged. A number of past scholars and alumni will provide poster displays of their work since graduation. These will be displayed throughout the period of the Conference.

IHO ENC Reference Collection and ENC Availability Catalogue

11. As a follow up to CL 51/2012 dated 18 May, about the provision of ENCs to the IHB in accordance with IHO General Regulation 19, PRIMAR has arranged to offer to the IHB a free Web Map Service (WMS) containing all the ENCs available in the WEND (RENCs) database, continuously updated. The WMS service will be for internal use in the IHB only.

C-55 Updates

12. The latest updated information in C-55 - *Status of Charting and Surveys Worldwide* from NHC Member States is as follows:

State - Dependency - INT Region	C-55 last updated	Update to be processed
Denmark - Mainland - D	12/03/2012	20/05/2014
Denmark - Faeroe Island - D	12/03/2012	20/05/2014
Denmark - Greenland - D	29/10/2013	20/05/2014
Denmark - Greenland - N	29/10/2013	20/05/2014
Finland - E	27/03/2012	16/01/2014
Iceland - D	10/03/2010	no
Norway - Mainland - D	29/10/2013	no
Norway - Jan Mayen - D	31/12/2012	no
Norway - Svalbard - D	31/12/2012	no
Norway Bouvet Island H	31/12/2012	no
Norway - Antarctica - M	31/12/2012	no
Norway - Mainland - N	29/10/2013	no
Sweden - E	29/01/2013	no

13. NHC Member States are invited to provide the IHB with regular update or confirmation of their C-55 entries on at least an annual basis, together with update or confirmation of their IHO Year Book entries. Updates must be sent using the appropriate form available on the IHO website.

IHO GIS Data Base

14. Work has continued on the development of the IHO GIS composed of two main parts: a country information database and a regional information database.
15. The country database should contain all relevant information about the coastal States in the world - similar to the information contained in the IHO Yearbook.
16. The regional database should contain geospatial information about the coverage and location of charts, surveys and related information. It is expected to provide the principal resource for managing international chart coordination, ENC coverage, as well as the identification of survey or charting “hotspots”. It is expected that there will be an upload capability that will allow States to keep the relevant information up to date.
17. The country database and a beta version of the regional database for Antarctica are now under evaluation (see IHO CL 23/2014 and 27/2014 respectively).
18. They have been developed using open source tools which have proven to be time-consuming. The IHB is considering switching to professional off the shelf tools.
19. The current digital C-55 has been reformatted to facilitate the maintenance and take into account the establishment of Region N (Arctic Ocean).

IHO Publicity

20. World Hydrography Day. The theme for World hydrography Day 2014 was “*Hydrography - much more than just nautical charts*”. The purpose of this theme was to provide Member States with the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance and the benefits of hydrography, particularly in economic terms that will appeal both the public and to politicians. The intention of the Directing Committee is that the focus of World Hydrography Day 2015 will be on the fact that much of the world’s seas, oceans and navigable waters remain unsurveyed. The tag-line for the theme has yet to be formulated.
21. Post-2015 agendas. The development of the post-2015 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction under the aegis of the United Nations offer an opportunity to highlight the fundamental role of hydrography in underpinning sustainable development and the reduction of marine disaster risks. The Directing Committee strives to make the best of this opportunity, both directly and through related initiatives and programmes such as the UN initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and the activities of the Group on Earth Observation (GEO). As the negotiation processes are driven and controlled by Member States, the efforts of the Directing Committee need to be taken forward at the national and regional levels (see CL 53/2014).
22. IHO Stakeholder Forum. An IHO Stakeholder Forum is planned on the occasion of the next Conference of the International Federation of Hydrographic Societies (IFHS), Hydro14, which will take place in Aberdeen, United Kingdom, from 28 to 30 October 2014. The Forum will explore how to improve the two-way interaction between the IHO and industry (IHO CL 24/2014 refers).
23. International Hydrographic Review. The IHR provides an ideal opportunity for Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in the region. An Editorial Board comprising a representative from each RHC has been established. The NHC representative is the Chair of the Commission. Papers

for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the Editor (ihreview@iho.int, copy to ian.halls1@defence.au.gov).

Action Requested of NHC Member States

24. NHC Member States are invited to:

- **Note** this report,
- **Consider** the Commission contribution to the 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference;
- **Provide** update or confirmation of their C-55 and Year Book entries as appropriate;
- **Consider** the Commission contribution to promoting the views and interests of the IHO in the post-2015 UN processes; and
- **Take any other actions** as considered appropriate.