

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION



STATUTES OF THE SOUTH-EAST PACIFIC REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
(SEPRHC)

4<sup>th</sup> Edition, August 2017

*SEPRHC Statutes. 4<sup>th</sup> edition August 2017*

#### Article 1 – THE COMMISSION

a) The South-East Pacific Regional Hydrographic Commission (hereinafter referred to as "The Commission"), is established in accordance with Article 8 of the General Regulations of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended, included as Appendix 1 and will be governed in accordance with these Statutes.

#### Article 2 – THE MEMBERS

a) The members of the Commission are the South-East Pacific area Member States of the IHO, and whose representatives, responsible for hydrography and navigation in their respective national levels, are signatories to the present Statutes.

b) The countries of the South-East Pacific area who are not members of the IHO, but wishing to-cooperate in the work of the Commission and whose representatives are signatories to the present Statutes, shall be recognized as Associate Members.

c) Associate Members shall not have the right to vote or to host a meeting.

#### Article 3 – THE AIMS

a) The Commission shall be consultative, scientific and technological in nature; it will not exercise any authority over the Hydrographic Services or Institutions in charge of hydrography and navigation of the Member States and its activities will not include international politics matters.

The aims of the Commission, which is an integral part of the IHO, shall be:

1) Promote technical cooperation in the field of hydrographic surveys, marine cartography and information to the mariners. (Technology)

2) Examine, in its area of competence, the matters of general interest to which the IHO is dedicated, avoiding any interference in the attributions of the International Hydrographic Organization and any other commission instituted by the IHO.

3) To encourage Member States and associate members to expand hydrographic activity in the region and seek to encourage them to seek advice and technical assistance from the IHO and other agencies, for the reinforcement of their hydrographic capabilities; facilitate the exchange of technical information under the drafting of bilateral agreements.

4) To facilitate the exchange of information regarding surveys, research and / or technical and scientific developments, to assist in the planning and organization of hydrographic activities, in the widest sense of the term, but without interfering in the national responsibilities of each hydrographic office.

5) To carry out studies, as an IHO Working Group, when considered necessary.

#### Article 4 – PARTICIPATION

a) The Members of the Commission have committed themselves to participate, whenever possible either its advice or its assistance form- in those hydrographic programs requiring joint actions, and to incorporate the recommendations resulting from the Resolutions of the meeting, as soon as possible

- b) The Commission can organize small committees with Members and Associate Members, ~~of~~ with a particular interest to study and implement the projects.
- c) Experts could be invited to participate in the SEPHC meetings as observers and/or advisors, by the Chairman, with the previous approval of the majority of the Members.
- d) An invitation to attend the meeting should always be sent to the General Secretary of IHO.

#### Article 5 – ORDINARY MEETINGS

- a) The Commission shall meet in Ordinary meeting in the country of one of its Members, at least once every three years.
- b) Members and Associate Members shall be represented at the meetings by heads of Hydrographic Services or by heads of national institutions, responsible for hydrography and navigation or by their delegate, duly accredited. They may also be accompanied by collaborators of their Hydrographic Services but it is most desirable that their number be kept to a minimum.
- c) A majority of the Members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum necessary to hold a plenary session.
- d) Countries who are not Members of the Commission should be represented by their national authorities responsible for hydrography and navigation at the meetings, as observers. Observers shall have the right to participate but not to vote.

#### Article 6 –SEAT OF THE MEETINGS

- a) The host country for the ordinary meetings shall be established on a rotational basis, in geographic position order of Members States from south to north respectively.
- b) If the host country cannot organize the meeting, he shall inform six (6) months in advance the Chairman of the Commission about his decision, in order to the location of the next meeting may be established, giving priority to the next Member in geographic position order.
- c) If due to special circumstances it is impossible to host a meeting and/or to assume the Chairmanship, the affected State shall inform the Chairmanship who exceptionally shall consult with the other Members about the agreement or the application to host and receive the Chairmanship.

#### Article 7 – CHAIRMANSHIP

- a) The meetings of the Commission ~~are~~ shall be led/conducted by the Chairman. The Chairman shall be the representative of the country in which the Conference Meeting takes place and shall remain in office until the beginning of the next meeting.
- b) In the interval between two meetings, the Chairman shall provide the Secretariat for the Commission regarding all the questions to be dealt with by correspondence. He will prepare the Provisional Agenda for the next meeting and will present, as the first item, a full report on the activities of the Commission since the last meeting.
- c) The Chairman shall be responsible for the organization of the meeting, for which his country shall pay the local administrative expenses involved.
- d) The Chairman shall be replaced by his successor in his office.

e) The representation of the Commission before the Council of the IHO will be through the Chairmanship that will act during the same period.

f) The Chairman must attend as representative of the Commission to the annual meetings of the Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) and of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) of the IHO.

g) During the Chairman's tenure in office, the State must assume the responsibilities of the Capacity Building Sub Committee (CBSC), the paper INT Chart scheme, ENC scheme and the website, unless otherwise determined during the meeting.

#### Article 8 –AGENDA OF THE MEETING

a) Proposals to be included on the Agenda of a Meeting must be sent to the Chairman at least four (4) months before the date fixed for the opening of the meeting.

b) The Chairman shall prepare the Provisional Agenda in consultation with the Members, at least two (2) months before the opening of next meeting.

c) The Agenda shall be adopted by the Commission at the beginning of each meeting.

d) The Commission may modify during this meeting the order in which the Agenda items are to be discussed.

e) Proposals from any Member or Associate Member, not considered in the Agenda, will be submitted to the Chairman and, with the agreement of the Members, will be included in the Agenda for their discussion 24 hours after their approval.

#### Article 9 –THE CORRESPONDENCE

a) The Chairman shall prepare a written text daily of the decisions taken on every item of the Agenda and shall organize its distribution to Members next day.

b) At the end of the meeting, the Chairman shall read the draft of the resolutions and decisions taken, which will be approved according to the provisions of item 10 of these Statutes.

c) The Chairman shall send within 30 days after the close of the meeting, two (2) copies of the summary report of proceedings and decisions taken by the meeting, for approval to each Member. Any objection will be solved within 120 days after the distribution of the summary. If there are no objections, members will send back a signed copy within the 30 days after its receipt.

d) A copy of the report of the Meeting will be sent to the Associate Members and Observers.

e) The documentation of the Commission must be held in the Commission's IHO website properly organized. The current Chairmanship will be responsible of its respective update.

#### Article 10 – RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS

a) The resolutions and decisions reached at the meeting shall be adopted by a simple majority of its Members Approval will be raising the right hand. In the event of a tie, a second voting shall be made after listening to IHO Delegate recommendations.

b) If a Member considers that an item of the Agenda has to be unanimously approved, he will mention it at the beginning of the meeting.

c) Only Members are entitled to vote; each member will have one vote.

d) All resolutions and decisions will enter effectively into force immediately after the closing of the meeting.

#### Article 11 – EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS

a) The Chairman may call an Extraordinary meeting of the Members of the Commission, ~~for~~ to discuss one or more specific matters, when all representatives are gathered in the IHO Assembly.

b) In the case of urgent matters which cannot be dealt with by neither correspondence nor postponed until the next meeting, the Chairman, with the consensus of the Members, shall convene an Extraordinary Meeting, to be held in the place considered as the most adequate.

c) The provisions of Article 7 are not applicable to the meetings defined in the paragraphs (a) and (b) above, which shall be organized and presided over by the Chairman, who will remain in office until the next meeting.

d) When these meetings do not include all members, the recommendations reached shall be reported to the next meeting of the Commission, or by correspondence if the matter is urgent.

#### Article 12 – EXPENSES

a) Travelling and hotel expenses of delegates, including those of the IHO representative, shall be defrayed by their respective countries and by the IHO.

#### Article 13 – AMENDMENT OF THE STATUTES

a) The Members of the Commission may propose amendments to the present Statutes, which shall be discussed at a meeting and the decisions, which must be approved by unanimity of the Members of the Commission and included in the Report of the meeting.

#### Article 14 – OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE COMMISSION

a) The official language of the Commission is ~~the~~ Spanish.

b) The final report will be prepared in Spanish. This report, with a translation into English, will be sent to the IHO and to each Member of the Commission.

#### Article 15 DISSEMINATION OF THE DECISIONS

a) Any decision which may, in the opinion of the Commission, be of interest to all the IHO Member States, will be brought to the attention of the IHO, to be circulated.

### SOUTH-EAST PACIFIC REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

(SEPRHC)

SIGNATORY STATE ON DATE

CHILE

Captain **Enrique Silva Villagra**  
Deputy Director Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service  
of the Chilean Navy- SHOA  
August 25th 2017

ECUADOR

Commander -EM **Johnny Correa Aguerzo**  
Technical Deputy Director of the Oceanographic Institute  
of the Navy of Ecuador- INOCAR  
August 25th 2017

PERU

Captain **Fernando Vegas Castañeda**  
Technical Head of Hydrography and Navigation  
Directorate of the Navy of Peru - DHN  
August 25th 2017

COLOMBIA

Captain **Rafael Ricardo Torres Parra**  
Directors of the Oceanographic and Hydrographic  
Research Center of the Caribbean - CIOH  
August 25th 2017