

**HIGH LEVEL VISIT TO THE PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA**  
**La Paz, Bolivia, 5-6 September**

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2022	
Task 1.3.2	Encourage new membership of the IHO

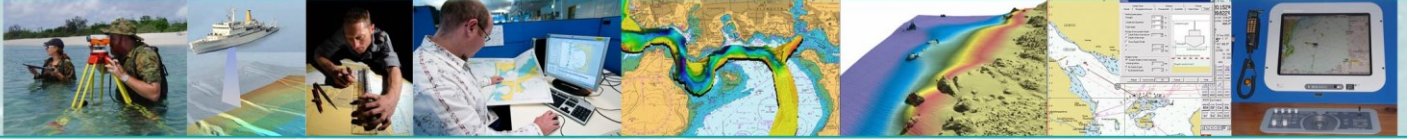
Following the invitation of the *National Service of Naval Hydrography (SNHN)* of the Navy, the IHO paid a High Level Visit to the Plurinational State of Bolivia on 5 and 6 September, during which hydrographic services for inland waterways were discussed. The landlocked nation borders on several lakes, including Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world, and also has rivers which form part of the Amazon Basin. These play a vital role in the transport of people and goods in the region. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Luigi Sinapi.



***IHO Director Luigi Sinapi and SNHN Executive Director General Captain Torrez Alvarez during the visit to Guaqui Naval Base and navigation on Lake Titicaca***

The visit enabled IHO Director Luigi Sinapi to learn more about the status of hydrography within the country, as well as to highlight the benefits of hydrography and IHO membership for a country whose economy is so closely linked to its navigable waterways and lakes. During the visit to the *Guaqui navy base on Lake Titicaca* the hydrographic and maritime capacities of the Plurinational State of Bolivia were presented, highlighting the importance of up-to-date knowledge of these waterways which directly or indirectly connect Bolivia to the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and to its neighbours Chile, Peru, Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay.



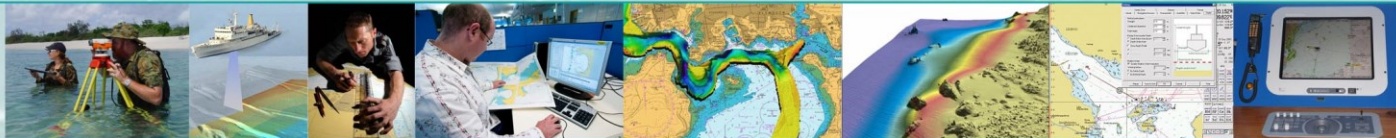


The SNHN activities

The Plurinational State of Bolivia has a Hydrographic Service capable of ensuring, by means of up-to-date cartographic products complying with international hydrographic and cartographic standards, the safety of navigation in Lake Titicaca and navigable inland waterways, in cooperation with the neighbouring States of South America, and actively participates in the work of the South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (SWAtHC) as an Observer. The bathymetric updating and production of traditional and electronic nautical cartography contributes to the safety of navigation and development of the country's port infrastructures, complying with the IHO's international hydrographic and cartographic standards.

Discussions focused on the regional and international benefits and opportunities in the potential accession of the country to the IHO, highlighting the extent to which, for a non-coastal state, the national economy can benefit from improved knowledge of its navigable waters. The Plurinational State of Bolivia possesses a hydrographic capacity that can ensure safety of navigation in the country's inland waters. Bolivia's membership in the IHO would represent an opportunity for sustainable development and for the economy of those waterways for the entire country, thanks to the benefits and opportunities offered both at the regional level through participation in the Regional Hydrographic Commissions of South America, and at the international level through the IHO's Capacity Building programme and participation in the various IHO Working Groups and Organs, including the Assembly.





*Meeting with the Chief of Staff of Bolivian Navy  
– Admiral Efrain Franck Salazar*

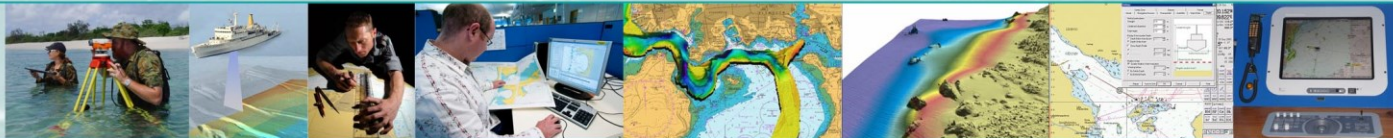


*Meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*



*Meeting with the Minister of Defence – Av. Edmondo Novillo Aguilar*





The visits to the hydrographic and navigation infrastructures of the Bolivian Navy, to the Chief of Staff of the Bolivian Navy, to the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed the country's interest in hydrography and in continuing discussions to join the IHO. In fact, the Plurinational State of Bolivia is ready to begin the process of joining the IHO, recognizing the importance of Hydrography and the work done by its Naval Hydrographic Service. The competent authorities under the Ministry of Defence, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the support of the IHO Secretariat, will take all necessary steps for Bolivia to join the IHO.



*Visit to the Bolivian Navy's International Register of Ships (RIBB)*

On completion of the Visit, the *Bolivian Navy's International Register of Ships (RIBB)* was visited. It has recently certified by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Becoming an IHO member state would be a logical next step for the Plurinational State of Bolivia.