

43RD MEETING OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – CANADA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (USCHC) Québec, Canada 24th February

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2020

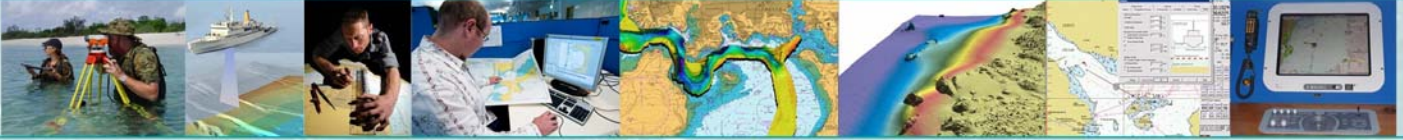
Task 3.2.1.3	Prepare for and report meetings of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) / USCHC
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The 43rd meeting of the United States of America – Canada Hydrographic Commission (USCHC) was held on 24 February in Québec, Canada. USCHC43 took place in conjunction with the Canadian Hydrographic Conference 2020. The meeting was co-chaired by the Hydrographer General of Canada, Dr Geneviève Bécharde and the Director, Office of Coast Survey of the USA, Rear Admiral Shepard Smith respectively. Twenty eight participants attended the meeting including representatives from the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) and the Departments of National Defense (DND) and Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), US Navy and US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) and the Coast Guard of Japan as observers. IHO Secretary-General, Dr Mathias Jonas represented the IHO Secretariat.

The USCHC43 agenda covered a wide range of topics of mutual interest with the Member States' reports and the additional briefs on the activities of the International Hydrographic Organization and Council as well as HSSC and IRCC. IHO Secretary-General reported on the IHO Work Programme and the Organization's activities since the 3rd IHO Council held in October 2019. He put particular emphasis on the Secretariat's action to place the acknowledgment of the S-100 roadmap on IMO's Agenda and informed about the ongoing preparations for the 2nd Session of the IHO Assembly (A2).

Some of the topics provoking in-depth discussions included:

- Transboundary ENC issues: US and CA gridded ENC plans, implementations and implications;
- Operational experiences with unmanned survey systems and autonomous shipping readiness;
- National bathymetric source database developments;
- Contribution to and use of Crowd-sourced bathymetry (CSB);
- The future of the paper chart; and
- CHS concept for the provision of S-100 based data products in collaboration with Teledyne CARIS and PRIMAR.



Several technical presentations were also made that were complementary to the discussions, including: UAS (Quadcopter) use from ships, structure from motion shoreline characterization; automated data processing and control; bathymetric data in the cloud; update of local vertical and horizontal reference datum as well as updates of the global geoid and magnetism models.

IHO Secretary-General gave a short address during the opening ceremony of the Canadian Hydrographic Conference and contributed to a podium discussion focused on the introduction of a new IHO definition for the term “hydrospatial”. He also paid a visit to the Maritime Simulation and Resource Centre (MSRC). The MSRC-Director, Mr Paul Racicot presented the simulation environment and the methodology of pilotage at Saint Lawrence Seaway assisted by frequently updated S-102 data sets delivered by CHS.

The 44th USCHC meeting will be hosted by the USA in conjunction with US Hydro Conference in March 2021 – venue to be set.



The participants of the USCHC43 meeting.