

High Level Technical Visit to Venezuela Caracas & La Guaira, Venezuela – 18-22 May 2025

Contribution to MACHC activity

Task 3.2.1.5

MACHC – Meso-American & Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission

High level summary

- National maritime vision (Blue Venezuela) based on blue and sustainable growth.
- Spread awareness of the importance of Hydrography as a necessary tool to support the country's economic development.
- Developed Hydrographic Office able to assure national nautical cartographic production and safety of navigation in the waters of national jurisdiction (assessed by IALA).
- National S-1xx products of Phase 1 will start in 2026.
- Plan to create a certified Category B course in Hydrography.
- National Hydrographic Office is aware of the need to increase national visibility at regional (MACHC) and international (IHO) level.

Details:

At the invitation of the Venezuelan authorities (re: Letter of Director General of OCHINA dated 8 April 2025), a High-Level Technical Visit to the institutional, military and hydrographic authorities of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela took place from 18 to 22 May 2025, in line with the MACHC Statutes Art. 3.c.3, to stimulate all countries of the Region to expand their hydrographic activities and to encourage them to seek advice and technical assistance from the IHO Secretariat and other organizations in order to strengthen their hydrographic capabilities. The IHO was represented by IHO Director Luigi Sinapi.



Visit to OCHINA, La Guaira, Venezuela – 19 May 2025

On 19, 20 and 21 May 2025, the following meetings/conferences/visits were held in that order:

- Visit to the Directorate-General for Enterprise and Services, to the Decentralized Service Coordinating Office for Hydrography and Navigation – OCHINA and IHO presentation on “HYDROGRAPHY Supporting Sustainable Development at National, Regional and Global Levels”;
- Visit to the National Hydrographic Service – SHN and Hydrographic Forum on “Venezuela: Hydrographic Prospection 2030” with heads of SHN departments on the Legal framework of hydrography in Venezuela, Internal navigable waters’ challenges and development, implementation of S-100 standard and new technologies;

- C. Meeting with all Venezuelan authorities involved in maritime and internal waters' matters;
- D. Master Lecture for stakeholders of the aquatic spaces of Venezuela and IHO presentation on *"Towards a digital representation of the marine environment"*;
- E. Celebrations of the 78th Anniversary of the National Hydrographic Service – SHN.

The intense agenda of the visit allowed for a fruitful exchange of information and points of view useful to both parties (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and IHO), highlighting the importance of subjects such as training in hydrography and nautical cartography, the need to invest in new technologies and instrumentation necessary to update the knowledge of the seabed, as well as the fundamental role of the IHO's Capacity Building programme for the Venezuelan Hydrographic Office.



Meeting with Venezuelan authorities, Caracas, Venezuela – 20 May 2025

At the meeting with all Venezuelan authorities involved in maritime and internal waters' matters on 20 May 2025, it is worth highlighting the engagement of Venezuela as a Blue Nation with a special attention to all navigable waters, as principal means for connecting peoples, the numerous Atlantic and Caribbean

Venezuelan islands and remote internal places, and assuring that the 99,3% of all goods arriving and leaving Venezuela are transported safely via the sea and internal waters.



Hydrographic Forum at the SHN, La Guaira, Venezuela – 19 May 2025

During the Hydrographic Forum on *"Venezuela: Hydrographic Prospection 2030"* at the SHN, discussions were focused on the new S-100 standard, Navigation in Internal Waters essential to the economic development of the Country, and new hydro-spatial technologies. The national S-100 implementation

plan was presented, highlighting that in 2026 the S-57 and S-101 dual production for the ingestion in the ECDIS-100 will start in line with the IHO S-100 roadmap, and that the national data infrastructure will be set-up to feed the new S-100 products.



78th Anniversary of the SHN, La Guaira, Venezuela – 21 May 2025

The visit culminated with the 78th Anniversary of the SHN at the presence of the Chief of Bolivarian Navy and the general staff of the Bolivarian Navy, OCHINA and SHN. In their speeches, the National Hydrographer of Venezuela, IHO Director and Chief of Bolivarian Navy highlighted that OCHINA and SHN have maintained constant work, achieving 96% operability in aids to navigation, a figure that demonstrates the nation's commitment to safety at sea, accident prevention and environmental protection. In addition to that, the role of Venezuela as a hub of regional cooperation in the Caribbean and South America, thanks to its accumulated experience, technical capacity and institutional integration which allows it to offer technical assistance, data exchange and professional training in the hydrographic area, was also highlighted.

In conclusion, it is believed that the High-Level Technical Visit has proved the commitment of Venezuela to bridge science and blue development, reaffirming a strong support and a widespread interest and attention from all the institutional, military and maritime authorities of the Country for hydrography and for the work carried out by its national Hydrographic Service, both considered indispensable and propaedeutic for the economic and sustainable development of the Country. In such context, a fundamental role is played by the transition towards the new international hydrographic standard and the need to increase the visibility and leadership in hydrographic matters both regionally and internationally.