

**1st EXTRAORDINARY ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION
MEETING (ERSAHC 1)
9 to 11 February 2014
Abu Dhabi – United Arab Emirates**

FINAL REPORT

Section numbering relates to Agenda numbering.

Note All ERSAHC 1 Documents are available from the IHO website:

http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/RSAHC/ERSAHC1/ERSAHC1.htm

The opening ceremony for the first extraordinary meeting of the ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission (ERSAHC 1) commenced at 10:00 am with Holy Quran. His Excellency Salem Al Zaabi, Executive Director of the Maritime Transport Sector in National Transport Authority addressed the meeting and welcomed the participants and requested to benefit from all participants experience in order to be able to open a hydrographic office here in UAE. He highlighted the importance of the meeting to regional development in hydrographic and cartographic services and the broader safety of navigation and economic development. He was followed by speeches from the Chairman of ERSAHC 1, Colonel Adel Khalifa Al Shamsi, manager of Marine project in MSD, and IHB Director, Rear Admiral (Ret) Mustafa Iptes.

1. Opening remarks by ERSAHC 1 Chairman and IHB.

The Chairman welcomed the participants to the meeting and thanked Rear Admiral (Ret) Mustafa Iptes for all his efforts. The Chairman extended his appreciation for all participants especially for Iraq as it was the first time to have them attend as observers. He commenced by giving a brief overview of activities since RSAHC5 which was held in Riyadh in February 2012.

He highlighted that more regular meetings were now being undertaken and he considered that this was a sign of a more focused and committed cooperation in the region for the future. He noted the importance of RSAHC to the safety of navigation in the region and cooperation in the fields of hydrography, cartography and nautical information.

The Chairman indicated that Iraq is now Associate Member of the RSAHC. Highlighting its long engagement in the fields of hydrographic and oceanographic data gathering in the region, he added that Iraq would bring considerable additional benefits to RSAHC. Iraq was unanimously welcomed as an Associate Member.

Director Mustafa Iptes (IHB) welcomed all to the meeting and thanked UAE for hosting the welcome dinner the previous evening. He highlighted the importance of the meeting to the continued development of the region and urged delegates to participate fully in the discussions. He was particularly pleased to welcome representatives from Iraq and hoped this was the first important step to their return to engagement with the RSAHC and the IHO and future participation in IHO activities and Director Iptes extended IHO support to all members especially full members.

He noted the attendance of a number of representatives from industry and highlighted their importance in helping to progress the development of IHO technical programmes as well as regional capacity building initiatives.

Also Director Iptes highlighted his last visit to UAE in October 2013 and how UAE is an important member in the region and no thing they are putting all their efforts into opening their Hydrographic office.

2. Administrative arrangements.

Military Survey Department from GHQ outlined the administrative arrangements for the meeting. The Chairman noted that Miss Rana Al Hamlawi, Executive assistant from Bayanat for Mapping & Surveying Services LLC would be acting as secretary for the meeting.

The Chairman then asked all the delegates to introduce themselves. He noted the absence of representatives from the IR of Iran, Kuwait and Pakistan; he concluded that despite these absences there was a quorum and therefore the meeting could proceed.

3. Approval of the Agenda and Timetable.

The meeting approved the draft agenda and timetable without amendment.

4. Review of action items from the previous meeting.

The meeting reviewed the Action List from RSAHC 5 and noted the majority of items would be addressed under the agenda for this meeting.

Two versions of a proposed new logo for the RSAHC were presented by UAE for consideration by the meeting. Oman suggested Member States (MS) should submit additional versions for consideration later during the meeting. This was agreed.

Also the items below were reviewed and concluded the following:

- 1) Oman and UAE suggested discussing INT chart issues at the beginning of the second day of the meeting. The outcome of this meeting would be presented to the RSAHC during the following day.
- 2) Iraq has been welcomed as an Associate Member instead of Observer and they commented that they are intent on joining the IHO which will eventually lead to full RSAHC membership. Assistant Director David Wyatt undertook to update the website.
- 3) Item number 4 has been deleted as Iran is not in attendance and it will be carried over to the next meeting.

5. Review of the Statutes of the Commission.

The Chairman noted Iraq was attending as an Observer. He suggested MS should consider inviting Iraq to become an Associate Member as a first step to returning to full member status. This proposal was unanimously supported and Iraq was duly elected as an Associate Member of RSAHC, The IHB was requested to up-date the IHO website to reflect this. **Action IHB**

6. Report by IHB.

Director Iptes provided a report on IHB activities (ERSAHC 1.6). He urged MS to consider voting on new member state applications for which voting was outstanding by a

number of MS within the region. He also requested MS, who have not done so, to consider voting on the protocol of amendments to the IHO convention. He gave a general up-date on other activities, and highlighted future events and projects, including the IHO-GIS, WHD, EIHC 5, IHR and capacity building programme activities.

Details of the IRCC 6 were provided with a request to the Chairman to represent RSAHC at the meeting and the CBSC meeting beforehand. The recent HSSC 5 meeting was reported, particularly highlighting the proposed reorganization of the sub-committees and working groups, for which the HSSC is responsible. The delegates were urged to note the activities of these two important committees and act on the documents and Circular Letters published as a result.

The meeting noted the report. The Chairman asked for any additional comments. IALA highlighted the forthcoming IALA conference, which is programmed to take place the week after IRCC 6, also in Paris.

IHB gave a short tour of the IHO website, highlighting the information documents and publications available. Director Iptes briefed the meeting on a number of CLs, urging MS to reply with comments or votes when required.

7. National Reports.

The Chairman invited MS to present their National Reports (ERSAHC 1-7.1 to 1-7.10.1). Reports were received from France, UAE, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UK all of whom subsequently presented their National Reports. It was noted that Iran also submitted a National Report. Pakistan and Kuwait did not attend the meeting nor submit a report.

The Reports were discussed, in particular highlighting training activities taking place within the region.

The following highlights were noted:

- 1) Bahrain's report was displayed on the screen and they updated the attendees regarding the major activities which have been done during the last period and they informed that they have the reloading capacity which can cover all GCC.
- 2) Qatar highlighted new surveys undertaken, assets available and that there is no changes in organization structure. Briefed on additional activities in which it was involved, including maritime boundaries, maritime zones delimitation and new publications.
- 3) UAE welcomed Iraq as a new Associate Member. It highlighted the main contents of its report, particularly assets, charts and nautical publications it generated. It expressed their wish to establish a hydrographic office.
- 4) Saudi Arabia briefed on activities of the General Commission for Survey, including surveys undertaken and charts produced, also details were provided on the full national chart scheme recently developed. It outlined training activities undertaken and developed. It provided highlights on current projects underway and associated support services provided.

- 5) Oman briefed on recent new hydrographic directorate organization structure within the Royal Navy of Oman. Also updates on paper charts ENC production were provided, activities and the training courses they have attended.
- 6) Iraq provided an up to date brief on progress and activities, intended plans for future development were also noted.
- 7) UK reported on the continued sponsorship of the Nippon Foundation/UKHO Cat B nautical cartography training course, which is run at the UKHO; RSAHC attendees were encouraged to apply for places by responding to IHO CL12/2014.
- 8) France provided an animated demonstration of the SHOM website and the availability to download hydrographic data under the INSPIRE directive.
- 9) USA provided a verbal up-date on NGA and NOAA activities and developments applicable to the region.

Mr Stephen Bennett, Programme Manager of the IALA World-Wide Academy delivered a presentation on the work of IALA and the training and capacity building activity of the Academy. This focused on obligations of coastal States to provide aids to navigation services based on an analysis of risk and traffic density.

8. Review of Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting in the RSAHC (IHO Publication C-55).

This point was covered by Assistant Director, David Wyatt from IHO and he gave a quick brief on the IHO website and where they can find this document. RSAHC members were encouraged to update their respective pages of C-55.

9. Report by INT Chart Coordinator – Progress on the implementation of the RSA INT Chart Scheme and other issue.

Oman highlighted the difficulties of up-dating the INT Chart scheme for the region and communications with the IR of Iran, the Region Coordinator. It was agreed to hold an INT Chart coordination meeting with Oman leading, and a report to be provided later in the meeting.

The INT Chart Coordinator's report was displayed for all to read. (ERSAHC 1-9) Oman suggested some comments were incorrect. UK suggested some comments may relate to a previous scheme submitted and not to the current proposed scheme submitted to the meeting by Oman. Oman indicated it intended to submit a new scheme to the UKHO and IHB for further comment prior to official adaption

Oman supported the UAE request for greater cooperation between MS.

The Chairman requested MS maintain active engagement with the INT Chart issues and to work to improve the Region I scheme. He asked the UK for technical assistance and comment on the proposed new scheme and for the UK to work with UAE to develop an appropriate scheme.

The UK gave a short background brief on the history and objectives of the INT Chart scheme. In particular was the aim to reduce duplication of effort of individual chart producing states, it was noted that local large scale port and harbour charts and approaches were not intended for inclusion and did not meet the original IHO intention.

KSA supported the UK comments and noted it would simplify many schemes if large scale local charts were removed with only medium and small scale charts remaining. IHB noted it was important the RHCs and Regional Coordinators managed their schemes and agreed on which charts should be included.

KSA noted little progress appeared to have been made in the region and suggested a new Coordinator could be appointed. France noted it was of significant benefit to coordinate the INT Chart and ENC coverage schemes in a region and the MS should consider the best service for the users.

The Chairman summed up the MS comments and noted IR of Iran was both regional INT Chart and ENC coordinator. He indicated it may be appropriate to divide these roles, leaving the ENC coordinator role to IR of Iran and appointing a new INT Chart coordinator for the region. The Chairman suggested two votes: one on dividing the roles and the second on appointing a new INT Chart Regional Coordinator.

Although MS agreed it would be appropriate to divide the roles, the UK and the IHB suggested it might be more appropriate to hold an INT Chart Coordination WG (ICCWG) meeting before the next RSAHC meeting to resolve the scheme and coordination issues. This would allow IR of Iran to Chair the discussions in their capacity as Region I Coordinator. The IHB agreed to discuss with IR of Iran the communication issues with other MS and to seek ways of improvement. **Action IHB**

MS agreed to an ICCWG meeting prior to the next RSAHC meeting to resolve the INT Chart scheme and coordination issues. **Action All**

10. WEND WG issues (UK) and Report by ENC Regional Coordinator (IR of Iran)

Director Iptes briefed on WENDWG activities, highlighting some of the decisions taken at the last meeting held in Monaco in May 2013. IHO CL06/2014 was brought to the attention of delegates and the voting deadline was highlighted.

France briefed on the contents of IHO CL06/2014, highlighting significant amendments which impact on RHC activities and ENC coordination. IALA supported the call for engagement, noting the importance of ENCs to the IMO's e-Navigation concept.

UK supported the work and the proposed amendments, reiterating their importance.

Iraq asked whether ENCs are an adequate replacement for paper charts. The benefits of ENCs and ECDIS and the e-Navigation concept were highlighted by the IHB, particularly noting the IMO regulation for ECDIS carriage requirements.

Chart World/SevenCs noted the following regarding ECDIS acceptance.

1. Presentation:
 - i. S-52 presentation is different to paper chart presentation;
 - ii. ECDIS settings (safety contour, safety depth) have an important impact on the alarm generation and display of the chart.

2. Availability of data

The basic idea within the IMO ECDIS Performance Standard (MSC 232 (82)) is to use the safety contour as the key value for display and alarm generation. Since most ENC's today (5m, 10m, 20m) do not have safety contours matching the draft requirements of merchant ships, the crew on board has to constantly change the settings according to the sailing conditions (harbor, coastal, open ocean mode).

3. Lack of training

In order to use the ENC inside an ECDIS to its full potential, the mariner needs to have a proper training. Today approximately 40 ECDIS models are available. Unlike Radar (with about 160 functions and standardized terminology), an average ECDIS has about 400 functions and the terminology depends very much on the manufacturer. Australia, MPA, MCA and Vetting therefore require a manufacturer approved training course.

4. Lack of procedures

Some shipping companies do not have the resources to review their navigation and chart handling procedures. ECDIS is considered as just another piece of equipment which has to be installed on board.

5. Chart handling

Chart handling (loading of charts and updates) depends on the ECDIS in use, the chart distributor and the means of communication available. The multitude of factors makes it almost impossible to show/train this procedure in a regular ECDIS course. Training permits for ECDIS training institutes could be a solution.

6. Size of the screen

A 19" monitor was considered to be sufficient according to the standard. Bigger monitors are available but not used frequently due to cost.

Comment on paper charts:

Since shipping companies will avoid any additional cost, a dual ECDIS configuration instead of single ECDIS with paper chart back up will dominate the retrofit market.

Bahrain noted the impact on bridge teams and ship owners by the introduction of ECDIS and ENC's.

The ENC regional Coordinator report was subsequently available. (ERSAHC 1-10)

At the end of the first day session, France provided a brief on the 2014 regional deployment of FNS BEAUTEMPS-BEAUPRÉ. Delegates took the opportunity to ask

questions and seek clarification on the proposed deployment and the supply of data to relevant coastal states on completion of the deployment. (ERSAHC 1-7.2.2).

11. Presentations from Industry

Presentations were given by SevenCs, Caris, Skilltrade, and IIC-Technologies. (ERSAHC 1-11.1 to 1-11.5). The participation of the industry was valuable and contributed to the meeting with highlights including new technologies, capacity building and standards.

The presentations were well received and all generated considerable discussion.

On completion KSA provided a more comprehensive national report on the General Commission for Survey, highlighting current programmes and future developments; the presentation included 3D images of features found during various surveys.

12. Capacity Building (CB) matters.

Director Iptes gave a presentation on Capacity Building (CB) activities and issues, he highlighted the past success of the programme which has generated a significant increase in CB requests and applications, and which have exceeded the resources available (a one to ten disparity!).

The current state of CB activity within the region was provided, suggested options for future activities were presented for consideration and MS were asked to provide bids on CB requirements to the regional coordinator.

Additionally Director Iptes provided an up-date brief on the IHO CB programme and the projected future available funding to support MS requests. The impending CB Stakeholders seminar to be held in Monaco 5-6 May 2014 was highlighted and the proposal to focus on the IHO CB programme for part of the EIHC 5.

KSA requested MSDI and an ENC production and QA course, at the same time offering to host any such courses in 2015.

It was agreed to return to this topic later in the meeting when the MS bids had been received and collated.

The RSAHC CB Coordinator, Mr J Bryant, provided a CB review (ERSAHC 1-12) and details of RSAHC CB bids and requests for 2014 and 2015 (ERSAHC 1-12.1) submitted by MS. The CB Coordinator provided details on which courses were funded for 2014 and noted that bids for 2015 needed to be submitted to the CBSC Chairman by 1 April 2014. Funding was approved in 2014 for: Tides and Water Level and MSI courses, part funding was available for MSDI. Hosts for these courses were requested. UAE volunteered to host all the CB courses for 2014 together with the Port & Shallow Water Survey course funded for delivery in 2013 but not completed in year.

CB Coordinator noted it was important hosts were confirmed for courses in 2014 so that these courses went ahead; it was pointed out that due to the limited funding available any region which receives funding for a bid but does not hold the course, may impact on the success of future bids.

The Chairman acknowledged he would work with the CB Coordinator to ensure the RSAHC CB bids were submitted in a timely fashion.

13. RSAHC Working Groups.

The Chairman explained that if there were any requirements, WGs would be established to enhance or solve an issue.

14. Promulgation of radio navigation Warnings within NAVAREA IX area, MSI in NAVAREA IX and the implementation of GMDSS. (Pakistan)

The IHB provided a short up-date on WWNWS and NAVAREA IX issues. (ERSAHC 1-14)

Oman highlighted issues of coordination with the NAVAREA IX coordinator, in particular requesting whether there was any method for the Regional Coordinator to acknowledge communications and the receipt of submitted information and warnings. The IHB agreed to investigate the issue with Pakistan and propose ways to improve the situation. **Action IHB**

KSA also noted warnings were not acknowledged and asked whether a system could be developed to assist MS and the NAVAREA IX Coordinator.

15. Relevant International Organizations' Report – highlight any event and decisions which impact on RSAHC.

IHB gave an up-date report on IMO activities and relevant outcomes of committee and sub-committee meetings. (ERSAHC 1-15)

IALA offered to give a presentation on e-Navigation at the next RSAHC meeting in 2015. **Action IALA**

KSA highlighted the importance of the e-Navigation concept and the IMO mandatory audit scheme. IHO assistance was requested in preparation for a future audit. UAE pointed out it was not an IHO function or responsibility but an individual MS with engagement with IMO to ensure compliance.

France noted the important separation between e-Navigation and the audit scheme, IHO CL 10/2006 was highlighted to MS.

The Chairman requested clarification on the situation if a state did not produce ENCs. SOLAS V/9 obligations were highlighted; KSA suggested there could be a conflict of responsibility during an audit.

The Chairman summarised stating the importance of the issues to all MS.

UK noted the currently available GB cells were an interim measure to ensure the IHO met their commitment to the IMO prior to the mandatory carriage requirement. It was noted that MS assistance is required to ensure full and accurate coverage (based on the latest sources) is achieved.

UAE asked whether currently held data can be used to create ENC cells, the UK noted that the data may not necessarily be the most up to date data available.

16. RSAHC representative to the IHR Editorial Board

Oman provided a short report on regional IHR engagement and urged all MS to consider submitting articles for publication on activities within the region. (ERSAHC 1-16)

Director Iptes gave a broader brief on the IHR.

17. RSAHC provision of shallow bathymetry to GEBCO Database (IHO standing agenda item).

IHB provided a short brief on IHO-IOC GEBCO shallow water bathymetry and how MS can contribute data. (ERSAHC 10-17).

18. Developments of Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) in the region (IHO standing agenda item). (UK and IHB)

Director Iptes gave an overview brief on MSDI which was followed by a presentation on RENCs by IC-ENC and Primar (ERSAHC 1.11.6)

MS were encouraged to participate in the MSDIWG activities and the rise in GIS activities was noted. France highlighted the activities of the UN GGIM and the connection with the 2014 WHD theme was noted.

The RENC presentation generated significant discussions and the importance the IHO gives to MS becoming a member of a RENC.

19. Engagement and representation of RSAHC members with IHB, IHO, IRCC, HSSC and IHO WGs and committees.

Director Iptes provided a brief encouraging RSAHC MS to engage with and participate in IHO bodies to help expand the knowledge within the region whilst also having the opportunity to influence the activities. IHO CL96/2012 was highlighted and the call for MS to volunteer to host events.

20. Procedures in response to Marine Disasters.

Director Iptes gave a brief on the background to the EIHC and IHC resolutions and the IHO CL 73/2012; IHO CL14/2014 was highlighted as proposing amendments to the IHO Resolution. The Chairman was requested to develop a Disaster Action Plan covering procedures in response to Marine Disasters and report progress to IRCC 6.

21. RSAHC inputs to IRCC5.

The Chairman noted the requirement to submit a report to IRCC 6 on RSAHC activities.

22. New logo for the RSAHC.

UAE presented three versions of a new RSAHC logo. The Chairman asked whether any other submissions had been received. Oman indicated they had made a submission but it appeared not to have been received, and extension was requested. Qatar requested all proposals be circulated to MS for their consideration.

IHB proposed all submit ideas to UAE by 3 July, UAE to circulate all received proposals by 11 September and a final version for a new logo be confirmed by all MS by 27 November in readiness for the next RSAHC meeting. **Action All**

23. Any other business.

There were no additional points for discussions.

24. Election Date and venue of next meeting (RSAHC No.6).

UAE volunteered to host the next normal meeting of the RSAHC (RSAHC 6). It was agreed to hold the ICCWG on 8 February 2015 with RSAHC 6 immediately following 9-11 February 2015.

25. Approval of List of Actions.

The Action List was confirmed. The list of Actions arising from ERSAC 1 were reviewed and adopted and are attached at Annex B.

26. Closing remarks by the Chairman.

The Chairman extended his thanks to Member States, Associate Members, commercial companies, organizations and all present for their inputs attendance and contributions to the meeting. He also thanked IHB for their guidance and help during the meeting.

Director Iptes commented on the success of the meeting and the fruitful discussions held. He looked to the future and the hope all full MS would be able to attend the next meeting and the progress achieved would be maintained. He also highlighted the considerable efforts of the secretary, Miss Rana al Hamalwi, without whose hard work the meeting would not have been the success, and all MS echoed this praise.

KSA supported these comments and thanked the Chairman and UAE for so successfully hosting and managing the meeting and all the associated arrangements.

The Chairman formally closed the meeting, looking forward to welcoming all participants back for RSAHC 6 in 2015.

At the end he wished all a safe return to their respective countries.

Annexes:

- A. Full list of attendees (RSAHC5-Participants).
- B. List of Actions (RSAHC5-Actions).
- C. Full list of ERSAC1 documents.
- D. ERSAC Presentation US

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List of Participants

Chairman Group			
Name	Organisation	Country	E-mail contact
Dr. Adel Al Shamsi	MSD	UAE	alshamsi@uaesurvey.ae
Rana Al Hamlawi	Bayanat		rAlHamalwi@Bayanat.co.ae
Members			
Name	Organisation	Country	E-mail contact
Juma Al Busaidi	Oman National Hydrographic Office	Oman	nhooman@omantel.net.om
Hamdan Al Yahmedi	Oman National Hydrographic Office		nhooman@omantel.net.om
Saleh Al Hosni	Oman National Hydrographic Office		nhooman@omantel.net.om
Mansoor Al Wahaibi	Ministry of Transport & Communications		mansoorw@motc.gov.om
Yousuf Eisa Ebrahim	Ministry of Municipality & Urban Planning	Qatar	ybrahim@mmaa.gov.qa
Vladan Jankovic	Ministry of Municipality & Urban Planning		vjankovic@mmaa.gov.qa
Eyad Al-Sindi	General Commission of Survey	Saudi Arabia	e.alsindi@gcs.gov.sa
Bandar Al-Qulaiti	General Commission of Survey		b.alqulaiti@gcs.gov.sa
Saud Al-Otaibi	General Commission of Survey		S.alotaibi@GCS.gov.sa
Rashid Abdulla Alsuwaidi	Hydrographic Survey Directorate	Bahrain	Rashid.Alsuwaidi@slrb.gov.bh
Ole Gravgaard	Hydrographic Survey Directorate		ole@slrb.gov.bh
Khaled Al Melhi	Bayanat for Mapping & Surveying Services	UAE	Kalmelhi@bayanat.co.ae
Yousif Al Marzooqi	Bayanat for Mapping & Surveying Services		YAlMarzooqi@Bayanat.co.ae
Suliman A. Al Shamsi	Bayanat for Mapping & Surveying Services		SAIshamsi@Bayanat.co.ae
Salman A. Sultan	Bayanat for Mapping & Surveying Services		SSultan@Bayanat.co.ae
Khalid Bin Dasmal	UAE Surveys		kdasmal@bayanat.co.ae
Jasam Al Mazrooei	UAE Surveys		JAlmazrooei@bayanat.co.ae
Adel Banihammad	Abu Dhabi Ports Company		adil.banihammad@adpc.ae
Ahmed Shazly	Abu Dhabi Ports Company		ahmed.shazly@adpc.ae

Eisa Al Hammadi	Abu Dhabi Municipality		eisa.alhammadi@adm.abudhabi.ae
Mohamed Khamis Alkaabi	MSEC		msec.team@milmail.ae
Ahmed Al Muheri	DOT		philipskana@dot.abudhabi.ae
Philip Skara	DOT		ahmed.almheiri@dot.abudhabi.ae
Associate Members			
Yves GUILLAM	SHOM	France	yves.guillam@shom.fr
George Wallace	UKHO	UK	George.wallace@ukho.gov.uk
Jeffrey BRYANT	UKHO		jeff.bryant@ukho.gov.uk
Kerry Legendre	CNMOC		Kerry.legendre@navy.mil
Mohammed Al anbaky	General Company of Iraq Ports- Ministry of Transport-Iraq	Iraq	captainmoh2005@yahoo.com
Ali Al Hamid	General Company of Iraq Ports- Ministry of Transport-Iraq	Iraq	ali_navy83@yahoo.com
Mazin Salman	General Company of Iraq Ports- Ministry of Transport-Iraq	Iraq	Mazin.Dawood@yahoo.com Portoffice-2020@yahoo.com
IHB			
Mustafa IPTES	Director	IHB	mustafa.iptes@iho.int
David Wyatt	A/Director	IHB	adso@iho.int
Observers			
Stephen Bennett	Programme Manager-IALA World – Wide Academy.	IALA	stephen.bennett@iala-aism.org
Industry and Organizations			
Charles De Jongh	CARIS BV	CARIS	charles.de.jongh@caris.nl
Hans Christoffer Lauritzen	Director PRIMAR	PRIMAR	hans.christoffer.lauritzen@kartverket.no
Bjoern Roehlich	Sales Director	SevenCs GmbH	bjoern.roehlich@sevencs.com
Paul J. Seaton	Regional Business Development Manager	Fugro	p.seaton@fugro-uae.com
Derrick Peyton	Chief Executive Officer	IIC Technology	derrick.peyton@iictechnologies.com
Somnath Marthi	Vice President	IIC Technology	somnath.marthi@iictechnologies.com
Johan Stam	General Director	SkillTrade	jstam@skilltrade.nl

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ACTION LIST**

No	Action	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Up date RSAHC web site to reflect Iraq status as an Associate Member. Complete	IHB	9 February 2014
2.	To inform IHB of any changes to data and information published on the IHO website, C55 and IHO Year Book.	All	On going
3.	To engage with Region I INT Chart Coordinator to seek ways to improve communication between Coordinator and Member States	IHB/IR of Iran	RSAHC 6
4.	Plan ICC WG meeting on 1 day before RSAHC 6	All	RSAHC 6
5.	To keep update of the ENC coverage and inform [Region I] ICCWG Coordinator.	All	On going
6.	To consider provision of shallow water bathymetric data to IHO-IOC GEBCO programme through the IHO DCDB.	All	On going
7.	To contribute with articles and notes for International Hydrographic Review (IHR).	All	On going
8.	To regularly check IHO website for notification of events and update information.	All	On going
9.	To develop Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) in the region, to engage with the IHO MSDI WG and other GIS activities including UN GGIM	All	On going
10.	To ensure personnel nominated for CB courses and workshops are correctly employed on completion.	All	On going
11.	To confirm venue and dates for hosting the Port and Shallow Water CB course in 2014 (the trainers will be provided by the PK Navy).	UAE	1 March 2014
12.	Correct training inputs to be submitted by RSAHC CB coordinator.	CB Coordinator	1 March 2014
13.	Presentation on e-Navigation concept	IALA	RSAHC 6
14.	Investigate communication issues between NAVAREA IX Coordinator and Member States and propose methods for receipting of submitted data and warnings.	IHB/Pakistan	31 March 2014
15.	Member states to ensure prompt promulgation of radio navigation warnings within NAVAREA IX area, MSI in NAVAREA IX and the implementation of GMDSS.	All	On going
16.	Generate draft RSAHC Disaster Action Plan and report to next IRCC.	Chairman	IRCC 6
16.	To submit proposals for the new RSAHC Logo to UAE.	All	3 July 2014
17.	To distribute new logo for RSAHC.	UAE	11 September 2014
18.	To confirm the new logo.	All	27 November 2014
19.	Draft meeting report on ERSAHC.	Chairman	27 February 2014
20.	Comments on the draft of ERSAHC report.	All	27 March 2014
21.	UAE to confirm dates of the RSAHC 6 meeting as 9-11 February with ICCWG on 8 February 2015 in final report.	Chairman	11 March 2014
22.	Issue invitation letter to RSAHC 6	Chairman	11 September 2014
23.	RSAHC Inputs to CBSC.	Chairman	1 March 2014
24.	RSAHC Inputs to IRCC.	Chairman	1 March 2014

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List of Documents

Document No	Document Title
RSAHC 5_Report	Final Report of RSAHC 5 meeting
RSAHC 5_Actions	List of Actions from RSAHC 5 - up-dated 31 January 2014
ERSAHC 1 CL 01-2013	ERSAHC 1 Meeting Invitation Letter
ERSAHC 1 Logistics	ERSAHC 1 Logistic Information
ERSAHC 1 Registration	ERSAHC 1 Registration Form
ERSAHC 1 Registration	ERSAHC 1 Registration Form (Word format)
ERSAHC 1 Hotel Maps	UAE Armed Forces Officers' Club and Hotel Maps
ERSAHC 1 - Agenda	ERSAHC 1 Draft Agenda
ERSAHC 1 - Programme	ERSAHC 1 Programme Time Table
ERSAHC 1-6	IHB Report
ERSAHC 1-7.1	Bahrain National Report
ERSAHC 1-7.2	France National Report
ERSAHC 1-7.2.1	France National Report Presentation
ERSAHC 1-7.2.2	France Campaigns Presentation
ERSAHC 1-7.3	IR of Iran National Report
ERSAHC 1-7.5	Oman National Report
ERSAHC 1-7.7	Qatar National Report
ERSAHC 1-7-8	Saudi Arabia National Report
ERSAHC 1-7.8.1	GCS Hydrographic Department Overview Update
ERSAHC 1-7-9	United Arab Emirates National Report
ERSAHC 1-7.10	UK National Report
ERSAHC 1-7.10.1	UK National Report Presentation

ERSAHC 1-9.1	INT Chart Coordinator Report
ERSAHC 1-9.2	INT Chart Coordination Meeting Report
ERSAHC 1-10	ENC Coordinator Report
ERSAHC 1-11.1	SevenCs Presentation
ERSAHC 1-11.2	Caris Presentation
ERSAHC 1-11.3	Skilltrade Presentation
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ERSAHC 1-11.5	IIC-Technologies Presentation
ERSAHC 1-11.6	Primar/IC-ENC Presentation
ERSAHC 1-12	CB Review
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1st EXTRAORDINARY ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION
MEETING (ERSAHC 1)
9 to 11 February 2014
Abu Dhabi – United Arab Emirates
U.S. Presentation by Kerry Legendre (CNMOC)

U.S. domestic and international hydrographic services are primarily conducted by three government entities: the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Coast Survey (OCS), the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), and the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (CNMOC, U.S. Navy). NOAA provides nautical charts and related hydrographic information within the nations EEZ. CNMOC conducts oceanographic, bathymetric, and hydrographic surveys worldwide to satisfy U.S. Navy requirements. NGA is the mapping and charting authority for the U.S. Department of Defense, building nautical charts for the U.S. Navy.

The focus of this presentation is an update on U.S. Navy (CNMOC) survey capabilities. The Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO), a subordinate command of CNMOC, currently has five 100 meter multi-purpose survey ships of the T-AGS 60 PATHFINDER class at its disposal to conduct oceanographic, bathymetric, and hydrographic surveys. These ships are USNS PATHFINDER, USNS MARY SEARS, USNS BOWDITCH, USNS HENSON, and USNS BRUCE C. HEEZEN. BOWDITCH, HENSON, and HEEZEN each carry two 10 meter hydrographic survey launches (HSLs).

USNS SUMNER was recently deactivated, but the new survey ship USNS MAURY (T-AGS 66) was recently launched, is being fitted out, and will be available for survey in 2015 bringing NAVOCEANO's survey fleet back up to six ships. MAURY is 8 meters longer than the previous ships of the class to accommodate a moon pool for unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV) deployment and retrieval.

NAVOCEANO has upgraded its Airborne Coastal Survey (ACS) capability with the new Optech Coastal Zone Mapping and Imaging (CZMIL) system. The system is flown on a Basler BT-67, a refurbished DC-3. NAVOCEANO is conducting its first survey with this new system in the Caribbean.

Fleet Survey Team (FST), a subordinate command of NAVOCEANO, is comprised of approximately 65 military and civilian surveyors. FST employs various small craft for survey including 9 meter SAFE boats (defender class) fitted with multi-beam, 7 meter RHIB with multi-beam, and expeditionary survey vehicles (ESVs) which are jet skis fitted with a single beam echo sounder and side scan sonar. All FST craft can be transported in a C-130 aircraft for rapid deployment. FST also has equipment to outfit boats of opportunity for survey. This capability is used to address standard Navy survey requirements, but has also been employed to ensure clear approach corridors in support of humanitarian aid and disaster relief.

NAVOCEANO's survey ships, ACS aircraft, and FST have all been utilized in the past to conduct cooperative hydrographic surveys with states in the region. However, no hydrographic surveys have been conducted within the region in the last year.

Also, in the way of training opportunities CNMOC and NAVOCEANO have partnered with the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) on a one-year CAT A program (NOAA has a similar arrangement with the University of New Hampshire (UNH) for a CAT A program). This Master of Science in Hydrographic Science at USM is a non-thesis degree program. CNMOC also has a 6-month long CAT B program at its Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Professional Development Center in Mississippi.