



NIOHC11-10

**11th NORTH INDIAN OCEAN
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION
NEW DELHI, INDIA 01 – 02 MARCH 2011**

**Agenda item 8.2 - Proposal amending statutes to include election of
Chair and Vice Chair to keep in line with other RHC's
- Explanatory Note**

Background

The recent draft IRCC Annual Report 2010 stated that the participation of Non-IHO Member States in the meetings of the RHCs listed in element 3.2 (Co-operation with non Member States) was disappointing.

IHB records indicate that several Non-IHO Members in the region have previously attended NIOHC meetings but no longer do so.

In an effort to widen the participation of the NIOHC, Associate Members and Non-IHO Members in the region should be encouraged to attend NIOHC meetings and to become more involved with hosting and/or Vice Chair duties.

Considerations

At present the NIOHC Statutes make no reference to the election or duties of a Vice Chairman or that the Chairman of the Commission shall be from a Full Member State.

The statutes of other Regional Hydrographic Commissions describe the duties of the Chairman and Vice Chairman in a variety of ways. Related extracts from those RHC statutes can be seen at Annex A.

IHO Member and Non-IHO Member states in the NIOHC region should be encouraged to become more involved with the work of the Commission.

Recommendations

The NIOHC Meeting is invited to consider clarifying the NIOHC statutes with regard to the duties of the Chair and Vice Chair as shown in Annex B.

Annex A

Extracts from Regional Hydrographic Commission statutes relating to the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman

EAHC

Article 5: Chairman

2. The Vice-Chairman shall be elected at the end of the Conference and shall assume office as the Chairman at the end of the next Conference.

EAtHC

Article 6

a. The Conferences of the Commission are conducted by the Chairman. If the Conference is hosted by a Member country, the representative of the country in which the Conference takes place shall be its Vice-Chairman. If the Conference is hosted by an Associate Member country, a Vice-Chairman is elected among the Members. At the conclusion of the Conference he shall become Chairman and remain in office until the end of next Conference.

RSAHC

Article 5: Chairman and Vice-Chairman

a) The meeting of the Commission shall be presided over by its Chairman. However, in case the Chairman can not hold the meeting due to any unforeseen reason(s) then the meeting shall be chaired by its vice- Chairman. The Chairman and vice-Chairman shall be from a Full Member State of the Commission, elected on a rotational basis. Therefore, those Full Members desirous of chairing the next meeting shall put forward their candidature during an ordinary meeting. Priority shall be given to a country which has not yet chaired a meeting, or to the one which had not done so for the longest time. In cases of equal priority, a secret ballot shall be held with the decision being taken Adopted at 2nd meeting of RSAHC May 2006 by a simple majority of Full Members present. The Chairman and vice- Chairman shall take office immediately after their election.

SEPHC

No mention of vice-chair

SWPHC

Article 5: Chairman

a. At the conclusion of the Conference the Chairman for the next Conference shall be elected (see 4f) and shall take up his duties within three months following the Conference. He shall remain in office until the end of the next Conference but may stand for re-election.

b. A Vice-Chairman shall be elected at the same time, in case the Chairman requires a deputy to attend to the affairs of the Commission.

MACHC

Article 5: of the Chair and Vice Chair

- a) The Conferences of the Commission are conducted by the Chair with the assistance of the Vice Chair.
- b) The Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission shall be from a Full Member State of the Commission, elected on a rotational basis. Under normal circumstances, the term for the Chair and Vice Chair will be two years. If the period between Conferences exceeds two years, the term will extend until the end of the next Conference.
- c) At the conclusion of a Conference, Full Members will offer suggestions regarding the election of a new Chair and Vice Chair. In order to assure the continuity, it is suggested that the Vice Chair be elevated to the position of Chair for the next period.
- d) If the Chair, or the Vice Chair, is unable to officiate at the Conference, he or she shall be replaced by his or her Representative.
- e) The incoming Chair shall take office three months after the conclusion of an ordinary Conference.

MBSHC

Article 6

- a) The Conferences of the Commission are conducted by the Chairman. The Chairmanship and the Vice Chairmanship of the Commission shall always remain in a Member State. The representative of the country in which the Conference takes place shall be its Vice Chairman. At the conclusion of the Conference, he shall become Chairman and remain in office until the end of the next Conference.

NIOHC

Article 5

- a) At the end of each Conference, the Members desirous of hosting the following Conference shall put forward their candidatures. Priority shall be given to a country, which has not yet hosted a Conference, or to the one, which did so the longest time ago. In cases of equal priority a ballot shall be held, the decisions being taken by a simple majority of Members present. The Chairman shall take up his duties within four months from the end of the Conference.
- b) Members and Associate Members shall be represented at Conferences by heads of Hydrographic Services or their representatives and where such services do not exist, by heads of national authorities responsible for Hydrography and navigation. They may also be accompanied by members of their staff.
- c) The Commission may set up small committees of Members and Associate Members interested in particular projects with the object of examining and executing such projects.
- d) The host country undertakes to assist with the arrangements for participants in the Conference to obtain any necessary authorisations and visas to enable them to attend the Conference.

- e) An invitation to attend the Conference shall invariably be addressed to the Directing Committee of the International Hydrographic Bureau.
- f) The presence of two thirds (2/3) of the Members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.
- g) Countries within the region who are not Members or Associate Members of the Commission, as well as countries which are outside the region and are Members of the International Hydrographic Organization, but not Associate Members of the NIOHC, if they contribute to the safety of navigation by their activities in the fields of hydrography including training, nautical charting, or nautical information in the region of the NIOHC area, and those organizations, which are active in the region of the NIOHC area in the fields of hydrography, including training, nautical charting, nautical information or aids to navigation, can be invited to send representatives to attend its meetings, as observers. The observers may take part in the discussion but shall not have voting rights.
- h) Co-ordinators of adjacent INT chart regions and the countries bordering the region, who are not Members or Associate Members of the Commission, can be invited to send representatives to attend its meetings, as observers. The observers may take part in the discussions but shall not have voting rights.

Article 6

- a) In the interval between two Conferences, the outgoing Chairman shall conclude the business of the last Conference within four months. Thereafter, the incoming Chairman shall provide the Secretariat for the Commission and shall attend to all matters of interest by correspondence.
- b) If the Chairman is unable to officiate, he shall be replaced by his successor or his deputy at the Hydrographic office.
- c) The Chairman shall be responsible for the organization of the Conference for which his country shall pay the expenses.

NSHC

Article 8

1. The conferences of the Commission are conducted by the Chairman. The members in whose country the conference takes place shall act as Vice-Chairman.
2. The Chairman is responsible for the preparation of the agenda for the conference. The Vice- Chairman is responsible for the organization of the conference.
3. Any expense necessary to organize and conduct the conference shall be met by the office of the Vice-Chairman.

Article 9

1. The Chairman shall hold office during the interval between consecutive conferences and shall act as the Bureau of the Commission during this interval.
2. He shall open the next conference by giving a report of the activities and results during the interval since the last conference.
3. The Vice-Chairman shall assume office as Chairman in the beginning of the last session of the conference.

SAIHC

Article 4: Chairman and Vice-Chairman

- a. The activities of the Commission are conducted by the Chairman.
- b. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be volunteering Members elected during the Conference and shall take office six months after the end of the Conference.
- c. The Chairman shall provide the Secretariat for the Commission regarding all questions to be dealt with by correspondence. He will prepare a Provisional Agenda for the next Conference and will present as the first item, his report on the activities of the Commission since the last Conference.
- d. The Chairman shall be responsible for the organisation of the Conference, in accordance with the Hydrographic Authority of the country hosting the conference.
- e. If the Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman, is unable to officiate, he shall be replaced by his successor or his deputy in his office.

BSHC

Article 6

- a) The Conferences of the Commission are conducted by the Chairman. The representative of the country in which the Conference takes place shall be its Vice- Chairman. At the conclusion of the Conference, he shall become Chairman and remain in office until the end of the next Conference.
- b) In the interval between two Conferences, the Chairman shall provide the Secretariat for the Commission regarding all questions to be dealt with by correspondence.
- c) Proposals to be included in the Agenda of a Conference must be sent to the Chairman at least four months before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference. The Chairman shall prepare the provisional Agenda and forward it to the participants at least one month before the opening of the Conference. The first item shall be the Chairman's report on the activities of the Commission since the last Conference.
- d) The Vice-Chairman shall be responsible for the organization of the Conference.

HCA

Article 5: Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretariat

- 5.1 The activities of the Committee shall be conducted by the Chairman, who shall be a Director of the IHB appointed by the President of the Directing Committee of the IHB. The Chairman shall also preside over the conference.
- 5.2 The Chairman shall be assisted by a Vice-Chairman from a Member State of the HCA. The Vice-Chairman shall be elected at the beginning of each conference by a simple majority of those Members present.
- 5.3 The IHB shall provide the Secretariat for the Commission regarding all questions to be dealt with by correspondence. The Chairman will prepare a Provisional Agenda for the next conference and will present, as the first item, his report on the activities of the Commission since the last conference.
- 5.4 The Chairman will report the activities and future plans of the HCA to the relevant sessions of the IHC. Between sessions, reports of studies or other

activities, which may be considered of general interest to all Member States, should be reported through the Chairman to the IHB for general dissemination.

Table: Summary of election of chairs and vice-chairs

RHC	Chair	Vice-Chair	Location	Period
BSHC			VC	
EAHC	From VC	MS		
EAtHC	From VC		VC	
HCA	IHB	MS		
MACHC	Rotational From VC	MS		2 years
MBSHC	From VC		VC	
NIOHC			MS	
HNC	Rotational		Chair	
NSHC	From VC		VC	
RSAHC	Rotational			
SAIHC	MS	MS		
SEPHC	Rotational		Chair	
SWPHC	MS	MS	MS	

Annex B

Amendments to NIOHC Statutes

Insert under Article 6

d) The Chairman shall be from a Full Member State of the Commission. Under normal circumstances, the term for the Chair will be two years. If the period between Conferences exceeds two years, the term will extend until the end of the next Conference.

e) The Chairman shall be assisted by a Vice-Chairman from a Member or Associate Member State. The Vice-Chairman may wish to assist the Chairman by volunteering to host the Conference.