

**9<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE****IHO-IRCC9****Paramaribo, Suriname, 12-14 June 2017****HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON ANTARCTICA****HCA report to IRCC9****1. Chair****Chair:** Robert WARD, (IHO Secretariat) from September 2012**Vice-Chair:** John J. Haumann, (USA) from October 2012**2. Membership****Members:** Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela**Observers:** Antarctic Treaty Secretariat (ATS), Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes (COMNAP), International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO), Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)<sup>5</sup>, International Maritime Organization (IMO), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO), International Bathymetric Chart of the Southern Ocean (IBCSO)**3. Meetings:**

The following meetings of the HCA have taken place since IRCC8:

14<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Tromsø, Norway 28 - 30 June 2016

Extraordinary meeting – Monaco, 25 April 2017

**4. Current HCA Working Groups:**

Hydrographic Priorities Working Group (HPWG)

**5. Status Report:**

A status report on the HCA was presented to the First Assembly less than two months ago. It is part of Assembly Report A.1/WP3/01, which is available on the IHO website. In the interests of efficiency, and noting that no specific action is required of the IHO, and in order to avoid duplication, it is not repeated here.

Since the IHO Assembly, the 40<sup>th</sup> Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) was held in Beijing, Peoples Republic of China. The ATCM agreed to invite the HCA, through the IHO, to hold a seminar on an awareness seminar on the status and impact of hydrography on Antarctic waters. This will take place in mid-2018.

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

As reported to the Assembly, participation of HCA Members and stakeholders in IHO HCA Conferences is somewhat unpredictable. Achieving the quorum of one third of the HCA Members has sometimes been difficult.

Practical liaison and the regular, systematic exchange of information and experience between HCA (IHO) national representatives and other in-country national representatives involved in Antarctic operations and in representation in other bodies at the international level continue to be limited and sub-optimal.

The effective exchange of information and an awareness of the activities and complementary aims of the IHO HCA and those of other international organizations concerned with Antarctica are difficult to achieve.

Raising an awareness of hydrography in the ATCM is not easy.

## **7. Actions required of IRCC:**

The IRCC is invited to:

**note** this report