

57th NHC Conference
Arkö, Sweden
15-17 April 2013

Agenda item 8A
IHO Work

IHO/IHB Matters

New Directing Committee - Duties and Responsibilities

1. The new Directing Committee assumed office on 1 September 2012. Details of the allocation of responsibilities were promulgated in IHO Circular Letter (CL) 77 dated 6 August 2012. In summary, Director Mustafa Iptes oversees IHO Programme 3 concerning regional cooperation and capacity building. Director Gilles Bessero oversees Programme 2 - the IHO technical programme and is the IHB Directing Committee representative in the NHC.

Status of Approval of Amendments to the IHO Convention

3. As of 1 March 2013, 38 of the required 48 approvals of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention had been received by the Government of Monaco. All five NHC Member States have notified their approval of the Protocol of Amendments.

Status of Approval of New Member States of the IHO

4. Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam, and Georgia have applied for membership of the IHO. As of 1 March 2013, the status of approvals was as follows:

State	Voting Status
Viet Nam	31 of 52 required
Brunei Darussalam	29 of 52 required
Georgia	22 of 52 required

5. The following IHO Member States of the NHC have not yet approved the applications:

State Applying for Membership	No response as yet from:
Viet Nam (2011)	Denmark Finland Norway
Brunei Darussalam (2012)	Denmark
Georgia (2012)	Denmark Iceland Norway Sweden

6. The Directing Committee, in cooperation with the representatives of the Government of Monaco, stands ready to assist, through diplomatic or other channels, any States' representatives that may be encountering difficulties in progressing the outstanding approvals through their respective governments.

IHO ENC Reference Collection and ENC Availability Catalogue

7. CL 51/2012 dated 18 May reminded Member States to provide their ENCs to the IHB in accordance with IHO General Regulation 19. This will enable the IHB to maintain an authoritative and up to date reference collection of ENCs and also to create a global information catalogue showing all ENCs that are published. The ENC data will be maintained on a secure stand-alone server and used for internal IHB reference purposes only, it will NOT be provided to any other parties.

8. The status of responses to CL 51/2012 from NHC members is as follows:

State	Remarks
Denmark	ENCs to be provided through Primar
Finland	No response
Iceland	ENCs to be provided through IC-ENC
Norway	No response
Sweden	No response

C-55 Updates

9. The latest updated information in C-55 - *Status of Charting and Surveys Worldwide* from NHC members is as follows:

Area	C-55 last updated
Denmark	March 2012
Finland	March 2012
Iceland	March 2010
Norway	December 2011
Sweden	January 2013

10. NHC members are invited to provide the IHB with regular updates to C-55 on at least an annual basis, together with update or confirmation of their IHO Year Book entries.

11. The development of a new framework for C-55 is in progress at the IHB in liaison with IRCC.

12. NHC is invited to consider its contribution to the implementation of Decision 17 of the 18th International Hydrographic Conference (IHC) concerning the improvement of survey coverage (text attached in Annex A).

IHO Publicity

13. World Hydrography Day. The proposed theme for World hydrography Day 2013 is “*Hydrography - supporting the blue economy*”. The purpose of this theme is to provide Member States with the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance and the benefits of hydrography, particularly in economic terms that will appeal both the public and to politicians. The IHB will be providing some supporting material on the IHO website (CL 13/2013 dated 14 February refers).

14. 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference. EIHC 5 will take place 6th to 10th October 2014 in the Auditorium Rainier III in Monaco (CL 101/2012 dated 28 November refers). In a

new departure from previous conferences, it is intended to set aside time for various bodies to highlight their work and programmes. It is hoped these sessions will provoke discussion and throw-up ideas for new work and engagement in areas not previously investigated. It may well cause Member States to question the work being undertaken by some bodies and even if some bodies continue to have relevance in the future.

15. International Hydrographic Review. The IHR provides an ideal opportunity for Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in the region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each RHC has been established. The NHC is not represented in the Editorial Board yet.

16. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the editor (ihreview@iho.int, copy to ian.halls1@defence.au.gov).

Capacity Building Programme

17. Funding for the IHO Capacity Building (CB) programme over the next five years is forecast to be somewhat lower than in the last five years. In these circumstances, the IHO and the RHCs will need to explore alternative mechanisms to meet CB requirements. It is suggested that the NHC members review if and how they wish to be involved in the provision of CB support.

Sustainability of IHO Work Programme

18. The IHB notes increasing difficulties in progressing some important tasks of the IHO Work Programme due to insufficient participation in the relevant IHO subordinate bodies. The IHB monitors the situation in connection with Decision 6 of the 18th IHC about ensuring the appropriate technical capacity within the IHB and will report to Member States as appropriate.

19. The IHB has initiated, in liaison with the Chairs of IHO Committees and subordinate bodies, the establishment of a three-year rolling schedule of meetings (CL 96/2012 dated 15 November refers). The objective is to facilitate resource planning, encourage the diversification of venues, and decongest the late spring and late autumn periods. In that perspective the IHB would welcome the views of NHC on identifying and harmonizing potential offers of venues within the Commission.

Action Requested of NHC Member States

20. NHC Member States are invited to:

- **Note** this report,
- **Report** in-country progress on approving new Member States, including any difficulties being encountered or IHB assistance required;
- **Respond** to CL 51/2012 about the IHO ENC reference collection and catalogue;
- **Provide updates** to C-55 and the IHO Year Book as appropriate;
- **Consider** the Commission contribution to the implementation of Decision 17 of the 18th IHC;
- **Consider** the Commission contribution to CB support;
- **Consider** the Commission contribution to the establishment of the IHO long-cast programme, and
- **Take any other actions** as considered appropriate.

Annex A to the IHB Report to NHC

Decision 17 of the 18th International Hydrographic Commission

The Conference,

Noting:

- (a) the importance of accurate hydrographic data and information for safety at sea, protection of the marine environment and various other maritime activities;
- (b) the obligation placed on States under SOLAS V/9 for the collection of hydrographic data;
- (c) the fact that the quantity and coverage of good hydrographic data requires improvement in many parts of the world;
- (d) the need to improve the rate of acquisition of new, more detailed and accurate data and information;
- (e) the support that various developing States require to be able to carry out the important task of hydrographic surveying; and
- (f) the understanding that hydrographic surveying should be a major focus and responsibility of the IHO and all coastal States;

(g) The XVIIIth International Hydrographic Conference tasks the IRCC and HSSC in cooperation with the Directing Committee to progress whatever actions are required to improve the collection, quality and availability of hydrographic data worldwide, monitor and rectify possible deficiencies and shortcomings, cooperate with other international organizations and stakeholders as necessary, and to keep Member States informed on progress on this issue. Member States are strongly encouraged to address these deficiencies related to maritime safety worldwide, both within the IMO framework and through national channels.