

## Twenty-First Southern Africa and Islands Hydrographic Commission Saint Denis, La Réunion, France, 15 – 18 Sept 2025

### Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2025

Task  
3.2.1.11 Southern Africa and Islands Hydrographic Commission

#### High level summary (can be used for posting on social media. Please provide concise lists in bullet point format):

- Conducted Seminar on Hydrography with a focus on crowdsourced bathymetry and data logger installation.
- Conducted positive outreach with non-IHO Member States.
- Strengthened bilateral, multilateral, and industry relationships, critical for improved hydrographic surveying and nautical product provision in the region.
- Excellent opportunity for coastal states to work directly with primary charting authorities.
- Increased cooperation between the IHO and other international partners like IALA and MOESNA.
- Updated SAIHC statutes which were signed by attending Member States.

#### Details:

The twenty first Southern Africa and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC) was held from 15 – 18 September in Saint Denis, La Réunion, France. Thirteen nations were in attendance, including Angola, France, Kenya, Mauritius, Norway, South Africa, Seychelles, United Kingdom, India, Madagascar, Namibia, Portugal, and Uganda. The meeting also included industry participants and representatives from Primar, IC-ENC, IALA and the Maritime Organization for Eastern, Southern, and Northern Africa (MOESNA).

A hydrographic seminar was held on the Monday before the SAIHC. The seminar was led by Ms. Lucy Fieldhouse (UK) and Ms. Victoria Obura (Kenya) who serves as the CSBWG vice-Chair. The seminar presented an excellent how-to guide on how to deploy crowdsourced bathymetric data loggers through a series of video presentations which were prepared and presented by Capt Nicolette le Roux (South Africa). The videos presented introductory step-by-step instructions on deploying data loggers, working with prospective partners, and collecting and submitting data. Following the seminar, the general consensus was that the videos should be made available through the IHO E-learning platform. Ms. Obura lead an informative session from a question-and-answer perspective with regard to crowdsourced bathymetry which served as conversational stimulation on how to better use the technology in the SAIHC region.

Admiral Angus Essenhigh (UK), Chair of the SAIHC, offered opening remarks. Following remarks were offered by Admiral Laurent Kerleguer (France) and Dr John Nyberg (IHO). All opening remarks presented a positive view of the region and recognized both the extensive progress being made along with its enormous potential. Dr Nyberg highlighted three IHO initiatives, S-100, the proposed IHO Infrastructure Centre, and the ongoing work between the IHO and IMO with regard to the future of data distribution. Each of these items were highlighted as opportunities which could be highly beneficial if coincident with corresponding investment in training and technology.

National reports were presented by all members present, and highlights from the reports included many new surveys in the region, new charts, preparations for mandatory IMO audits, automated ENC to paper chart production, the need for equipment and software support, post COVID rebuilding of hydro programs, and port expansion.

Challenges were also presented and included equipment procurement and maintenance, survey support, S-100 training, production software, and the effort to establish and the revitalization of National Hydrographic Committees. The Commission engaged in a discussion regarding current software capabilities to produce paper charts from ENC data. This continues to be a requirement for many in the region and an important step in the evolution from paper to digital charting.

During the week, the Commission took an afternoon to visit the French Icebreaker L'ASTROLABE which is used primarily to supply the French station in Antarctica.



*SAIHC visit to Icebreaker L'ASTROLABE*

Industry presentations were an important part of the week. They presented valuable information regarding resources for survey support, equipment procurement, and updates regarding production software.

The meeting concluded with two Associate Members volunteering to host the next SAIHC and closing remarks from the Chair, vice-Chair, host and IHO. The vice-Chair, Mr. Manoj Kumarsing Dookhee (Mauritius) expressed his appreciation of the region's continued commitment to hydrography and nautical charting as well as the ongoing contributions and cooperation in the SAIHC.

### **Election of SAIHC Officers**

South Africa and Mauritius were respectively elected Chair and vice-Chair by unanimous consent.

### **Photo**



### **Upcoming meetings:**

The SAIHC 22 is scheduled for September 2026 in either Malawi or Uganda.