

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

**REPORT OF THE MESO AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
(MACHC)**

**Chair**

Rear Admiral Nick LAMBERT	UK	until December 2012
Rear Admiral Tom KARSTEN	UK	December 2012 to March 2013
Mr Michel AMAFO	Suriname	March 2013 to March 2015
Captain Marc VAN DER DONCK	Netherlands	March 2015 to March 2017

**Vice-Chair**

Mr Michel AMAFO	Suriname	until March 2013
Captain Peter KORTENOEVER	Netherlands	March 2013 to September 2014
Captain Marc VAN DER DONCK	Netherlands	September 2014 to March 2015
Commander Ricardo LOPEZ CRUZ	Mexico	March 2015 until June 2016
Rear Admiral Fernando Alfonso RODRIQUEZ ANGLI		June 2016 until March 2017

**Membership**

**Members:** Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, France, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela.

**Associate Members:** Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The accession of three Associate Members during the reporting period illustrates the vitality of the MACHC.

**Meetings**

13 <sup>th</sup> Conference	Antigua, Guatemala	November 2012
14 <sup>th</sup> Conference	Phillipsburg, Sint Maarten, Netherlands	December 2013
Extraordinary meeting	Monaco	October 2014
15 <sup>th</sup> Conference	Manzanillo, Mexico	December 2014
16 <sup>th</sup> Conference	Saint John's, Antigua & Barbuda	December 2015
17 <sup>th</sup> Conference	Belem, Brazil	December 2016

**Agenda Items**

- Task numbers refer to work programme for 2016 (see IHO CL 87/2015)

IHO Work Programme 1 – "Corporate Affairs"

Task	Topic	Actions taken
1.1.4	Co-operation with European Union	Cooperation takes place through the IHO/EU Network Working Group (IENWG), in which FR represents the MACHC.

1.1.8	Co-operation with IALA	- A close relation with IALA is maintained through presence at the MACHC Conferences. - The MACHC Hydrographic Awareness Seminars are joint IALA/IHO/IMO activities.
1.1.12	Co-operation with IMO	- A close relation with IMO is maintained through presence at the MACHC Conferences. - The MACHC Hydrographic Awareness Seminars are joint IALA/IHO/IMO activities. - MSC: Several MS are involved in MSC meetings. - NCSR Subcommittee: Several MS are involved in NCSR meetings.
1.1.14	Co-operation with UNESCO-IOC	GEBCO: A close relation with GEBCO is maintained through presence at the MACHC Conferences and the IBCCA project.
1.1.18	Co-operation with UN-GGIM	A close relation with UN-GGIM Americas is maintained through Mexico.
1.1.20	Co-operation with PAIGH	A close relation with PAIGH is maintained through presence at the MACHC Conferences as an observer.
1.1.20	Co-operation with OECS	A close relation with the Organization of East Caribbean States (OECS) is maintained through presence at the MACHC Conferences as an observer.
1.1.20	Co-operation with THSOA	A close relation with The Hydrographic Society of America (THSOA) and its Latin American chapter is maintained through presence at the MACHC Conferences as an observer.
1.3.4	General Public Relation support	Hydrography was promoted at the highest level of the government of Antigua & Barbuda during MACHC16.

#### IHO Work Programme 2 - "Hydrographic Services and Standards"

Element	Topic	Actions taken
2.10	Hydrographic Data Acquisition and Processing	MACHC monitors SDB during its conferences, including results of pilot projects within the MACHC region.
2.12	Law of the Sea	MACHC delivered a Maritime Boundaries and Baselines workshop in support of ABLOS in 2015.

#### IHO Work Programme 3 – "Inter Regional Coordination and Support" (Various Elements)

Task	Topic	Actions taken
3.1.13	South-West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission	A close relation with SWAtHC is maintained through the presence of dual members at the MACHC Conferences.
3.1.15	US and Canada Hydrographic Commission	A close relation with USCHC is maintained through presence of dual members at the MACHC Conferences.
3.1.17	WEND Working Group	US represents the MACHC during WENDWG meetings.
3.1.18	Industry participation	Industry participation is common and appreciated during MACHC Conferences.

3.2.3	MACHC strategy to increase participation of non-Member States in IHO activities	Non-MS are actively encouraged to get involved in MACHC activities.
3.2.11	Approval of pending IHO membership	MS are encouraged to approve pending IHO memberships.
3.3	Capacity Building Management	MACHC CB Coordinator (CBC) represents MACHC in the CBSC.
3.4	Capacity Building Assessment	MACHC CB plan in place, with funded activities and effective management by the CBC.
3.5	Capacity Building Provision	MACHC benefits greatly from the IHO Capacity Building efforts, as coordinated by the CBSC. MACHC is very grateful to Japan and the Republic of Korea for their generous contributions to IHO's Capacity Building efforts. MACHC organizes Hydrographic Awareness workshop, Phase 1 Skills Courses for Spanish speakers, and Technical Aspects of Maritime Boundaries and Baselines workshops.
3.6.1	C-55 Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting World-wide	As a continuous action item, MS are encouraged to update their status in C-55 on an annual basis.
3.6.2	Implementation of the WEND principles	MACHC conducted an internal on-line survey on the implementation of the WEND principles in 2015. 12 MS replied and all considered their data to be available through a RENC and most considered that the WEND principles were being implemented.
3.6.3	ENC schemes, consistency and quality	MACHC monitors its ENC scheme on a quarterly basis and posts updates on its website. It continues to monitor overlaps and gaps and has expanded its criteria for finding gaps in coverage with a focus on cruise ship traffic. NOAA provides port analysis evaluations to this end.
3.6.4	INT Chart Schemes and availability of the INT Chart Series	The INT Chart Scheme is tracked quarterly and updated on an annual basis in S-11. MACHC has made significant progress on completing the INT scheme in its area, most notably in the Pacific Ocean.
3.6.5	Global status of hydrographic surveying	The MACHC encourages MS to update C-55 on an annual basis. The status is less than satisfactory and slowly improving.
3.7	Maritime Safety Information	As a standing topic, MS are urged to distribute MSI, for which NGA has WNWNS facilities available
3.8	Ocean Mapping Programme	MACHC maintains a close relation with GEBCO and its IBCCA regional project.
3.9	Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures	NL maintains relations with IHO MSDIWG.

### **Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed**

2. Further developments on the use of Spanish are needed, in order to stimulate membership and active participation. There also is a need for more CB courses in Spanish. MACHC Action item 16.1.6 reads: *“Member States to consider how to provide dual versions in Spanish and English of MACHC documents, for instance as a voluntary service by a Member State.”*
3. The high cost of carrying out surveys and the limits on national budgets during the period have been a limiting factor on survey activity. New acquisition techniques and risk assessment methodologies need to be implemented, in order to gain the most efficient result.
4. Despite the progress, full coverage with ENC's has not yet been achieved. Priority ports were identified by the MICC WG. The status of August 2016 is 87%.
5. In the region, several MS offer CB events, which is greatly appreciated. The timely coordination of the events is also an additional factor for the MACHC CBC to take into account.

### **Achievements/Outputs/Conclusions**

6. The limited survey capacity needs to be dealt with. The MACHC MS share the task of following developments towards the operationalization of new acquisition techniques. Improving coverage of the MACHC region with paper and digital charts receives considerable attention. Risk Assessment methodologies could assist with the best use of the available resources for survey prioritization and chart adequacy assessments.
7. Some of the MACHC achievements are:
  - a. the renewed focus on MSDI, led by the MEIP Working Group;
  - b. the continued interest in the shared application of risk assessment methodologies;
  - c. the ENC Online initiative, in which several MS allow online access to view their ENC's of the MACHC region;
  - d. the organization of a series of successful capacity building events, in English and Spanish;
  - e. strong participation of industry during the past Conference;
  - f. a growing suite of ENC's that better position the needs of shipping in the region;
  - g. an expanded suite of INT charts, most notably in the Pacific Ocean;
  - h. steps towards increased use of Spanish by amending the Statutes, to increase participation of Latin American coastal States. This is done in addition to the use of English as the MACHC working language.

### **Actions required of the Assembly**

8. The Assembly is invited to note the report.