

**PRO-3.1            Revision of Clause (e) of Article 8 of the General Regulations of the IHO – Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA).**

**Submitted by:    Council (Secretary-General, as Council Secretary and HCA Chair)**

- References:**
- A.    General Regulations of the IHO.
  - B.    A-2 PRO 1.1 (paragraph 4) and Decision A2/02 – *Amendments to the General Regulations proposed by Member States, the Council or the Secretary-General.*
  - C.    6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council – Summary Report.

**PROPOSAL**

**Noting the endorsement of this proposal made by the Hydrographic Commission of Antarctica (HCA) by the Council,**

**Noting the Council's resulting proposal for amendment of the General Regulations of the IHO, the Assembly is invited:**

- to approve the proposed revision of clause (e) of Article 8 of the General Regulations of the IHO;**
- to note the possibility now offered to all IHO Member States by the revised HCA Statutes, to become more engaged in HCA activities.**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

1.    In 2020, IHO Member States approved new amendments to IHO Resolution 2/1997 – *Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC).*
2.    In 2021, the HCA revised its Statutes to ensure a better alignment with the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS), the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended; and the IHO Strategic Plan goals and objectives. The revised Statutes of the HCA came into force on May 2022.
3.    The IHO Strategic Plan has recognized the broader user community of the data, products and services beyond IHO's traditional Safety of Navigation customers. The current wording of Art. 8.e of the General Regulations of the IHO, limits full HCA Member status to nations who "...contribute to the IHO INT Chart coverage of Region M" specifically. With the changing data and user environment, and the shift from paper to digital services, including ENCs and other future S-xxx products, this limitation should be modified to allow participation by IHO Member States more broadly.
4.    The change proposal to Art. 8.e of the General Regulations of the IHO as provided in Annex, was endorsed at the last Council meeting (Reference C, Decision C6/65) and is now submitted at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Assembly to IHO Member States for their approval.
5.    It is reminded that the Council is entitled to propose amendments to the General Regulations of the IHO for Member States' approval (Reference B).
6.    The Assembly is also invited to note that IHO Member States – event those having no specific charting or S-100 services production responsibilities in Region M - are welcome to contribute more actively in HCA activities.

**Proposed amendments to clause (e) of Article 8 of the General Regulations of the IHO**

*Version in force*

Art. 8 (e): “Full membership is reserved for Member States within the region. In the unique case of the Antarctic region, membership of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) is reserved for Member States whose governments have acceded to the Antarctic Treaty and contribute resources and/or data to IHO INT Chart coverage of Region M.”

*Proposed version*

Art. 8 (e): “Full membership is reserved for Member States within the region. In the unique case of the Antarctic region, membership of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) is reserved for Member States whose governments have acceded to the Antarctic Treaty and contribute resources **to the provision of hydrographic data, products and services supporting marine safety of navigation within, and/or the wider marine geospatial information of the Antarctic region.**”