

From: **Rear Admiral Tim Lowe CBE**
The UK National Hydrographer
and NIOHC Chair



NIOHC Letter No. 8/2018

28th November 2018

To: IRCC Chair

Subject: NIOHC Response to IRCC regarding IHO Resolution 2/1997

Dear Parry,

My letter to NIOHC Member States regarding IHO Resolution 2/1997 resulted in one response from Saudi Arabia stating, “no comment”.

The UK response, as a Member State of NIOHC, is consistent with the NSHC view, which we support, and is as follows:

The UK agrees that resolution 2/1997 requires an overhaul that goes beyond a textual update to bring the resolution in line with the new structure of IHO (IHO-S instead of IHB, etc.). This now needs to be better reflected in the IHO Resolution.

The document IRRC10-06.2 is already a significant rewrite. The UK wishes to provide the following more detailed comments on the text of the rewrite:

- New paragraph 3. The RHCs have an important relationship with the IRCC. The UK supports the NSHC recommendation to expand the ‘general section’ to explain the work of IRCC: “The IHO has established an Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) with the aim to establish, coordinate and enhance cooperation in hydrographic activities amongst States on a regional basis, and between regions, especially on matters associated with Capacity Building; the World-Wide Navigational Warning System; General Bathymetry and Ocean Mapping, Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures, Education and Training and the implementation of the WEND suitable for the needs of international shipping” This highlights that the IRCC deals on a global level with the same subject matters as the RHCs.
- Paragraph 6. Change “As part of the IHO” to “As recognized by the Assembly”. The latter is direct quote from the General Regulations of the IHO article 8 (a). This change avoids discussion whether RHCs are or are not part of the IHO organization. They are part of the IHO framework.
- Paragraph 6. The relationship between IRCC and RHCs needs to be addressed as well. As the IRCC Work Programme actions and recommendations affect the RHCs, we recommend to add: “RHCs shall also take into account the actions, recommendations and outcomes of the IRCC”. How they take the outcome into account, is up to the RHCs themselves.

- Resolution 1/2018 identifies a prominent role for the RHCs to identify and assess ENC overlap and action required to rectify this. We recommend adding a new paragraph to reference the role of the RHCs in ensuring all charting of their respective regions meets IHO guidelines.

The lack of engagement on this topic from NIOHC Member States could imply disinterest with IHO business relating to RHCs and could be interpreted as a negative comment regarding the RHC members desire to be closer to IHO.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'K. L. ...', written in a cursive style.