



46TH MEETING OF THE US/CANADA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (USCHC46)

Mobile, Alabama, USA, 16 to 17 March

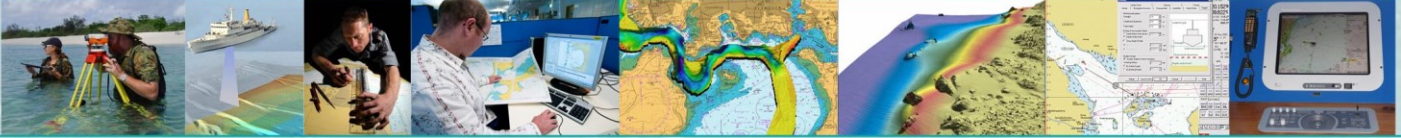
Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2023

Task 3.2.1.15	Prepare for and report meetings of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions: USCHC
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The 46th Meeting of the US/Canada Hydrographic Commission (USCHC45), was held from 16 to 17 March 2023 in Mobile, Alabama, USA. USCHC46 took place in conjunction with the US Hydro Conference 2023. The meeting was chaired by John Nyberg, Office of Coast Survey of the USA, in representation of the co-Chair, Rear Admiral Benjamin Evans, NOAA Director, who could not attend because of personal reasons. Twenty three participants attended the meeting in person and six others attended virtually, including representatives from the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS), the Royal Canadian Navy, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), US Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (CNMOC) and the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) as observers. IHO Secretary-General, Dr Mathias Jonas represented the IHO Secretariat.



Group photo of the participants at the USCHC46 Meeting



The meeting commenced with welcome words from the Chair and opening remarks of the co-Chair Dr. Geneviève Béchar, Hydrographer of Canada and the IHO Secretary-General. The meeting proceeded with the approval of the agenda and the matters arising from the previous USCHC45 Meeting and the respective list of actions.

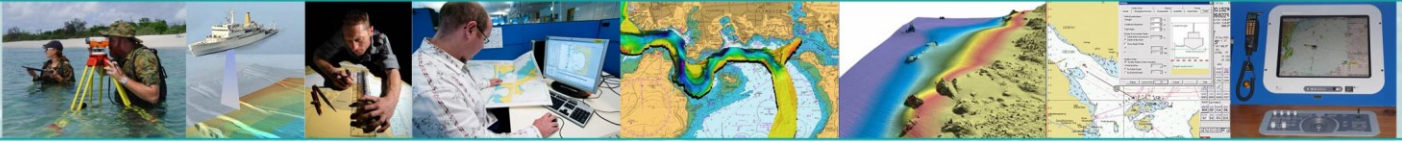
National Reports were presented in sequence from Canada and US, followed by reports of the IHO Secretariat and UKHO. According to the two national reports, notable progress was made in the definition and rework of ENC's in gridded schemes. Both reports highlighted the efficient cross boundary coordination to solve cartographic issues resulting from the new schemes. As an item of note, US reported on the ongoing cancellation of national paper charts. The last NOAA paper chart will be cancelled on 5 December 2024. In order to feed the ongoing customers' needs on printed products, NOAA Custom Chart v. 2.0 was released in February 2023 and a Certified Printed Electronic Navigational Chart (CPENC) development process is well underway. Canada seconded to this item that a national contract was initiated to assess Paper Chart 2.0 products against IHO S-4 standards. The meeting continued with the reports of the respective national representatives in various IHO related activities, namely updates on the WENDWG deliberations with interrelations to the IGIF product matrix status update and GEBCO/Seabed2030.

The Commission continued with a broad discussion on how to contribute nationally and regionally to the IHO Strategic Goals, the implementation of the S-100 roadmap and the regional measurement of the related SPIs. Cooperation was agreed to develop joint methods for the assessment of SPI which fall under Strategic Goal Number 1. In reference to Goal 2 and 3 both Commission Members highlighted their activities in support of the Ocean Decade and the linkages to the work of UN-GGIM, including the collaboration with OGC. Canada alluded also to the human side of the transformation of all aspects in the conduct of hydrography. Both Commission members reported about the respective national contributions to the "Empowering Women in Hydrography" project.

The Human Side of Digital Transformation

- Transformation Chapter 1: Workforce and Workplace
- Hydrographer of the Future Project – Envisioning the CHS Hydrographer of the Future.
 - International workshop (support from international Advisory Board)
 - Engaging CHS Staff in April
- Culture Review – understanding our current and desired culture
 - Supports cultural shifts
 - Measuring progress annually
- Building Human Resources and Training plans with the aim of shaping the workforce we will need in the future.





Before closing the meeting, John Nyberg handed over to Dr Geneviève Béchard as host of the forthcoming meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for May 2024 in St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada.

Dr Jonas took the opportunity of the preceding US Hydro to address the Conference as Key Note Speaker under the title “Drivers, Solutions and Enabler for a productive and healthy ocean”. He also attended two panel discussions – one assigned to data centricity as fundamental concept in modern hydrography and the other on the professional profile of “the hydrographer of the future”.



Panellists discussing aspects of “The hydrographer of the future”