

3rd SESSION OF THE IHO ASSEMBLY
Monaco, 2-5 May 2023

REPORT OF THE
United States Canada Hydrographic Commission (USCHC)

- 1. Chair:** RDML Benjamin E. Evans, Director Office of Coast Survey, NOAA
Vice-Chair: Dr. Geneviève Béchar, Director General, Canadian Hydrographic Service

2. Membership:

Member States: Canada, United States of America

Associate Members: none

Observers: IHO Secretariat

3. Meetings:

USCHC44	March 18-19, 2021	Video Teleconference (VTC)	Chair: RDML Richard Brennan Vice Chair: Dr. Geneviève Béchar
Hydrographic Geospatial Products and Services Committee	Ongoing (approximately monthly)	VTC	Co-leads: Ms. Christie Ence, NOAA Mr. Louis Malthais, CHS (2020-2022) Ms. Laura Columbe, CHS (2022-present)
USCHC45	June 9-10, 2022	Ottawa, Canada	Chair: Dr. Geneviève Béchar Vice Chair: RDML Benjamin K. Evans

Forthcoming Planned

USCHC46	March 16-17, 2023	Mobile, Alabama, USA	Chair: RDML Benjamin K. Evans Vice Chair: Dr. Geneviève Béchar
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4. Agenda Items:

- Scoping the future of paper charts e.g paper charts derived from ENC
- Hydrographic Geospatial Products and Services and related connections to UN GGIM and other MSDI initiatives
- WEND and S-100 Implementation
- Charting Harmonization in Transboundary Areas (Great Lakes and Atlantic Ocean)
- National Contributions to Seabed 2030

- Implementation of the IHO Strategic Plan including support to IHO priorities such as Empowering Women in Hydrography, US-CA hydrographic support to the Ocean Decade of Ocean Science. Includes conducting a gap analysis of US and CA against the IHO SP goals, targets and performance indicators.
- Agency Status reports (National Reports and national initiatives-such as Canada S-100 Committee establishment; personnel updates to ensure proper lines of communication, etc...)
- Capacity Building, including coordinating RHC meeting with annual Hydrographic Conferences, discussing the “hydrographer of the future” (skill sets, diversity, etc...)

5. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed:

Completing chart harmonization in transboundary areas

Fully implementing the IHO Strategic Plan in the USCHC region and reconciling tracking and reporting of performance measures from the USCHC into the global tracking system

Implementing WEND-100 and harmonizing and coordinating the delivery of S-100 products and service in transboundary waters.

6. Achievements/outputs/conclusions:

USCHC Achievements/outputs/conclusions:

- Transboundary collaboration in the Great Lakes continuing and now expanding to the Atlantic and Pacific regions.
- Discussions on coverage responsibilities for U.S. and Canada in southern Lake Superior and Maine/New Brunswick are ongoing.
- Coordinated data transfer of Canadian electronic chart cell in eastern Lake Ontario for U.S. hydrographic survey planning.
- Helped facilitate conversation between U.S. Board of Geographic Names (BGN) and Advisory Committee on Undersea Feature Names (ACUFN) to ensure coordinated efforts on naming a seamount chain crossing the boundary.
- Work on Annex to Puget Sound MOA to revise break in national responsibility from 47°59’N to 48°N to remove the need for a new regrided Canadian cell with very narrow, “sliver” coverage.
- Coordinating hydrographic surveys in transboundary areas and documenting those via the Schedule A process of the NOAA-CHS Memorandum of Understanding.
- Ongoing work on upgrading the USCHC Transboundary Web App site to reflect cell cut and single-agency solution decisions throughout all U.S./Canada transboundary coverage.
- Continued support by US and CA for the IHO Crowdsourced Bathymetry Initiative (e.g.: positive responses to IHO CL 21/2020, serve as current Chair (US) and vice Chair (CA) of CSBWG)
- Data contributions from US and CA in USCHC region to IHO DCDB and SB2030
- Initial IHO Strategic Plan Gap Analysis and initial completion of the IGIF matrix
- USCHC focal points
 - Seabed 2030/CSB Coordinator: Andy.Armstrong@noaa.gov

7. Actions required of the Assembly:

a) Note the report of the USCHC;

- b) consider how the RHCs fit into the global tracking of the IHO Strategic Plan and associated management and communication; and
- c) take any other action considered appropriate.