

**27TH BUSINESS MEETING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD
ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (ABLOS)
Virtual Video Conference 6-8 October**

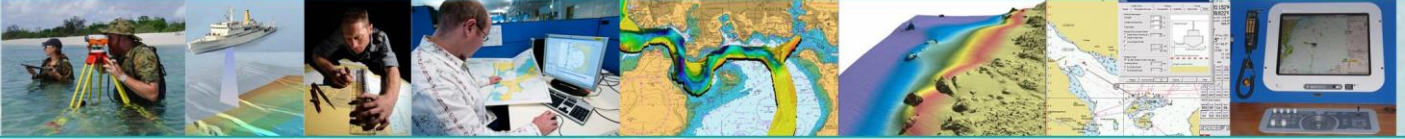
Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2020	
Task 2.1.2.8	Attendance of ABLOS BM meeting

The Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea (ABLOS) is a joint board of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) with the objective to provide information and advice on technical aspects of the Law of the Sea.

Due to the ongoing global travel restrictions, the ABLOS held its 27th Business Meeting (BM) from 6 to 8 October 2020 as a remote Video Tele Conference (VTC) instead of the planned meeting in Niterói, Brazil. The three sessions were chaired by the ABLOS Chair, Ms Izabel King Jeck (IHO – Brazil). The sessions were attended by all the ABLOS members and IHO and IAG appointed observers from Australia, Brazil, Chile, Denmark, France, India, the Republic of Korea, Sweden and the United Kingdom, as well as two ex-officio representatives from the UN Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS) and five invited observers from Colombia, Qatar and the USA.



Participants connected for the ABLOS BM27 remote meeting



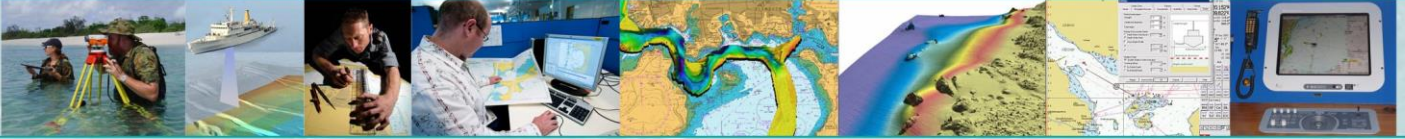
The 17 participants discussed the format and content of the recently created ABLOS website hosted by the Danish Technical University (DTU). The ABLOS agreed that a library of past conference papers, seminar papers, ABLOS BM reports and the associated annual reports to the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) should be created and made available; in addition a number of organizations were identified to which URL links should be included.

It was agreed that the planned 11th ABLOS Conference in October 2021 should be postponed until October 2022; however to maintain contact with the community, it was agreed that two half day webinar sessions could be organized and broadcasted during the planned ABLOS BM28 meeting in October 2021. The meeting spent time discussing suitable themes for both events to reflect the start of the UN Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the IHO-100 landmark. Detailed information for the Webinar and Conference will be announced by IHO Circular Letter and on the ABLOS page of the IHO web site when available.

The meeting noted the approval and publication of C-51 – *A Manual on Technical Aspects the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - 1982* – Edition 6.0.0. It was noted that the French translation had been forwarded recently to the IHO Secretariat for final checking and formatting and the Spanish translation would be forwarded by the end of October. The IHO Secretariat informed the ABLOS that the National Marine Data and Information Service of China was in the final stages of completing a Chinese version of the manual and the animations. It was agreed that an independent Chinese speaking IHO Member State should be requested to undertake the proof reading and checking task prior to publication on the IHO website. The DOALOS representative offered to investigate the opportunity of creating a Russian language version.

The meeting discussed the material for the ABLOS capacity building training course and reviewed ways to develop it further. It was agreed that a set of generic training material needed to be developed and made available to any ABLOS member or observer as a basis for any particular course. It was agreed that the material should be adaptable to suit the geographic region in which the training course was to be delivered.

The status of current Board members was reviewed and it was noted that the current terms of two IHO appointed members and one IAG appointed member would end in October 2021, in addition to the current vacancy for an IAG appointed member. The IAG appointed member indicated her willingness to serve a second term, if approved by the ABLOS. The IHO appointed members, both nearing the end of their second five year term, agreed to seek clarification on future support from their host organizations prior to the next meeting. The Chair noted that Mr Grant Boyes (IHO – Australia) was stepping down on completion of the meeting and that the IHO had already commenced the process of finding his replacement.



The Chair highlighted that he had agreed to continue in his role of Chair of the Editorial Board and to continue the review and revision of C-51 in preparation for the Edition 7.0.0.

Date of Next Meetings

The 28th ABLOS Business Meeting will be held in Monaco and is planned for 4 to 6 October 2021, in conjunction with an ABLOS Webinar. The 29th ABLOS Business Meeting will be held in Monaco and is planned for 3 and 6 October 2022 in conjunction with the 11th ABLOS Conference (4-5 October 2022), details will be made available on the IHO website as the planning progresses.

Availability of Documents

The documents considered by the Business Meeting will be available from the ABLOS section of the IHO website (IHO → Committees and Working Groups → HSSC → ABLOS).