

**9th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC9
Paramaribo, Suriname, 12-14 June 2017**

EASTERN ATLANTIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

EAtHC report to IRCC9

1. Chair

Chair: Agostinho Ramos da Silva (PT): until November 16, 2012
Bruno Frachon (FR): November 16, 2012 until September 18, 2014
Abdelouahed Dihaji (MA): September 18, 2014 until October 20, 2016
Juan A. Aguilar Cavanillas (SP): October 20, 2016 until present.

Vice-Chair: 12nd meeting: Bruno Frachon (FR)
13rd meeting: Abdelouahed Dihaji (MA)
14th meeting: Juan A. Aguilar Cavanillas (SP)

2. Membership

Members: Cameroon, France, Morocco, Nigeria, Portugal, Spain

Associate members: Benin, Cabo Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo.

Observers: Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, UK, USA.

3. Meetings:

Following CHAtO meetings have taken place:

12nd meeting: Lisbon (PT), 14th – 16th November 2012

13rd meeting: Casablanca (MA), 16th – 18th September 2014

14th meeting: Cádiz (SP), 18th – 20th October 2016

Next meeting: 15th EAtHC will take place 17th – 19th October 2018 in Lagos, Nigeria.

4. Current [RHC] Working Groups:

- a) Capacity Building WG CBWG
- b) Region G International Charting Coordination WG (G-ICCWG)
- c) IHO-EU Network WG (acronym)

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

IRCC8/37: 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

Done (EAtHC Circular Letter 03/2016 on December 12nd).

6. Agenda Items:

Agenda item 1

A Technical Visit to Liberia was conducted from 3 to 5 February 2016, supported by the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), approved in 2014 by the IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee to assess the current status of nautical charting and hydrography in the country and to provide advice to the government and to stakeholders on a way ahead. IHB and UKHO jointly formed the visiting team.

Agenda item 2

On July 2016 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishing cooperation between the IHO and the Maritime Organization of West and Central Africa (MOWCA) was signed.

Agenda item 3

A technical visit to Cabo Verde took place on March 2017 and was carried out under the IHO CB Program. The delegation was composed by SHOM's Henri Dolou and IHPT's António Peiriço.

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

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On March 2017 the Chairman and the CB Coordinator attended the Fourth session of the Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in Alexandria, Egypt

8. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed:

Since the establishment of the Capacity Building Sub Committee, several technical visits have been conducted and training courses have been offered to the EAtHC countries. Despite these successful activities, it is still necessary to strengthen Capacity Building initiatives in the region, identify more efficient strategies that could be shared by the countries themselves and guarantee the commitment and participation of the concerned coastal States.

Although that 13th EAtHC Conference prequel the forthcoming 30th anniversary of the creation of the Commission, progresses still need to be made in the region, and the recurrent absence of some coastal States of the region from EAtHC events is a signal among others. This is an issue still to be solved.

Some Member States and/or associates (Rep of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Togo) do not have a national Hydrographic Service, although some of them have created specific services to address the safety of navigation and committees for hydrographic and navigation security issues.

There exists a big concern about the necessity to know and understand the needs and hydrographic priorities for the Nations as well as to have the right skills and tools to get the message through to all different African governments and try to create a project to integrate all the hydrographic data/information. This issue has been highlighted in all the meetings of the period.

There is still a need to check and update the MSI Points of Contact to NAVAREA II Coordinator. This is also a recurrent action present in all the meetings. In much the same way there is also a need to know,

and subsequently inform the NAVAREA II Coordinator, the oil platforms locations and moving forecasts.

9. Achievements and lessons learned Conclusions:

The collaboration between the National Hydrographic Offices of Spain and Portugal resulting in the bilateral arrangement on the limits of the international sections in the mouth of two rivers considered as boundaries between both countries after the agreement on relevant baselines, as well as the production of new charts covering the area of the estuary of the Guadiana River.

As a conclusion I should mention that this Hydrographic commission is not only focused on capacity building, but also encourages the collaboration among other hydrographic offices.

10. Actions required of IRCC:

The IRCC is invited to take note of this report.

Juan Antonio Aguilar Cavanillas
EAtHC Chair