

16TH MEETING OF THE SOUTH WEST ATLANTIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (SWATHC16)

Montevideo, Uruguay, hybrid event, 30-31 August

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2022

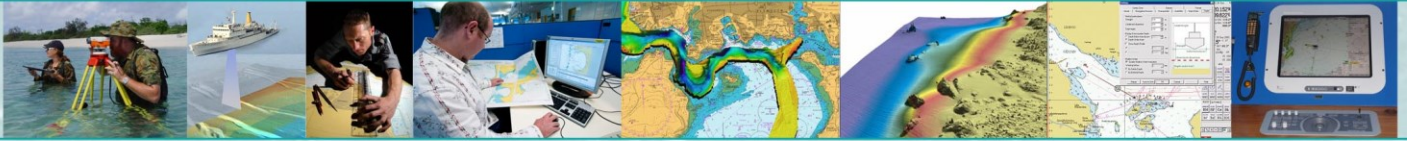
Task 3.2.1.13

SWAtHC - South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission

The 16th meeting of the South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (SWAtHC-16) was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in a hybrid format from 30 to 31 August 2022, hosted by SOHMA, the Oceanographic, Hydrographic and Meteorological Service of the Uruguayan Navy. The meeting was chaired by Commodore Valentín Alejandro Sanz Rodríguez (Argentina) and attended by 56 registered participants, 30 in person and 26 by VTC. All IHO Member States of the Commission (Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay) were represented, as well as the Associate Member State, Paraguay and the Observer State, Bolivia. In addition, Spain participated at the meeting as an invited State. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the Industry (Kongsberg Maritime, Norbit Subsea, Teledyne Geospatial, Xylem and Hypack). The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Luigi Sinapi.



Some participants at SWAtHC16



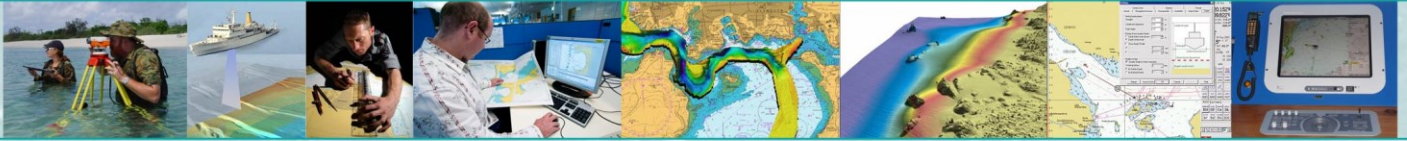
The SWAtHC-16 meeting was preceded by a Workshop on Hydrographic Awareness, held on 29 August. The Workshop was opened by Captain José Domínguez, Director of SOHMA. The workshop's agenda included presentations on the capabilities and activities of the Hydrographic Offices of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, professional presentations on waterway surveys, maritime safety and beaconing, as well as presentations of hydrographic survey techniques and data collection equipment by the Industry.



Workshop on Hydrographic Awareness, 29th August 2022 – Opening remarks

The SWAtHC-16 meeting was opened by the Chair, Commodore Valentín Alejandro Sanz Rodríguez (Argentina), who welcomed the participants, thanked Uruguay and SOHMA for hosting the meeting after three years from the last in-person meeting held in 2019, highlighting the high participation from all the States of the SWAtHC (Members, Associate and Observer). The Director General of Naval Material (DIMAT), Rear Admiral Otto Gossweiler welcomed the participants on behalf of the Uruguay Navy, recognizing the importance of SWAtHC for the entire South American Region and Uruguay. Director of SOHMA, Captain Jose' Dominguez, welcoming the participants, highlighted the commitment of Uruguay and SOHMA in creating a large Marine Protected Area along the Uruguayan coasts, in line with the Global Ocean Alliance, which is leading an international movement to protect 30% of the world's land mass (land and ocean) by 2030.

IHO Director Luigi Sinapi expressed his gratitude to the Uruguay Navy and SOHMA for hosting such an important meeting for the Southern West Atlantic Region, mentioning that the meeting is an opportunity for the Commission to discuss the numerous initiatives involving the Regional Hydrographic Commissions prior to the 6th Council Meeting planned in October, especially on the implementation of the IHO Strategic Plan and the measurement of the Strategic Performance Indicators, the S-100 Roadmap and the future of paper charts. Director Sinapi provided the IHO Secretariat Report, mentioning the most important achievements in IHO outreach, the new IHO projects, and the initial information on the 3rd Session of the IHO Assembly, planned in May 2023.



The meeting proceeded with the update on the outcomes of the 5th Council and IRCC14 where, in addition to the topics mentioned in the IHO Secretariat Report, it was highlighted that SWAtHC is committed in the development of a definition of hydrographic interest, the S-100 Products implementation Roadmap and the Strategic Performance Indicators for the Region. Following the recommendations of the Worldwide ENC Database Working Group (WENDWG) issued with the WENDWG CL 2/2022 and the importance of the establishment of a S-1xx Coordinator role in the RHCs, the Commission approved to assign to the Planning Committee of SWAtHC (a Committee established during the second meeting of the Commission in 2008 and composed of one representative of each Hydrographic Office which is a member of SWAtHC) the role of S-1xx Coordinator and refer to the next WENDWG about the implementation of S-100 Products implementation Roadmap at regional level. Furthermore, it was pointed out that the current overlaps between the Argentinean and Uruguayan ENCs are being resolved, complying now with the applicable IHO Resolutions.

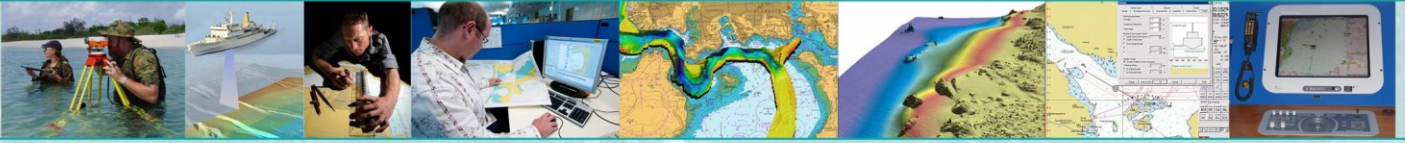
The Regional Capacity Building Coordinator, Captain Helber Carvalho (Brazil) reported on the most recent CB activities, provided an overview on the status of the CB Work Programme at regional level,

the PT E-learning related to the future IHO E-learning Center and the IHO-CANADA Empowering Women in Hydrography project within the Region, highlighting the excellent support that the HOs regularly receive from the Industry in building hydrographic capacities at national and regional level.

Following the report on the last WNNWS meeting, Argentina, as NAVAREA VI coordinator expressed the concern, fully shared by Brazil, about the mandatory implementation of the new IridiumSafetyCast satellite system, highlighting not only problems related to the costs of the new system, but also to possible errors in the transmission of MSI information. This concern will be represented at the next Council-6 by the IRCC Chair, on behalf of the RHCs.



Waterways surveys in South West Atlantic Region

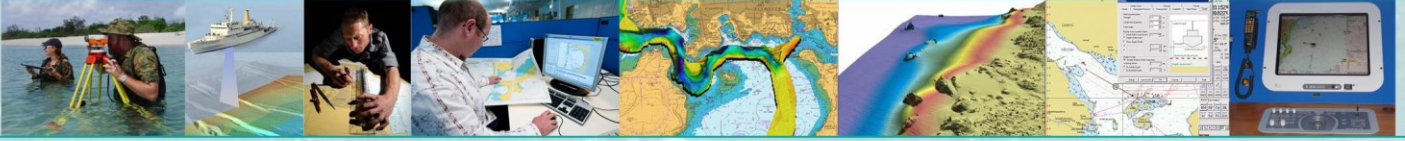


The national Reports of the 5 States present (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Bolivia) and Spain as the invited State highlighted the excellent collaboration and mutual support in the hydrographic and cartographic sectors within the Region, and a very high level of attention to South America's inland waters, lakes and the 1263 km of waterways that connect the 5 countries of the Region and contribute significantly to the economic development of the area. In this regard, the recent results of the work of the Inland ENC Harmonisation Group (IEHG) were reported, postponing the decision on the adoption of the I-ENC as the Region's official charts for inland waters to the next SWAtHC meeting. The two non-coastal States, Paraguay and Bolivia, emphasised the importance of collaboration in the hydrographic and cartographic sectors, as well as in training, for which they are totally dependent on the training opportunities offered by neighbouring States. In this regard, the importance for both non-coastal States to become members of the SWAtHC and the IHO was recognised. In this regard, Bolivia stressed the importance of the next two visits that it will be subject to, a High-Level Visit by the IHO and a Technical Visit by the SWAtHC, respectively, to discuss at the governmental level the process of Bolivia's accession to the IHO, an intention already declared during the previous SWAtHC15 meeting, and to identify which sectors at the hydro-cartographic level most need capacity building interventions.



2022 SWAtHC's contribution to GEBCO

During the meeting an update on the activities of GEBCO, Crowd Source Bathymetry (CSB) and Seabed2030 was provided by the CSB/GEBCO/Seabed2030 Regional Coordinator, highlighting that the coastal States of the Region actively contribute to the GEBCO programme, through the regular submission of existing bathymetric data in national databases and new data from hydrographic campaigns. Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay committed to responding within the deadline to IHO CL 25/2022 regarding the approval of the new Edition 3.0.0 of IHO Publication B-12 - Guidance for Crowdsourced bathymetry, and



noted, although they responded positively to IHO CL 21/2020 (Acceptance of Crowdsourced Bathymetry activities and provision of resultant datasets in national waters of jurisdiction), that there are internal governmental rules to be respected for those who conduct surveys in waters of national jurisdiction.

The next SWAtHC17 meeting will take place in VTC in March 2023 (the usual time for SWAtHC meetings), while Argentina will host SWAtHC18 in 2024.