

**9<sup>th</sup> NIOHC conference**  
**Port Victoria, Seychelles, 25-26 February 2009**

Paper for consideration by NIOHC

**Impact of the establishment of international anti-piracy naval  
forces on the co-ordinated activities of NIOHC members**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	France
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	The NIOHC 9th conference is as an excellent opportunity to anticipate and review the hydrographic specific requirements the international naval forces may have to plan and conduct anti-piracy operations in Region J and adjacent areas.
<b>Related Documents:</b>	1/ United Nations Security Council S/Res/1851 (dated 16 Dec. 2008). 2/ Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden (effective as 29 January 2009).
<b>Related Projects:</b>	/

### Introduction / Background

After the earthquake and resulting tsunami which occurred in Dec. 2004, the IHB issued CL02/2005 dated 5 January 2005, stating that "*as [this] regional commissions cover the affected area, these meetings provide excellent opportunities to assess what measures are needed and what capacity the Member States within the region possess to meet these needs*". The following special sessions and discussions led to the establishment of a set of recommendations gathered into the IHO response plan to disasters (CL59/2005 dated 31 May 2005).

With the launch of international anti-piracy naval forces which are deployed in the IHO Region J, the framework is clearly different than disaster issues. However, Member States and international organisations are invited under UN Res. 1851 (ref. 1/) to establish co-operation mechanisms and to enhance the capacity of relevant States in the Region on all aspects to combat piracy. It is also assumed that pirates are expanding their geographic scopes up to more than 500 M off the coasts of Kenya and Tanzania, making benefits of environmental conditions. Then, it is important to note the resolutions adopted at the high level meeting on piracy convened by IMO in Djibouti in January 2009. One of which promotes technical co-operation among the signatories of the Code of Conduct concerning the repression of piracy (ref. 2/).

Considering the definition of hydrography suggested by the ISPWG which states that "Hydrography is the branch of applied sciences which deals with the measurement and description of the physical features of oceans, seas, coastal areas, lakes and rivers, as well as with the prediction of their change over time, **for the primary purpose of safety of navigation** and in support of all other marine activities, including economic development, **security and defense**, scientific research, and **environmental protection**, it seems appropriate to assess whether or not IHO and this commission should envisage specific actions in support of anti-piracy naval forces.

### Analysis/Discussion

France believes that it is important to anticipate the requirements that the international naval forces, working together, may need to plan and conduct their operations. A provisional list of these requirements is given below:

1. safety of navigation:
  - a. are the charts sufficient for safe navigation, from the shore up to 500 M off the coasts?

- b. are they made available to the naval forces involved either in Atalanta operation or Combined Task Force 151? Are they updated? Are the surveys available compliant with modern standards?
- c. is there a sufficient ENC coverage in the areas potentially affected by piracy? If not, is the ENC coverage a matter of priority? At which scales?
- d. who is the charting authority for Somalia?
- e. Is the provision of maritime safety information adequate and is it necessary to broadcast special NAVAREA and coastal warnings in some areas and in some cases? Criteria to do so?
- f. is it necessary and possible to get high resolution bathymetry (within 12 M) in the vicinity of pirates' dens?
- g. are there uncharted islands and areas where pirates might wish to set up "maritime" shelters? And therefore is a prioritized survey plan needed?

2. environment:

- a. what about the seasonal currents? Is there a drifting current model available?
- b. in case of environmental pollution (after a blast), is there something we can do? who would do what?
- c. is there a need to provide a joint chart with (provisional?) maritime limits and boundaries for the use of naval forces so they can operate under UNCLOS with a better knowledge?

3. organisation:

- a. depending on the discussion, is there a need to co-ordinate any survey or charting action within the NIOHC area where piracy is developing?
- b. if the answer is no, then is it considered as sufficient for national HOs to liaise with their own naval command to provide hydrographic support?
- c. is there a need to designate an operational focal point among NIOHC Member States to handle any specific action when needed (see CL59/2005)? Or is it sufficient to work with current UN, NATO, EU, or Combined Maritime Forces Operating Procedures at a national level?

NATO, EU, Combined Maritime Forces are involved in the naval operations in the area and combat vessels from various countries (not all of them are NIOHC members - such as China -) might be deployed in one or another task force. As a first step, France suggests NIOHC representatives to liaise with their naval commands to review the hydrographic requirements they may have, so a consolidated list of requirements is established, by anticipation, by one NIOHC MS acting as co-ordinator and if needed, then seek co-operative support from other NIOHC members.

**Justification and impacts**

Nil.

**Action required from NIOHC**

The NIOHC members are invited to:

- a. consider this discussion paper and comment as appropriate;
- b. consider follow up actions and/or recommendations if required.