

28th USCHC
San Diego, CA, USA
30 Mar 05

AGENDA ITEM 6.a.: IHO S-55 AND THE IHOCBC

Explanatory Note

(1) IHO CL 86/04 describes the visibility within IMO of IHO Special Publication 55: “The Status of Surveys and Charting Worldwide” in its new format as an on-line data-base (www.iho.shom.fr). It also calls for RHC support in management and exploitation of the data-base. Captain Barritt will present a PowerPoint brief on:

- Access to, and update and exploitation of, the on-line data-base.
- Gaps which remain in the world-wide coverage.
- Progress with development of regional data-bases.
- Major conclusions from analysis of the data.

(2) IHO CL 88/2004 contains a full account of the important 2nd meeting of the IHO Capacity Building Committee (IHOCBC) in November 2004. Captain Barritt, Vice Chairman of the IHOCBC, will present a PowerPoint brief on the following:

- The proposed Capacity Building (CB) Strategy.
- The future process for the identification and prioritisation of IHO CB effort, and the role of RHCs and IHOCBC.
- The CBC Management Plan and the CB Work Programme for 2005-2007.
- The IHO CB Fund.
- Work leading up to the 3rd IHOCBC.

Background

(1) S-55:

USCHC attendees can view the S-55 data-base on the IHO web-site (www.iho.shom.fr). It can be found most easily under the “NEW” section of the Home Page.

At the time of drafting this Explanatory Note input is needed from Canada, and from the USA for details of GMDSS implementation in overseas areas (Johnston Atoll, Navassa Island, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, Wake Island, Howland & Baker Islands, Jarvis Island, and Kingman Reef and Palmyra Island).

IHO CLs 35 and 86 of 2004 invite MS to consider their procedures for systematic update of the data-base. There is a data input questionnaire on the web-site at the bottom of the Key on the left hand side. MS can use this at any time to submit updates.

The CLs also discuss the development of RHC data-bases as a more detailed layer below S-55. Slow progress is being made with the prototype being developed by the IHB and HCA

from S-59, and RHCs are encouraged to build up a more detailed picture for their region. USCHC views on the handling of data to support IHO advice to UN and IMO on the safety of navigation in Arctic and sub-Arctic sea areas would be most valuable.

Responses to the S-55 questionnaire are a major tool for IHOCBC assessment of regional priorities within the IHO CB Work Programme. In this context, efforts to fill the remaining gaps in the data-base (c19%) have a high priority.

(2) IHOCBC:

USCHC discussion of this item will be assisted if MS have completed their assessment of CL 88/2004 in advance of the meeting.

The IHOCBC places the highest value on feedback from the RHCs, especially where, as in the case of the USCHC, MS have extensive experience of capacity building programmes and involvement in bilateral and multilateral projects in other RHC areas.

This meeting will give an important opportunity to enable the Vice Chairman and USCHC member of the IHOCBC to ensure that all ongoing effort by Canada and USA in other RHC areas is taken into account during formulation of the Management Plan for 2005-06 at the 3rd IHOCBC in June 2005.

The USCHC members of IHOCBC have also been instrumental in pressing for the development of procedures for prioritisation and performance monitoring, and comment at this meeting on the progress of the IHOCBC will also be highly valued.