

16th Meeting of the South East Pacific Regional Hydrographic Commission (SEPRHC16), Valparaíso, Chile – 14-16 May 2025

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2025

Task 3.2.1.12

SEPRHC - South East Pacific Hydrographic Commission.

High level summary

- In addition to the meetings in person scheduled every 18 months, the members of SEPRHC decided to meet virtually every 6 months, to better deal with the most important IHO work programme challenges, such as the S-100 implementation, the new IHO Strategic Plan 2027-2032, the establishment of a regional MDSI and the active participation in GEBCO/Seabed2030/CSB.
- As initiated in the year 2024, the sharing bathymetric data with DCDB, either nationally or regionally, to contribute to the GEBCO programme and Seabed2030 project continues.
- Participation in the CSB initiative: the SEPRHC Chair in cooperation with the IHO Secretariat will reach out to Seabed2030 and CSBWG how to get data loggers to use in the SEPRHC's members, as well as to invite Spain to share their experience in the use of data loggers and uncrewed vehicles.
- Regional Capacity Building (Chile) and S-100 (Peru) coordinators are directed to identify projects to be executed by the IHO-Singapore Technical Laboratory for a coordinated regional S-100 implementation.
- Following the IHO Director's input and the aim to strengthen the regional cooperation in view of an enlargement of the IHO membership in South America, Peru is invited to explore new hydrographic cooperation initiatives with Bolivia, particularly focused on the navigable Titicaca lake, which jurisdiction is equally shared between the two countries (55% to Peru and 45% to Bolivia).

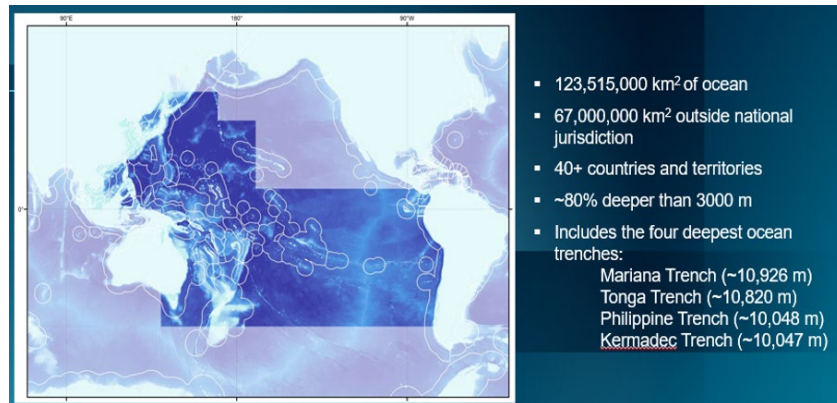
Details:

The **16th Meeting of South East Pacific Regional Hydrographic Commission – SEPRHC16** took place in Valparaíso, Chile, from the 14 to 16 March, hosted by the *Servicio Hidrográfico y Oceanográfico de la Armada de Chile (SHOA)*. Twenty attendees in person and four online from SEPRHC Member States (Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru), one SEPRHC Observer (Spain) and Industry participated in the meeting. Only Panama – also observer to SEPRHC – didn't participate in the meeting. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Luigi Sinapi.

The SEPRHC Chair Captain Carlos Zúñiga Araya opened the meeting, remarking that a new cycle that brings important technological and professional challenges at regional level has started, especially considering that by 2026 the hydrographic offices must have implemented the new Universal Hydrographic Standard S-100. Such commitment will be possible only thanks to the firm conviction that through collaborative work, exchange of ideas and joint construction, the Region and the single members can move decisively towards the standards required by the new global technological environment.

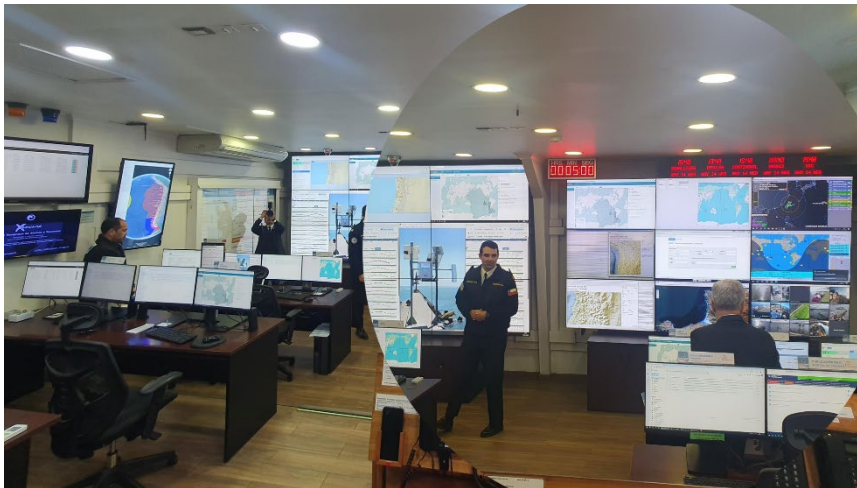
During the opening session and presentation of the IHO Secretariat Report, IHO Director Sinapi highlighted the importance of SEPRHC16 as an opportunity to discuss the deployment on board SOLAS vessels of the first S-100 products belonging to Phase 1, the approval of the new IHO Strategic Plan, which will take place at the 4th Session of the IHO Assembly scheduled for April 2026, the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) to be held in June 2025 in Nice, France, where the IHO will be

present at several events, and finally the IHO's commitment to expand its membership, in a continent such as South America which has all its coastal states as members of the Organization.



Seabed2030 Regional Pacific Centre

Besides, as requested by the members of SEPRHC, the IHO Director updated the SEPRHC on GEBCO, Seabed2030 and Crowd Sourced Bathymetry (CSB), highlighting the new important achievements of GEBCO with the approval of a Strategy 2024-2030 and the preparation of the Strategic Implementation Plan, the vastness and complexity of the Pacific area falling under the coordination of the Seabed2030 Regional Pacific Centre, and finally the opportunity to contribute to the CSB and the launch of new initiatives, such as workshops on CSB tools, at sea demonstrations, development of a new comprehensive CSB manual and short videos on specific topics, to facilitate the participation in the CSB initiative at regional level. On this regard, the reaction from the members of SEPRHC was very positive, and all shown the intention to continue the provision of bathymetric data to GEBCO and Seabed2030 initiated after the previous meeting of SEPRHC in November 2023, and to participate actively to the CSB initiative.



The operational room of Tsunami National Alarm System (SNAM – Sistema Nacional de Alarma de Maremotos)

On 14th May afternoon, a visit to the SHOA was conducted for the benefit of the SEPRHC's participants, with focus to the *Hydrography Department*, where the hydro-cartographic flux was exposed, the *Operations Department* with a presentation of the equipment and instruments used for data acquisition and, finally, the *SNAM – Sistema Nacional de Alarma Maremotos*, where the technological system used for issuing the Tsunami alerts in case of mayor events was explained.

*Wave network along
Chilean coasts*



The following main topics were discussed alongside the presentation of the national reports from the Members and the Observers to SEPRHC:

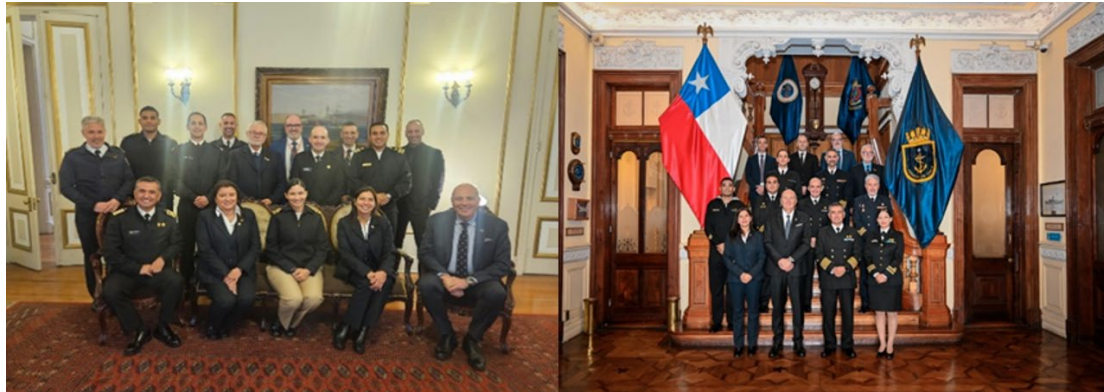
- Need to prioritize human resources within the HOs for the implementation of the new S-100 products belonging to Phase 1;
- Need to strengthen alliances with national and international entities to facilitate access to technical and financial resources in view of the challenge of migration to S-100 and its derivatives;
- Need of more investment in Capacity Building for activities focused on the implementation of S-100 standard at national and regional level and recognition of the high value of IC-ENC training opportunities on S-1xx products belonging to Phase 1;
- Need of investments in renewing the hydrographic fleets and equipment, with particular attention to polar vessels to be used in the Southern Ocean;
- Importance of oceanography and wave networks along all southern American Pacific coasts to monitor Tsunami propagation and coordinate alerts;
- Importance of establishing certified courses in Hydrography Cat. A and B and Nautical Cartography Cat. B in the Region;
- Importance of navigation safety and hydrography in inland navigable waters (Peru and Colombia);
- Implementation of national Geo-Portals in line with the MSDI and UNGGIM principles with the ultimate goal to create a regional MSDI;
- Improve the active participation in the International Hydrographic Review (IHR) through the submission of scientific articles and notes to the IHR;
- Increase national and international cooperation with the member states of SEPRHC in the Antarctic region.

Regional Capacity Building initiatives conducted, underway and planned were described by the Regional Capacity Building coordinator (Chile), highlighting the importance to invest on the S-100 implementation and the fact that – due to the high level of capacities of the HOs in the region – in the last 5 years only one activity was financed by the IHO CB Fund. It was agreed by the members of the SEPRHC, to invite the CBSC to directly assign 10% of the annual CB budget to the Region.

Finally, industry representatives presented on themes related to Digital Maritime Services Development, Hydrographic Science Education, High technology survey equipment and sensors, Software solutions for the development and production of S-100 Phase 1 products, the status of the art of S-100 products and related testbeds for their implementation were presented. A special focus on the execution of a hydrographic survey by means of an AUV and the real-time restitution of the seabed detected according to the new S-102 – Bathymetry product was provided by the

representatives of the Industry, highlighting the benefits in terms of low environmental impact and cost-optimization deriving from the use of uncrewed vehicles and automated processing systems.

Photo



SEPRHC16 participants at the Navy Officers' Club and SHOA – Valparaíso, Brazil

Upcoming meetings:

Next meeting will be held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia in October/November 2026 (date and venue TBD).