

10th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**IRCC10 Goa, India (4-6 June 2018)****MEDITERRANEAN & BLACK SEAS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION****MBSHC report to IRCC10****1. Chair**

Chair: Rear Admiral Luigi SINAPI, (Italy), since July 2017;
Ingénieur général (hydrographer) Bruno FRACHON, (France), since July 2015.

Vice-Chair: According to MBSHC Statutes (article 6), the Vice-Chair is occupied during a MBSHC Conference by the host country. At the end of the Conference, the Vice-Chairman becomes Chairman, and there is no intersessional Vice-Chair.

2. Membership

Members: Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia (suspended), Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine.

Associate member(s): Israel, Palestinian Authority, United Kingdom, United States of America.

Observers: Albania, Germany, Lebanon, CIESM, IOC, IC-ENC, PRIMAR.

3. Meetings:

The period between two conferences is usually two years.

The last conference, the 20th, has been organized in Herceg Novi, Montenegro, July 4-6th 2017.

Next conference, the 21st, will take place (TBC) in Cádiz, Spain, 18-20 June 2019.

4. Current MBSHC Working Groups:

- a) International Charting Coordination WG for the charting region F (F-ICCWG), chaired by France – operates mainly as a correspondence WG;
- b) Black and Azov Seas WG (BASWG), chaired by Turkey.

5. Status of IRCC actions (relevant for the MBSHC):

N.	Action (Agenda item)	Responsible	Deadline	Status
2	to engage with Member States in their regions to identify potential instructors to accompany MSI trainings in order to become MSI trainers and report back to IRCC	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	All MS encouraged to propose potential MSI instructors to IHO Secret.
3	to consider using Trainer for Trainers (TFT) and e-learning methods to support the development of CB Phase 1 for developing coastal States and report back to IRCC	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	CB Activities are generally monitored by the CB Coordinator.

4	to encourage the attendance of Member States and Observers at WNWNS-SC meetings, to highlight the use of the Joint Manual on MSI to ensure correct terminology and formats are used in MSI messages, to encourage closer engagement of the National MSI Coordinators of Member States with the relevant NAVAREA Coordinator(s) and report back to IRCC	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	Done in every conference. France, Cyprus, Greece, Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, the United States of America attended the WNWNS-9 in Aug-Sept 2017
5	to encourage closer coordination between NAVAREA Coordinators and Regional CB Coordinators in planning and student selection for the CB MSI training courses	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	Done
10	to invite Member States to investigate the possibilities of fund raising and engagement in CB via national organizations and report back to the IRCC	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	CB Activities are generally monitored by the CB Coordinator. At national level, CB activities are carried out through bilateral cooperation between Nations.
14	to encourage the Member States in the region to consider making all ENC data available through the RENCs (7)	RHC Chairs	December 2017	All MS encouraged
15	to encourage the work of the IHO community to increase existence of ENC schemes at regional level (7)	RHC Chairs	December 2017	Undertaken by the F-ICCWG
18	to encourage Member States in the region to nominate RHC MSDI Ambassadors to promote MSDI and to help Member States to prepare the national reports with respect to the status of MSDI (7)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	Done. Italy volunteered to represent MBSHC at the MSDIWG
21	to encourage IHO Member States to release datasets or subsets into the public domain via the IHO DCDB (7)	RHC Chairs	September 2017	All MS encouraged
22	to request IHO Member States to consider reviewing data gathering restrictions within their maritime areas of jurisdiction to enable CSB activities to be undertaken (7)	RHC Chairs	September 2017	All MS encouraged
23	to encourage IHO Member States to support the CSB initiative with positive actions, such as requiring all research vessels collect bathymetric data for late uploading, when on passage or when it does not interfere with other research activities (7)	RHC Chairs	September 2017	All MS encouraged
29	to encourage Member States to organize contribution of bathymetric data in shallower coastal areas to GEBCO in order to support the production of higher resolution gridded data products and report back to IRCC (7)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	All MS encouraged
32	to encourage Member States in the region to consider using satellite derived bathymetry and	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	All MS Encouraged.

	risk assessment methodologies in uncharted or poorly charted areas in their respective regions as a way of developing survey priority areas as part of attracting donor funding and report back to IRCC (8)			Some MS are testing SDB methodology.
33	to encourage the use of satellite derived bathymetry and risk assessment methodologies for developing survey priority areas as part of attracting donor funding using the project rationale as presented in doc. IRCC9-08C (8)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	On going
35	to invite Member States to provide technical resources to the DQWG and report back to IRCC (9)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	All MS Invited. Italy and France attended
36	to note the list of events organized by other intergovernmental and stakeholders indicated in doc. IRCC9-09B, consider how the IHO might be represented in those events that are considered relevant and liaise with the IHO Secretariat for the appropriate and report back to IRCC (9)	RHC Chairs	IRCC10	The MBSHC Chair attended some events (i.e. G7 High Level Meeting on Maritime Security, Nov. 2017; UfM Regional Stakeholder Conference on Blue Economy, Nov. 2017)
39	to promote the UN-GGIM in their regions (10)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Done
44	to invite Member States to review entries related to their region in IHO C-55 and P-5 (Yearbook) at least annually (11)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Done

6. Agenda Items:

The MBSHC agenda is built according to the IHO work programme.

IHO Work Programme 1– “Corporate affairs”

Task	Topic	Actions Taken
4.1	Cooperation with International Organization	The IHO Secretariat reported on this activities since the last conference and described the main changes related with the entry into force of the new IHO convention and its supporting Basic Documents.
4.2	Information Management (IHO web site, WMS, CBMS, ENC Catalogue etc.)	The IHO Secretariat reported on the developments regarding the IHO Information Management system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS encouraged to populate the CATZOC values (1 to 5) of their ENC cells iaw HSSC8 action 38; • MS requested to provide information on any requirements for ECDIS back-up arrangements using paper charts; • MS requested to update their INT charts metadata included in the region F INT catalogue using their INTtoGIS national account.
4.3	Cooperation with European Union (EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • France reported on the IENWG activities since the last conference and described the main EU related projects.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MBSHC member states are active in participating to the IHO-EU network working group (IENWG). • Greece is the MBSHC focal point for the IENWG: Thanks to an HNHS's initiative, a list of maritime related events, projects and tenders of interest for the MBSHC, including information on Member States (MS) and Associate Member States (AMS) intents to participate, will be available on HNHS website. • The coordinating role of IENWG to present several national HOs of Europe in a joint consortium body has proved successful for winning contracts, this must be sustained.
4.4	Cooperation with International Maritime Organization (IMO)	MS encouraged to consider attending the first meeting of the HGDM in IMO HQ.
4.5	Cooperation with the Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM)	MS encouraged to liaise with CIESM under the IHO-CIESM MoU umbrella, for the benefit of the oceanography in the Mediterranean Sea.
4.6	Cooperation with Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Thorkild AARUP presented an overview on NEAM Tsunami Warning Services developments with a focus on the MBSHC region. • NAVAREA III coordinator to participate in NEAMWave 17 exercise.
4.7	Cooperation with International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)	Mr. Omar Frits ERIKSSON gave a presentation of IALA capacity building activities within the MBSHC region.
4.8	Mediterranean Initiatives relevant to the Commission	MBSHC HOs invited in participating in projects that promote the environment and mapping of the Ocean.

IHO Work Programme 2 – Hydrographic Services and Standards

Task	Topic	Actions Taken
5.1	Technical Programme Coordination (HSSC)	The IHO Secretariat reported on the outcomes of the last HSSC meeting
5.2	Development on Technical Standards	The IHO Secretariat provided an overview on the current and past technical standards developments

IHO Work Programme 3 –Inter Regional Coordination and Support

Task	Topic	Actions Taken
6.1	Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC)	MS encouraged to liaise with their national representatives to the UN-GGIM to support the creation of a WG-MGI.
6.2.2	National Reports	Each Member State provided a 5 minutes presentation on the main inputs of its national report.
6.3.1	Activities of WENDWG	It was emphasized the overlapping issue in the Region. The new Draft IHO Resolution to address issues related to the existence of overlapping ENC data was described.
6.3.2	Regional ENC Coordination Centre (RENCs) Operations	IC-ENC and PRIMAR provided a joint presentation of their activities.

6.4.1	Hydrographic survey status in the MBSHC	Spain reported on the status of hydrographic surveys in the MBSHC Region. These pieces of information are synthesized through a GIS portal hosted by Spain.
6.4.2	Region F ICCWG Activities-MEDINTCHART Catalogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • France reported on the past activities of the region F ICCWG in terms of INT chart schemes. • MS invited to use the IHO online port database to update their port priority list.
6.4.3	Status of ENCs in Region F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned MSs invited to liaise bilaterally to resolve ENC overlappings. • MS requested to use the RENCs' template report to provide the RCC with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ evaluation of risk level on the most critical ENC overlaps based on the IC-ENC risk assessment regional database; ○ their views and comments on the IC-ENC risk assessment methodology.
6.6.1	Capacity Building activities within MBSHC	MS requested to contribute in any possible way to the IHO Capacity Building initiatives and to follow all related procedures in order to get benefits and advantages.
6.6.2	Activities of CBSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2011, Turkey is the regional Capacity Building (CB) coordinator. • The Regional CB Coordinator reported on the outcomes of CBSC15 and the past CB activities within the MBSHC region. • MSs have been invited to propose potential MSI instructors to the IHO Secretariat.
6.6.3	MBSHC Capacity Building Self-Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regional CB Coordinator presented the latest version of the MBSHC CB self-assessment. • IHOS gave an overview of the main CB achievements, of the procedures that have to be followed and of IHO CB funds available.
6.6.4	MBSHC Three-year Capacity Building Work Plan	The CB Coordinator has been tasked to compile the needs from MSs and to disseminate an updated version of the 3 years CB Work Plan for the 2018-2020 period.
6.7	Maritime Safety Information (MSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The region is coincident with the NAVAREA III, the coordinator of which is Spain. • The NAVAREA III Coordinator reported on the MSI activities and developments within the MBSHC region.
6.8	Maritime Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair emphasized the importance of MSDI initiatives and that MSDI has to be a standing agenda item in MBSHC conference in order to contribute to sea related economic developments. • IT volunteered to represent MBSHC at the MSDI WG and will report back to MBSHC in order to provide useful elements to MSs not attending MSDI WG meeting.

7. MBSHC cooperation with stakeholders (organizations, industry, etc.):

- The *Commission Internationale pour l'Exploration Scientifique de la Méditerranée* (CIESM – Mediterranean Science Commission) took part to the last conference of the MBSHC.

- Both RENCs and Industry took part to the last conference of the MBSHC.

8. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed:

- The main difficulties faced by the MBSHC are in the coordination of the INT chart schemes and ENC coverage. Despite a consolidated small scale INT scheme and a growing large scale coverage, midscale schemes development have been slowed down by several long-lasting issues.
- As for the Regional ENC coverage, a significant amount of overlapping still exists at different Usage Band (1, 2 and 3). Since last MBSHC-20 conference, some progresses have been made, most notable is the Cancellation of IT100360, and clipping of UK and Italian cells for Tunisian data. Moreover, bilateral discussions between concerned MSs are on-going in order to achieve tangible solutions.
- Discrepancies between new ENCs and existing INT charts are raising new difficulties regarding consistency of nautical information provided by different producers.
- Reduced resources have restricted members ability to participate in IHO meetings.

9. Achievements and lessons learned Conclusions:

- The enlargement of the MBSHC membership is beneficial. Albania has been asked to consider signing the MBSHC Statutes, to become an Associate Member States.
- MBSHC is developing liaison with States bordering the Caspian Sea.
- The coordinating role of IENWG to present several national HOs of Europe in a joint consortium body has proved successful for winning contracts.
- Bilateral discussion is a prerequisite for the solution of ENC overlapping issues and, very often, is the only pragmatic way forward.
- It is opinion of the MBSHC Chair that it would be beneficial to establish a common set of criteria on which an individual recognition scheme should be based on, to be applied to the whole Mediterranean and Black Sea Region, “to monitor and assess individuals at regular intervals and to register them in a formal system so that an individual may gain professional certification or individual recognition at a defined level of competency which may include Category A and Category B” (Chapter 6 of the “Guidelines for the implementation of the standards of competence for hydrographic surveyors and nautical cartographers” - ed. March 2017). MBSHC CL 1/2018 (24/01/2018) has been issued in order to seek MS’s point of view on this regard. Only Cyprus, Malta and Tunisia replied.
- Italy, as MBSHC Chair and ambassador of MBSHC at the MSDIWG, sent out a MBSHC CL 4/2018 (03/05/2018) in order to seek information from MBSHC MS about their MSDI implementation at a national level. The information provided will be used to extract and synthesize the MSDI implementation process at a regional level.
- Italy attended the MGIWG (UNGGIM) as required by A-1, C-1 and IRCC-9. The MBSHC Region has been represented in the highest world forum on Marine Geospatial matters.

10. Actions required from IRCC:

The IRCC is invited to note the report.

Rear Admiral Luigi SINAPI

Chair of the Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission