

**14TH MEETING OF THE
SOUTH WEST ATLANTIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (SWATHC)
Niteroi, Brazil, 9 and 10 March**

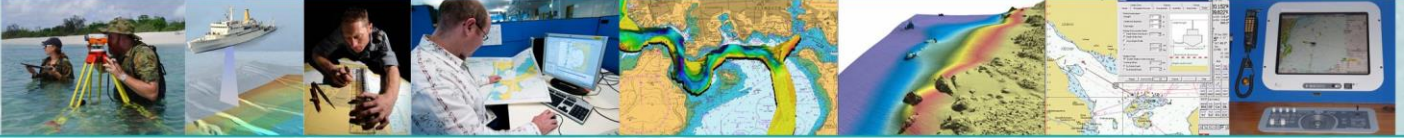
Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2020	
Task 3.2.1.13	Prepare for and report meetings of the South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (SWAtHC)

The 14th meeting of the South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (SWAtHC) was held on 9 and 10 March in Niteroi, Brazil and hosted by the Directorate of Hydrography and Navigation (DHN) (the Brazilian Hydrographic Service). Twenty-two delegates attended the meeting, chaired by Captain Pablo Tabarez (Uruguay). Two of three IHO Member States of the Commission, Brazil and Uruguay, were represented together with the Associate Member, Paraguay and the Observer State Bolivia. Argentina was not represented at the meeting. One industry stakeholder (Shield Defesa) participated in the meeting as Observer. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Mustafa Iptes.



Participants of the SWAtHC14 meeting.

Director Iptes reported on the IHO corporate matters and the current work programme activities. The participants were informed on the preparation of the 2nd session of the Assembly and also potential impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) on IHO activities. Members were invited to contribute in the Crowd Source Bathymetry and GEBCO SB2030 projects.



The meeting received briefings from the Members, Associate Member and Observer State, focusing on achievements, challenges, lessons learned and opportunities for engagement. Regional MSI updates and Capacity Building requirements were also discussed. The SWAtHC considered measures to raise the hydrographic awareness of Paraguay and Bolivia on the importance of becoming IHO Member States and the benefits of hydrography as part of the national infrastructure.

The meeting also considered the developments of inland ENC's in cooperation with the Inland ENC Harmonization Group (IEHG) and progress on MSDI activities in the region.

An IHO Capacity Building Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography was held on 10 December, after the SWAtHC14 Conference. Director Iptes provided a presentation on "Importance of Hydrography and the Roles of the IHO" to the seminar participants.

The next SWAtHC Conference will take place in March 2021 in Montevideo, Uruguay, the exact date to be confirmed.