



13TH MEETING OF THE SOUTH WEST ATLANTIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (SWATHC)

Buenos Aires, 25 and 26 April

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2019

Task 3.2.1.13	Prepare for and report meetings of the South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (SWAtHC)
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The 13th meeting of the South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (SWAtHC) was hosted by the *Servicio de Hidrografía Naval (SHN)* (the Argentinian Hydrographic Service), on 25 and 26 April in Buenos Aires. Twenty delegates attended the meeting, chaired by Captain Pablo Tabarez (Uruguay). All three IHO Member States of the Commission, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, were represented together with the Associate Member, Paraguay and the Observer State Bolivia. Three industry stakeholders (Teledyne CARIS, Kongsberg and IIC Technologies) participated in the meeting as Observers. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Mustafa Iptes and Assistant Director Alberto Costa Neves.

The meeting 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. Both are already Members of the IMO and parties to the SOLAS Convention and Paraguay was an IHO Member from 1967 to 1969.

Argentina reported on the progress of hydrographic surveys and the new charts and new editions in paper and electronic charts for both the coastal and inland waters. A new chart scheme for the Parana River was established. The meeting was informed on the contribution to the national spatial data infrastructure and to the national research system. Progress was reported in the International Bathymetric Chart of the Southern Ocean (IBCSO) and in the national water level framework. An MSI trainer was nominated during the meeting to support the provision of training in the region.

Brazil informed the meeting on the recent hydrographic surveys in coastal and inland waters, including the contribution to the delimitation of the extension of the continental shelf project. The incorporation of a new survey vessel was announced to the meeting. The branch of the Paraguay-Parana Waterway under Brazilian responsibility was 100% covered by inland ENC's (1 840km). Brazil announced the new tools to use social media for promulgation of information and the current prediction system for ports. Brazil further informed the meeting that one student from Bolivia and one from Angola are currently enrolled at the Category "A" Hydrographic Programme on a scholarship support.

Uruguay reported progress in surveys in coastal areas and in inland waters. New charts and new editions were issued since the last meeting. Transition from offset to print-on-demand continues



and now accounts for 2/3 of the total production. The participation in water level monitoring and other environmental projects were reported to the meeting.

Paraguay reported on the actions taken since the 2014 IHO Technical Visit and received indications of support from Member States to sustain progress. Paraguay has the third largest river fleet in the world. Bolivia reported numerous hydrographic surveys in its nearly 2 900 rivers and water bodies, including a survey in three reservoirs at 5 200 m altitude. Bolivia informed the meeting on the preparation of a cartographic plan, the ongoing project of a hydrographic act and the support of capacity building from neighbouring countries in the region. A strong interest in joining the IHO was manifested during the meeting.

The meeting considered the way ahead for cooperation and capacity building, the close cooperation with the Intergovernmental Committee of the Paraguay-Parana Waterway, the contribution to the GEBCO Seabed 2030 project, the developments of inland ENC's in cooperation with the Inland ENC Harmonization Group (IEHG) and the coordination of Member States to participate in all bodies of the IHO.

Participants celebrated the fact that there are no significant overlaps in the region and that work is in progress to eliminate the existing ones. A gap between Brazil and Uruguay ENC's was recently identified and eliminated, in accordance with the IHO Resolutions and WEND Principles. Additionally, all ENC's have their CATZOC's assessed, an indication of the good work and cooperation that exists in the region. The region developed its ENC scheme that was presented to the WENDWG9 meeting and will be input to the INT2GIS II system.

Receptions were held on the Brazilian Oceanographic Vessel *Antares* that had called in the port of Buenos Aires and at the Corvette Uruguay, a maritime museum of the Argentinean Navy.

The next Conference will take place on 5 and 6 March 2020 in Brazil, the exact date to be confirmed.



Participants of the SWAtHC13 meeting.