

14TH MEETING OF THE SOUTH-EAST PACIFIC REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (SEPRHC)

VTC, 15 September

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2020	
Task 3.2.1.12	Prepare for and report meetings of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions: SEPRHC

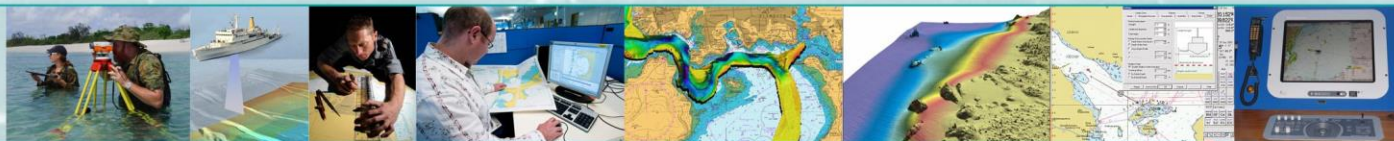
The 14th Meeting of the South-East Pacific Regional Hydrographic Commission (SEPRHC), originally scheduled to be held Chile, was held in a virtual format on 15 September.

A total of twenty-four attendees from the four full members of the Commission (Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru) and one associate member, Panama, were represented at the Meeting. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Luigi Sinapi and Assistant-Director Leonel Manteigas.

The meeting commenced with the welcome words from the host nation, Peru. On behalf of the Chair, RAdm Juan Francisco Herrera Leal, Captain German Escobar from Colombia presented the three-year period report of the Colombian chairmanship. Peru then assumed the Chairmanship and RAdm Jorge Paz gave a speech expressing his willingness to collaborate with the other Member States to position the Regional Hydrographic Commission within the world hydrographic scope.

Director Sinapi reported on the IHO Work Programme and the Organization's activities during the previous year and on the ongoing preparations of the 2nd Session of the Assembly (A-2) postponed to November 2020. He invited the SEPRHC to examine their respective instruments to ensure compliance with the recommendations of the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended by A-2. Director Sinapi mentioned the need of the region to more actively report on the nautical cartographic coordination and participate in the WENDWG meetings. He also suggested that consideration be given for a reduction in the time interval between meetings since, in a constantly changing world, three years is far too long.

It should be noted that to implement the actions agreed at the previous meeting (SEPRHC 13), 13 intermediate regional meetings were held over the three years. These actions covered several areas including, capacity building, participation in committees and working groups of the IHO, sharing the bathymetric data, creation of a working group to build a regional tsunami response plan, etc.

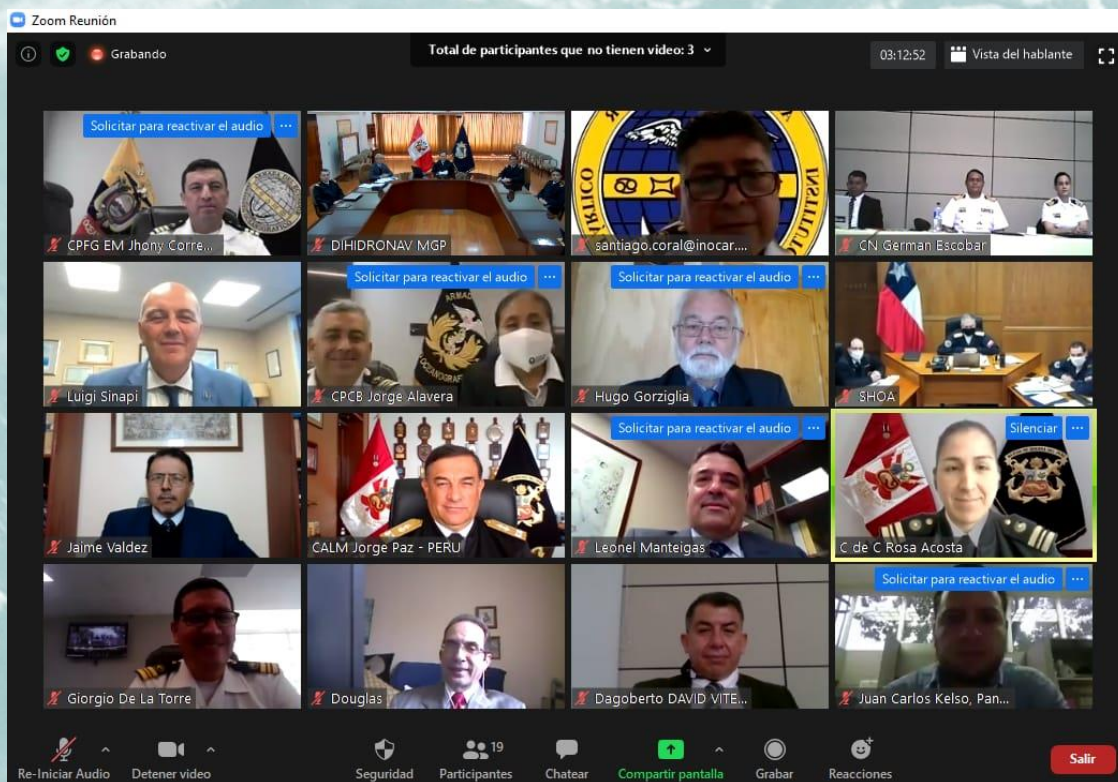


Subsequently, the national reports of each Member State were presented, focusing on cartographic updates and hydrographic surveys carried out over the last three years. Colombia reported on the two new scientific ships acquired to improve its capacity in increasing oceanic knowledge.

It should be noted that Panama, the only non-Member State in the region, was represented through the Panama Maritime Authority (PMA) and provided a report. According to this report it is Panama's intention to create a national cartographic plan and produce new nautical charts. Beyond this it is also the intention to provide additional staff training in order to attain the capacity to produce their own nautical charts. The representative also informed that the PMA has started the process for Panama to become an IHO Member State.

With reference to Capacity Building, it should be noted that in the SEPRHC region all Member States have IBSC Recognized Hydrographic Courses. In the CBSC 2021 WP, there is already an approved Workshop on MSI. In the SEPRHC three year Plan there is a request of support for the transition to S-100 and for Quality Control.

It was decided that the 15th SEPRHC meeting will be held in Chile in 2023, since in accordance with the Statutes, Chile will receive the Presidency of the Commission in 2023.



Participants at the SEPRHC14 Meeting