

3rd SESSION OF THE IHO ASSEMBLY

Monaco, 2-5 May 2023

REPORT OF THE SOUTH WEST ATLANTIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (SWAtHC)

1. Chair:

- Commodore Valentin Alejandro SANZ RODRIGUEZ, Argentina, from October 2020.
- Captain Jose DOMINGUEZ, Uruguay, from since 01 April 2020 until October 2020.

Vice-Chair:

- Vice Admiral Renato ARRUDA, Brazil, from December 2021.
- Vice Admiral Edgar BARBOSA, Brazil, from October 2020 until December 2021.
- Commodore Valentin Alejandro SANZ RODRIGUEZ, Argentina, from March 2017 until October 2020.

2. Membership:

- Members: Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay.
- Associate: Paraguay.
- Observer: Bolivia.

3. Meetings:

- 14th SWAtHC Conference Niteroi, Brazil 9-10 March 2020, (face to face).
- 15th SWAtHC Conference VTC Buenos Aires, Argentina 31 August - 1 September 2021, (VTC).
- 16th SWAtHC Conference Montevideo, Uruguay 30 and 31 August 2022, (face to face and VTC).

4. Agenda Items:

The SWAtHC Conferences tend to work with a permanent agenda that is amended when new issues arise. The main topics in the agenda, transacted during the before-mentioned meetings, are:

- i. NAVAREA V and VI Contingency Plan is signed between the Argentine and the Brazilian Hydrographic Services.
- ii. Revision and update of SWAtHC Statute.
- iii. Creation and progress of the Regional IC-ENC Coordinating Centre.
- iv. Current situation of Chart INT2010: pending approval.
- v. Commission Representation at the IHO Council.
- vi. Presentation of national and IHO Secretariat reports.
- vii. Submission of reports drafted by Working Groups and Committees:
 - Planning Committee.

- CBSC – WENDWG - IEGH – IRCC – S100WG.
 - GEBCO / Seabed 2030 Progress.
- viii. Update of IHO C-55 and P-5 Publications.
- ix. Signature and ratification of the membership application to the Commission submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia. A2_2020_G_06_EN 41
- x. SWAtHC Capacity Building Coordination, Trainings and workshops:

2020

- Hydrographic Awareness Seminar (10-11, March) – Brazil (DHN).

2021

- Webinar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography – with the coordination of Uruguay (SOHMA). The Webinar had approximately 48 participants, and the feedback was very good. Five lectures were held:

- IMO (SOLAS Convention and Navigational Warning Service)
- IALA (with emphasis on aids to navigation - inland waters)

IRCC14-06.1N

- IHO's Capacity Building Program
- Water level in estuaries and rivers
- Inland ENC's - cartographic production process

The CBSC approved these SWAtHC events for 2021, but did not hold it because of the pandemic situation:

- Technical Visit to Bolivia – SWAtHC/IHO).
- Seminar (in person) on Raising Awareness of Hydrography – Uruguay (SOHMA); and
- Port and Shallow Water Survey Course – Brazil (DHN).

5. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed:

a) Difficulties:

1. The main difficulty encountered is the lack of qualified personnel available versus the increase in workload.
2. Shortage of Spanish speaking trainers.
3. The main difficulty that has arisen is the scarce resources allocated for the projects by the Capacity Building, for which the SWAtHC Region has not had approved events for 2022.

The activities must be face-to-face and practical, but they have been affected and limited by the pandemic. The continuity of the SWAtHC Capacity Building Plan is a strategic issue of vital importance for all Members.

4. Members lack sufficient staff resources to address all the proposed work lines.
5. It is difficult for Members to stay ahead of the technology, which is constantly improving, making it difficult to adapt to the changes proposed by the different committees.

b) Challenges:

1. The main challenge yet to be addressed is the implementation of S-100 based products for the SWAtHC Region.
2. In order to be more eligible to receive support from IHO Capacity Building Funds, SWAtHC will propose training courses in conjunction with the neighbouring RHCs.
3. Carrying out and broadening of trainings and workshops within or beyond

the scope of the CBSC.

4. Another change to consider is the costs involved in NAVAREAs notifications in the event that the Iridium Safety Cast becomes mandatory.

6. Achievements/outputs/conclusions:

a) SWAtHC is committed to perform hydrographic and cartographic activities and cooperates in capacity building in straight alignment with IHO objectives and goals and coordinates charts and ENC's production. Besides, it harmonizes boundaries and data and stimulates participation of all regional countries. The high-level of harmonization, quantity of training performed and absence of overlaps in ENC's is a good indicator of the success of SWAtHC members' efforts.

b) SWAtHC full members have approved the request of the "Servicio Nacional de Hidrografía Naval" from Bolivia, and started the procedure of adherence to become an Associate Member of SWAtHC. That Service should address this to its national authorities.

c) A Contingency Plan for the transmission of navigational warnings in the Region is in effect. In 2016, during SWAtHC10, the mutual support agreement between SHN (Argentina) and DHN (Brazil) was signed, in order to ensure the transmission and monitoring of navigational warnings in their areas of responsibility, in case of an interruption of system operation. The exercises are carried out annually; six successful exercises have been carried out since 2016. Furthermore, they are updating it depending on the development of the new S-124 standard.

d) SWAtHC member's NtM are written in accordance with the IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information (MSI).

e) Regarding IRCC action 2, Brazil is an active participant of the NCWG and supports Decision 28 of the IHO Assembly about the implementation of the document "The Future of the Paper Nautical Chart". Uruguay proposes not to stop nautical cartography production in paper format for the moment, as there are sectors of the maritime community that do not have the appropriate ENC displays to navigate exclusively with electronic nautical charts. Their Cartography Division is also analysing the document to present their conclusions in the 15th SWAtHC. Finally, there are many non-SOLAS users and outside the nautical activity in Argentina that still use paper nautical charts, for which the discontinuation of their production has not yet been evaluated. The possibility of simplifying its production methods in the future, from products derived from S-101 is an alternative that will be welcomed to reduce the workload of the SHN.

f) In order to improve MSI services, a web system is being developed by some Members, to record and control the dissemination of maritime safety information.

g) C-55 was updated in March 2022 by the Members.

h) SWAtHC remains committed to the guiding principles of the IHO, as well as supporting the accession of Bolivia and Paraguay as IHO Member States. The associate and observer countries of the SWAtHC region that are not yet members of the IHO, Bolivia and Paraguay, continue without submitting their instruments of accession, and attempts aimed at obtaining their accession continue.

i) Within the report of the WWNWS-SC, there has been a worldwide reduction in NAVAREA notifications, a situation that was not reflected in Brazil or Argentina. Brazil (Navarea V) and Argentina (NAVAREA VI) have not yet signed NAVAREA's adherence to Iridium's new ISM provider.

j) Brazil provided a bathymetric grid of 1 km resolution covering NAVAREA V to contribute to the Seabed 2030 Project in March 2021.

k) The Seabed 2030 Project has three strategies to achieve its objective, Crowdsourced Bathymetry, border mapping and technical innovation. Brazil has recently produced a georeferenced map with bathymetric gaps in the CHAtSO Region, to be disseminated among the other Members.

l) The Statute of the SWAtHC was modified. The most important modification was the northern limit of the CHAtSO Region, moving from 0° (equator) to 01° South.

m) During the COVID-19 pandemic, the SWAtHC held the annual meetings, which allowed the continuity of the hydrographic activity in the Region.

As a result, the SWAtHC meeting will be held in a hybrid format (face-to-face and VTC), in order to expand the number of participants.

7. Actions required of the Assembly:

- a) **Consider** the report of the SWAtCH
- b) **Take** any other action considered appropriate.