



## 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the South East Pacific Regional Hydrographic Commission (SEPRHC15)

Valparaiso, Chile, 27-29 November

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2023	
Task 3.2.1.12	SEPRHC - South East Pacific Regional Hydrographic
	Commission

The 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the South East Pacific Regional Hydrographic Commission (SEPRHC15) was held in Valparaiso, Chile, from 27 to 29 November 2023, hosted by the *Servicio Hidrografico y Oceanografico de la Armada* (SHOA) of Chile. The meeting was chaired by Rear Admiral Arturo Oxley Lizana (Chile) Director of SHOA, and attended by 18 registered participants. All IHO Member States of the Commission (Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru) were represented, as well as the Observer State, Spain. The meeting was also attended by the Vice Chair of the IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC), representatives of the Industry (Teledyne Caris) and NIWA for the aspects related to the Nippon Foundation GEBCO-Seabed2030 project. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Luigi Sinapi.



Participants at SEPRHC15







The SEPRHC15 meeting was preceded by an Icebreaker offered by SHOA in its facilities. The SEPRHC15 meeting was opened by the Chair, Rear Admiral Arturo Oxley Lizana (Chile), who welcomed the participants, thanked Peru for its period of chairmanship from 2020 to 2023, recalled that the difficulties linked to the COVID-19 pandemic are now behind us, as well as that the coordination and leadership of the Hydrographic Offices allow the SEPRHC members to face and brilliantly overcome in the South-East Pacific Region, the

challenges linked to the implementation of the new standard S-100 and the development of related products. The transferring Chair - Rear Admiral Carlos Guerrero Malpartida (Peru) took stock of the situation of the last three years of the Peruvian chairmanship, recalling that the implementation of the S-100 represents the priority in the region. After that, the handover took place - in the presence of the Director of the IHO - between the transferring Chair - Rear Admiral Carlos Guerrero Malpartida (Peru) and the accepting Chair - Rear Admiral Arturo Oxley Lizana (Chile).

The IHO Director highlighted the decisions of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the IHO Assembly and the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IHO Council of greatest interest for the region and the actions requested from the SEPRHC in the immediate future, with particular attention to the appointment of key figures within the Regional Hydrographic Commissions, including the representative at the WENDWG, the S-100 Regional Coordinator, the regional coordinator for aspects related to CrowdSourced Bathymetry, GEBCO and Seabed 2030, the active participation at the *Project Team on Fund Generation of IHO Project Initiatives* under the IRCC, as well as the importance of regional coordination within the MSDI for the implementation of the UNGGIM principles regarding the management of geospatial data.



Buque Rompehielo "Almirante Viel" - Chile and Buque ARC "Simon Bolivar" - Colombia





The national reports highlighted some specific aspects of the SEPRHC, including a state-of-the-art polar hydro-oceanographic capability, thanks to a substantial renewal of the hydro-oceanographic fleet in the SEPRHC countries, a unique warning capability for Tsunami and response to extreme events such as tsunamis and earthquakes, which is expressed through products (e.g. tsunami inundation maps) and services for the population and cooperation within the region, characterized by a wave and tide gauge network present along the entire Central and South American Pacific coast, as well as the presence of nationwide maritime geospatial data infrastructures. Finally, a visit was organised to the SHOA operations room, connected to Chile's SNAM (Sistema Nacional de Alarma Maremotos).

The CBSC Vice Chair gave a presentation on the IHO's Capacity Building programme and new initiatives underway at the international level, such as the new IHO e-Learning Centre installed at the KHOA, the Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH) project, and the A-3 and C-7 decisions on Capacity Building. SEPRHC's Regional Capacity Building Coordinator outlined the Region's three-year plan, pointing out that for the next few years until the S-100 comes into effect, the required activities will focus on training for S-101 and S-102. Finally, the Chair of the SEPRHC made a proposal on behalf of the Region - to be formalized through a Circular Letter for the approval of the four Member States - to support the IHO Capacity Building Programme, both regionally and internationally, through an increase in the cost of a single ENC cell and the sharing of the increased revenue from the sale of ENCs between the Region (SEPRHC) and the IHO Capacity Building Programme in favour of all IHO Member States, according to percentages to be established. This initiative will also be brought to the attention of the Region's Member RENC (IC-ENC) for consideration by the IC-ENC Steering Committee.



Expedition in international waters proposed by Colombia to contribute to the GEBCO and Seabed2030 programme on behalf of SEPRHC

Following the decisions resulting from the last HSSC, IRCC, Council and Assembly meetings, SEPRHC decided to appoint Ecuador as the Region's representative to the WENDWG and to provide a response to WENDWG CL 01/2023 - Readiness Status of RHCs for the provision of S-1xx datasets by 2026 per Charting Region. SEPRHC also appointed Peru as Regional S-100 Coordinator, in line with the WEND100 principles. Chile, in its capacity as SEPRHC Chair, was appointed as the CSB/GEBCO/Seabed2030 Regional Coordinator, and finally, at the proposal of Colombia, it was approved to contribute - on behalf of SEPRHC - to the GEBCO programme and the Nippon Foundation GEBCO-





Seabed2030 project through an expedition with the Colombian polar vessel ARC *Simon Bolivar* in international waters of the Pacific along the entire South American coast to Antarctica, sending data to the DCDB. A presentation by NIWA's representative on GEBCO, Seabed2030 and CrowdSourced Bathymetry, as well as by the representative of Teledyne Caris on the latest developments in tools and software for the migration to the S-100 standard, completed the SEPRHC15 meeting. Finally, the SEPRHC approved the new Statutes in line with IHO Resolution 2/1997, deciding to reduce the period of meetings from three years to eighteen months.

The next SEPRHC16 meeting will take place in Valparaiso, Chile in March/April 2025 (the date will be defined six months before), while Colombia will assume the chairmanship in 2026 at the end of Chile's three-year chairmanship period.