

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – CANADA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

2016-2017

### USCHC Report to the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IHO Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC9)

1. **Co-Chair:** Denis Hains (Canada)  
**Co-Chair:** RDML Shepard Smith (USA)

2. **Membership:**  
Full Members: Canada  
United States of America

Associate Members: None

Observers: IHO Secretariat representative Mustafa Iptes

3. **Meetings since IRCC8:**

- a. 40<sup>th</sup> USCHC took place in Galveston, Texas in 20 March 2017 in conjunction with the US Hydrographic Conference (<http://www.ushydro2017.com/>)  
[See [http://www.iho.int/mtg\\_docs/rhc/USCHC/USCHC40/USCHC40\\_Docs.htm](http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/USCHC/USCHC40/USCHC40_Docs.htm) for meeting documents.]



**USCHC40 Galveston, Texas 20 March 2017 (Photo credit: John Lowell)**

Top row (l-r): Capt Richard Brennan, Dave Prince, Doug Brunt, Capt Brian Connon, Rear Admiral Shepard Smith  
Bottom row (l-r): Gretchen Imahori, Jonathan Justi, Mark LeBlanc, Bruno Frachon, Charles Baptist, Serge Gosselin, Christie Ence, Denis Hains, Capt. Edward J. Van De Ameele, Louis Maltais, Stan Harvey, Michael Swedberg  
Not pictured: John Lowell Jr., Rodney “Wade” Ladner, Vanessa Self Miller, Rear Admiral Tim Gallaudet, Chris Thorne, Dave Price, Chris Hemmingway

Next meeting will be in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, 26 March 2018 in conjunction with the Canadian Hydrographic and National Surveyors’ Conference CHC-NSC 2018

<https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=222640&>

#### **4. Current USCHC Working Groups:**

- a. Chart Advisors Committee

#### **5. Status of IRCC actions (relevant for the USCHC)**

**See Appendix A.**

#### **6. Agenda Items:**

The main subjects dealt with during the reporting period were the following:

- Selection of USCHC representative to the IHO Council.
- Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI).
- Trans-boundary ENC overlaps.
- Crowd-sourced bathymetry (CSB).
- Remote sensing (e.g. LiDAR) and satellite-derived bathymetry (SDB).

#### **7. USCHC Cooperation with other organizations:**

- Each Commission member has attended and supports delegations to the IMO NCSR-Navigation, Communications, and Search and Rescue meetings.
- US has participated in IALA – eNavigation Subcommittee as an observer and the OGC – Technical Committee and Marine Domain WG.
- Each Commission member is now part of their respective national delegations to the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) delegations.

#### **8. Conclusions**

- The USCHC continues to be an effective body for the Member States. It serves as an important avenue for communication in address issues of mutual interest.
- MS continue to explore areas for continued collaboration and cooperation e.g. WebEx and teleconference calls are being used at the working level between MS to share experiences and information.
- Areas of ongoing concern and challenges include:
  - The future of the paper chart;
  - Implementation of S-100;
  - Increasing need for improved data and navigational products e.g. e-navigation, marine services portfolios (MSPs);
  - Investigate potential of crowd-sourced bathymetry (CSB) and engagement of potential interested partners e.g. the Cruise Liners Industry Association (CLIA) and the policies for collection, integration, and qualification of this “non-traditional” data;
  - CATZOC attribution;
  - USCHC support for the INT charting programme; and,
  - Timely response to IHO/IRCC reporting requirements and relevant action items

#### **9. Achievements**

- USCHC Member States and France submitted a proposal to the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the IHO Assembly entitled, *Development of an IHO Satellite-Derived Bathymetry Assessment and Charting Programme for as yet Uncharted or Poorly Charted Areas*. This proposal was accepted by the Assembly.
- USCHC has endorsed the UN-GGIM Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management. The USA, supported by CA and several other IHO Member States, proposed to the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the IHO Assembly that the IRCC be tasked to take the necessary steps to incorporate the relevant elements of the UN-GGIM document, *The Statement of Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management*, in its work program and the work programs of its subsidiary bodies.
- Commission Member States signed new USCHC statutes at the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the IHO Assembly.  
[See [http://www.iho.int/mtg\\_docs/rhc/statutes/USCHC\\_StatutesSigned\\_2017-04-27.pdf](http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/statutes/USCHC_StatutesSigned_2017-04-27.pdf) ]



**USCHC Statutes Signing, Monaco, 27 April 2017**

(l-r): Mustafa Iptes (IHO Director), Rear Admiral Shepard Smith (USA), Robert Ward (IHO Secretary-General), Denis Hains (CA).

**10. Actions required from the IRCC9**

- a. IRCC9 is invited to take note of this report and offer any feedback to the USCHC.

**Appendix A.**

**Status of IRCC actions (relevant for the USCHC)**

No.	Action (Agenda Item)	Responsible	Deadline	Status
4	present updates to the IHO WP for those that have not done so (5)	RHC Chairs	2016-07-01	Done and ongoing
7	raise awareness of the impact of e- navigation on the provision of MSI in the respective regions and to highlight the use of the Joint Manual on MSI to ensure correct terminology and formats are used in MSI messages (7b)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	USCHC ongoing discussions and exchanges on MSDI topics. U.S. and Canada also participate in the MSDI working group.
8	encourage closer engagement of the National MSI Coordinators of Member States with the relevant NAVAREA Coordinator (7b)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Ongoing
9	encourage closer coordination between NAVAREA and Capacity Building Coordinators in planning and student selection for the CB MSI training courses (7b)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Ongoing
13	work to reduce overlaps by applying the WEND Principles in defining approve ENC schemes (7d)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	No US-Canada ENC overlaps at given Band levels; There is no US-Canada joint ENC regional scheme for Region A
15	finalize the ongoing revision of the IHO Publication C-17 and submit to IHB to seek comments from MSs (7e)	MSDIWG	2016-10-31	US has one change to NOAA representation to MSDIWG: replace Lucy Hick with incoming WG member Captain Rick Brennan. CHS MSDIWG representative is Chris Hemmingway
16	circulate the draft new edition 2.0.0 of the IHO Publication C-17 seeking comments and inputs from MSs (7e)	Secretariat	2016-11-30	Requires USCHC discussion
17	submit the draft new edition 2.0.0 of the IHO Publication C-17 to IRCC (7e)	Secretariat	IRCC9	The U.S. did not respond to CL 59/2016 “ Call for Comments on the draft new edition 2.0.0 of the draft IHO Publication C-17 Spatial data infrastructures...” (distributed Oct 28 2016; comments due Jan 10, 2017)
18	finalize the white paper to be presented at the next Conference/Assembly and to submit to IRCC for	MSDIWG	2016-08-01	Completed

	intersessional endorsement (7e)			
21	invite Member States to provide following information in the National Reports to RHC meetings: the status of MSDI; plans for involvement in MSDI; and challenges facing the HO (7e)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Incorporated in the National report
23	further develop the draft CSB Guidance document and report back to IRCC (7f)	CSBWG	IRCC9	NA to USCHC although US and Canada are supporting this effort through participation in CSBWG
24	notify the IBSC Chair on the concerns expressed by UK on the timeline for the revision of the IHO Publications S-8A and S-8B (7h)	IRCC Chair	2016-07-15	USCHC noted.
25	circulate the draft Edition 1.0.0 of the IHO Publication S-5A and seek the approval of Member States (7h)	Secretariat	2016-06-30	Canada and US approved. See CL 50/2016
29	invite and encourage Member States to participate in the annual GGC meetings (7i)	GGC Chair	Permanent	US (NGA) attended.
30	invite Member States to provide scanned version of any of the missing sheets, that that they may have in their archives, to the IHB for inclusion in the online digital archive (7i)	RHC Chairs	2016-08-31	
31	in coordination with Member States, to be attentive to opportunities to raise awareness on the role of hydrography and the importance of improving mankind's knowledge of the seas and oceans in support of the sustainable development goals, disaster risk reduction and the integrity of the oceans (8)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Ongoing. A particularly notable public awareness raising event takes place annually through the US Hydro Conference and Canada Hydro Conference which take place annually in alternating years.
32	invite Member States to send updated information to the Secretariat with respect to the IHO Publications C- 55 and P-5 on an annual basis (10)	RHC Chairs	2016-07-31	Completed and Ongoing
36	collate the submissions from the CBSC and WENDWG and to propose the PIs that have no data or that serve to no purpose to be deleted and submit to the IRCC for intersessional approval	Secretariat	2016-08-10	USCHC noted. Action resides with IHO Secretariat.

37	send to the IHB a copy of their regulations regarding the designation of Member States to occupy the seats on the IHO Council allocated to their Commission (12)	RHC Chairs	2017-01-23	Completed
38	collate the inputs from the RHCs on their regulations regarding the designation of Member States to occupy the seats on the IHO Council allocated to their Commission and disseminates to the IRCC (12)	Secretariat	2017-01-31	See USCHC Statutes. USCHC selected CA to represent the USCHC on the IHO Council meeting.