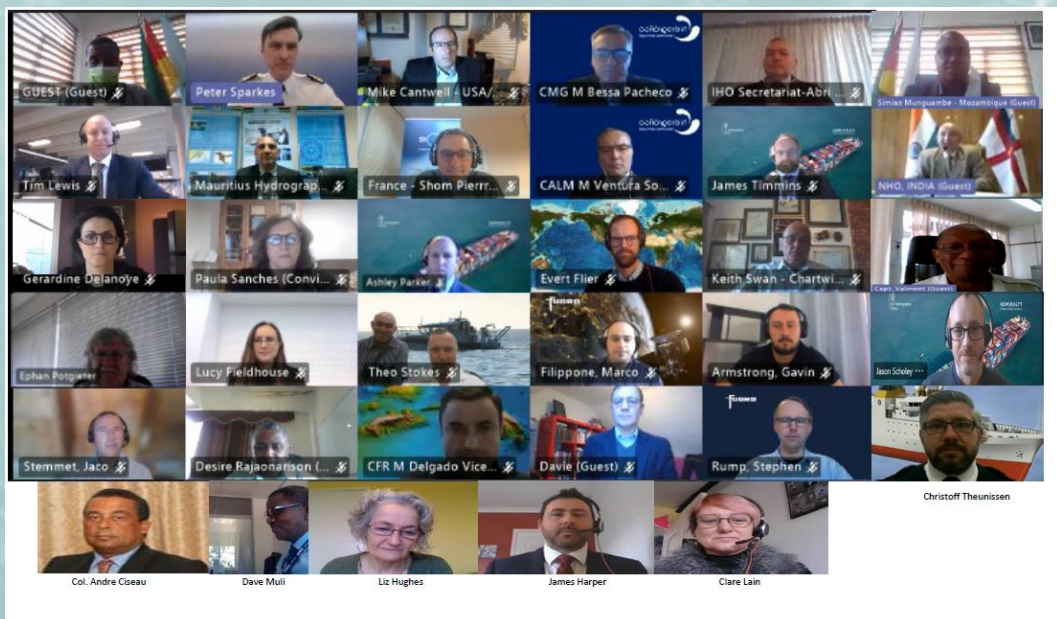


**17TH MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN & ISLANDS
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (SAIHC17)
Video-teleconference (VTC), 3 & 4 February**

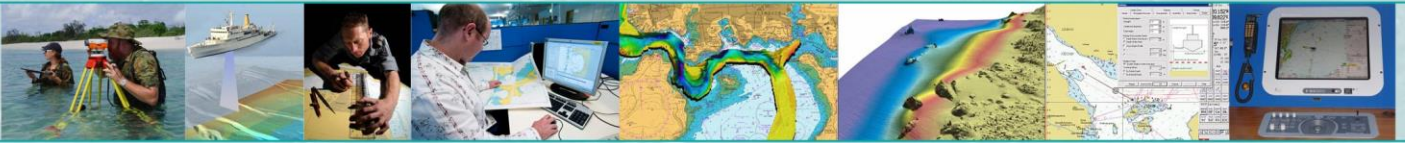
| Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2021 | |
|---|---|
| Task 3.2.1. | Prepare for and report meetings of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions: SAIHC |

The 17th Meeting of the Southern African & Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC17), initially planned to be held in Mauritius, was held in a VTC format due to the COVID-19 pandemic on 3 and 4 February 2021.

The meeting was chaired by RAdm Peter Sparkes (United Kingdom). Forty-six delegates from 7 Member States (France, Mauritius, Mozambique, Norway, Seychelles, South Africa and United Kingdom), six Associate Member States (Angola, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia and Portugal), five Observer Organisations (International Maritime Organisation (IMO), International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA), MapAction and Southern and East African and Islands Regional Group for Safety of Navigation and Marine Environment Protection (SEAIGNEP), six Industry Observers (Chartwise Training, Teledyne CARIS, AML Oceanographic, Fugro, Underwater Surveys and IXblue) and one Observer Member State (USA), participated in the meeting. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Abri Kampffer.



Some participants at the SAIHC17 Meeting



The meeting commenced with welcome words by the SAIHC Chair RAdm Peter Sparkes (UK), followed by the address of the Vice-Chair, Mr Ayoob Saab (Mauritius). IHO Director Abri Kampfer then also provided his opening remarks.

Director Kampfer provided an overview of the SAIHC membership enhancing the fact that in the region there are many non-member States. He reported about the outcome of the 2nd Assembly (A-2). He specified the approval by the A-2 of the new IHO Strategic Plan and S-100 Roadmap and the task to the Council to proceed with their implementation. Furthermore, the Assembly approval of two new IHO CB projects was reported, one proposed by Canada on Empowering Women in Hydrography and one on the establishment of a new IHO E-learning Center hosted by the Republic of Korea. Director Kampfer also invited SAIHC to examine their respective instruments to ensure compliance with the recommendations of the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended by A-2.

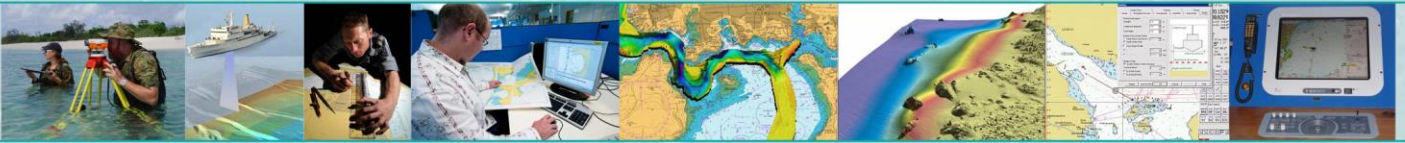
The Meeting proceeded with the update on the outcomes of the 4th Council, IRCC12, HSSC12, WENDWG10 and MSDIWG meetings. The ICCWG Chair, Alfons Van Craeynest (South Africa) gave an overview of the working group meeting held on 7 September 2020. Within the Region H Chart Scheme, which have a total of 125 INT charts, 4 new INT charts were produced in 2020. There is still ongoing discussions with regards to ENC overlaps within region H and a SAIHC ENC gridded scheme could be an opportunity to relieve overlap issues.

The SAIHC Capacity Building Coordinator, Lucy Fieldhouse (UK), explained the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the CB work program and provided an update on CB activities and available opportunities. The SAIHC CB Plan for 2021 to 2023 was presented and inputs were requested to the plan and any wider CB activities that the SAIHC Region can benefit from. South Africa requested SAIHC to provide comments on South Africa's MSI E-learning package which has been distributed to SAIHC MS and Associate members for internal review. It is envisaged that this e-learning package be made available for inclusion in the IHO e-Learning platform when established.

The Chair of the GEBCO Guiding Committee, Evert Flier (Norway) gave a presentation on GEBCO and the Seabed 2030 project. It was acknowledged that it was difficult for data to be available to DCDB due to government policies. SAIHC countries were encouraged to engage with the regional centers of Seabed 2030, Atlantic and Indian Ocean Region for SAIHC, contacting Dr Vicki Ferrini from Lamont Earth Observatory.

The meeting received briefings from the Members, Associate Members and Observing Organizations, focusing on achievements, challenges, lessons learned, capacity building needs and opportunities for engagement.

Feedback was provided on the SAIHC disaster response plan with an overview plan to align with IHO Resolution 1/2005 to enable SAIHC and its Member States adequate preparedness so as to enable an immediate and appropriate response to any future disaster affecting



coastal areas of the region. All coastal States within SAIHC were encouraged to develop contingency plans in advance in order to be prepared in case a disaster occurs.

NAVAREA VII Coordinator (South Africa) gave an overview presentation and noted the effects of COVID-19 have resulted in a marked reduction of SafetyNET Messages and Coastal Navigational Warning Messages promulgated from the 2019/20 compared to 2018 and 2017 due to global effects on international shipping and maritime operations. South Africa has participated in Iridium training in June 2020 and is still in the negotiations phase in terms of an agreement with Iridium.

James Harper (IC-ENC, General Manager) summarized the IC-ENC S-100 work plan for 2021-2023 focusing on S-101, S-102, S-122 as the priorities and then S-104 and S-111 with the aim to support IC-ENC members by focusing on achieving high quality, timely products ensuring harmony between products and to ensure that policies are based on end user needs.

UK summarized the UKHO priorities and roadmap for S-100 and gave some examples of S-100 work completed, including S-101 and S-102 trial data sets, which are available on the UKHO Admiralty portal. The UKHO gridding analysis is underway, with the view that the advantage of a grid structure will serve as the defining structure for interoperability between the component products and supports the IHO S-98 developments. UK encouraged everybody to get involved with the S-100 developments.

Industry members provided presentations on their contribution to technological developments, regional survey projects and charting, and capacity building. Their contribution to the work of the Commission and of the coastal states was well appreciated.

The Chair indicated that the UK would be available to continue with the Chairmanship of SAIHC and invited Members to put forward nominations. None were received before or during the meeting and therefore the Chair (UK) and Vice Chair (Mauritius) will continue in their respective roles. The next meeting will be hosted by Mozambique in December 2021.