

**XII Conference of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Regional Hydrographic Commission
Genoa, Italy, 24 to 28 September 201**

The above meeting was held at the Italian Hydrographic Institute in Genoa, from 24 to 28 September 2001, under the chairmanship of Dr. Grzetic (Croatia). Delegates from 25 members, associated members and observers attended the Conference.

France, as Chairman and Secretary of the Working Group "Custodianship" charged with the study of copyright issues relating to the distribution of data to and by private companies, presented a Report and a proposal of license agreement. A MBSHC working group will examine version 6.0 of the NSHC standard licensing agreement.

The report of MEDINCHART was also presented by France. Some countries provided input on the INT charts schemes. The MEDINCHART coordinator was tasked to update the Catalogue, in accordance with the proposals submitted by the members during the Conference and publish a new edition.

Spain made a presentation about the status of hydrography in the MBSHC area. The delegates also discussed the topic of establishment of international standards for surveys of navigable rivers and internal waters, which was reminded to be a task of the IHO Work Programme approved by Member States.

Spain also expressed concern as NAVAREA III Coordinator on warnings broadcast and several functional difficulties and invited MBSHC members to give their warning addresses, requiring the implementation of the filtering device to avoid duplication of warnings. Also, the cooperation of member countries was required in order to become responsible for their own navigational warnings. MBSHC countries were invited to implement their own national channels before 2004, by separating the warnings in dual band (national and international). The IHB will send to the IHO Member States a Circular Letter, by October 2002, asking for dual band NAVTEX transmission of national and NAVAREA MSI respectively.

Reports on the progress of national ENC production, training, testing and distribution were made by Spain, Russia and France.

NAVOCEANO explained its co-operation programmes with Georgia and Croatia. Other joint projects, such as the follow-up of the Third Naval Symposium in Venice, were also considered by the Conference (namely cooperation Turkey and Romania cooperation with Georgia, Spain and Morocco cooperation in the waters of Gibraltar Straits and Italy, Greece and UK with Albania).

Italy presented a report on the progress of the MBSHC Virtual RENC including a proposal of Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by participant countries. It was agreed that comments on the draft from member countries and other countries wishing to participate would be gathered resulting in a new draft to be accepted at the next IH Conference (April 2002). Therefore, an extraordinary meeting of the MBSHC will be scheduled during the XVI IH Conference.

The Conference decided to support IOC and IHO initiative to prepare the 2nd edition of IBCM and to encourage Hydrographic Offices to provide the available data to the Editorial Board of IBCM. A preliminary beta version of the IBCM-II is expected to be published in mid 2002.

The Conference approved the amendments to the Statutes previously circulated by the Chairman. It was also agreed that the submissions from USA and UK to become associated members of the HC would be voted by Circular Letter addressed by the new Chairman (Italy) to the MBSHC countries, within a two months period after the Conference. The new Statutes will be published and distributed by Italy.

The date and venue of the XIII MBSHC will be decided at a later date, after consulting all member countries.

IVth MEETING OF THE WG ON SAFETY OF NAVIGATION IN THE BLACK SEA AND AZOV SEA.

This Working Group held its IVth Meeting on 25 September, in parallel with the MBSHC Conference.

The Chairman (Turkey) tabled the new Terms of Reference approved by member countries and expressed concern for the lack of results and achievements since the IIIrd meeting held in Monaco in March 2000. He wondered if the WG should be not disbanded.

It was however agreed that the WG should continue and that a Table of actions had been approved at the precedent meeting and should be followed. The WG will limit its field of action to hydrography and nautical charting

In order to continue the preliminary studies on the status of Hydrography and Nautical Charting in the area, it was agreed that the necessary funding to carry out that study should be obtained from the EC programmes. Therefore, The IMA in cooperation with IHB will draft a new "basic structure" for the project, with a view to presenting it to the relevant funding agencies, such as the European Commission.

The Working Group will submit a report on its progress to the MBSHC and the IHB by February 2002 so that the next meeting of the WG may be held during the XVI IH Conference (April 2002)

PANEL ON THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF MARITIME BOUNDARIES

Genoa, Italy, 28 September 2001

In parallel with the XII MBSHC, the above panel was held during the morning of 28 September 2001. The Panel was organized within the framework of the research project on "The Technical Aspects of the International Law of the Sea" carried out in the University of Milano-Bicocca, Dipartimento Giuridico delle Istituzioni Nazionali ed Europee.

Co-ordinated by Mr. G. Bosco, Plenipotentiary Minister and Consultant to the Legal Service of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, several lectures were given by prestigious personalities. The President of the IHB D.C., Radm Giuseppe Angrisano, was invited to take part in the Presidency of the Panel.

Among the lectures given, the following are to be mentioned :

Fabio CAFFIO, Captain, legal Office of the Italian Fleet:

*"The Role of the Italian Navy and the Hydrographic Institute of the Navy
in the Determination of Maritime Boundaries"*

Jean-Pierre QUENEUDEC, University of Paris I - Panthéon - Sorbonne:

"The General Aspects of Maritime Boundaries"

Habib SLIM, University of Tunis

"The Delimitation of Maritime Zones in the Mediterranean"

Tullio SCOVAZZI, University of Milano - Bicocca:

"Selected Cases of Delimitation in the Mediterranean and Black Seas"

Gian Piero FRANCALANCI, Hydrographic Institute of the Italian Navy:

*"The Negotiations for the Treaties on the Italian Maritime Boundaries -
Introduction to a Book"*

Eugenio SICUREZZA, General Commandant, Italian Coast Guard:

"Monitoring maritime spaces for the safety and general use thereof"