



8th Meeting of the IHO Council

Consideration of the definition of Hydrographic Interest

C8-07.4A



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BEGINNING OF THE STORY

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1997-2007: IHO conducted a comprehensive review, leading to important reforms

IHC-17 (2007): adopted supporting Basic Documents along with various organizational changes

One of the significant outcomes was the establishment of the IHO Council



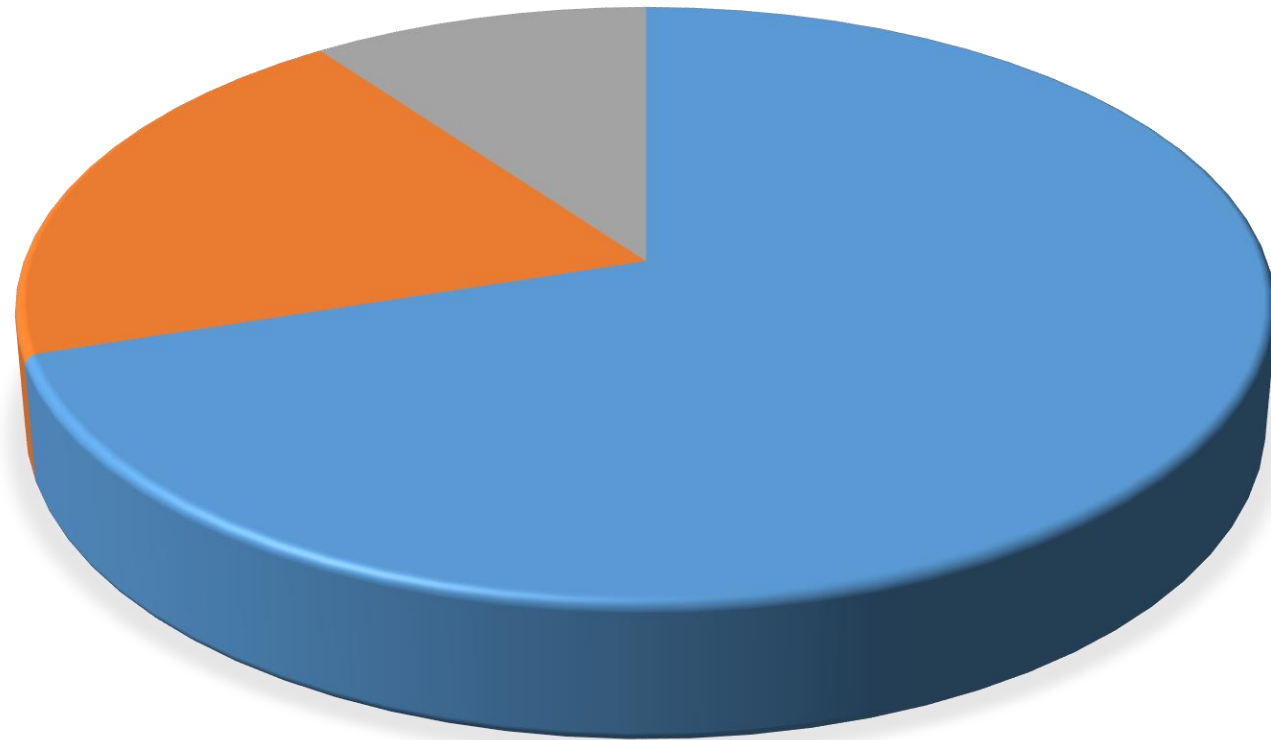
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COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL

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In describing the composition of the Council, clause (a) of Article VI of the Convention on the IHO states:

One fourth of, but not less than thirty, Member states shall take **seats on the Council**, the first two thirds of whom shall take up their seats on a **regional basis** and the remaining one third on the basis of **hydrographic interests**, which shall be defined in the General Regulations.

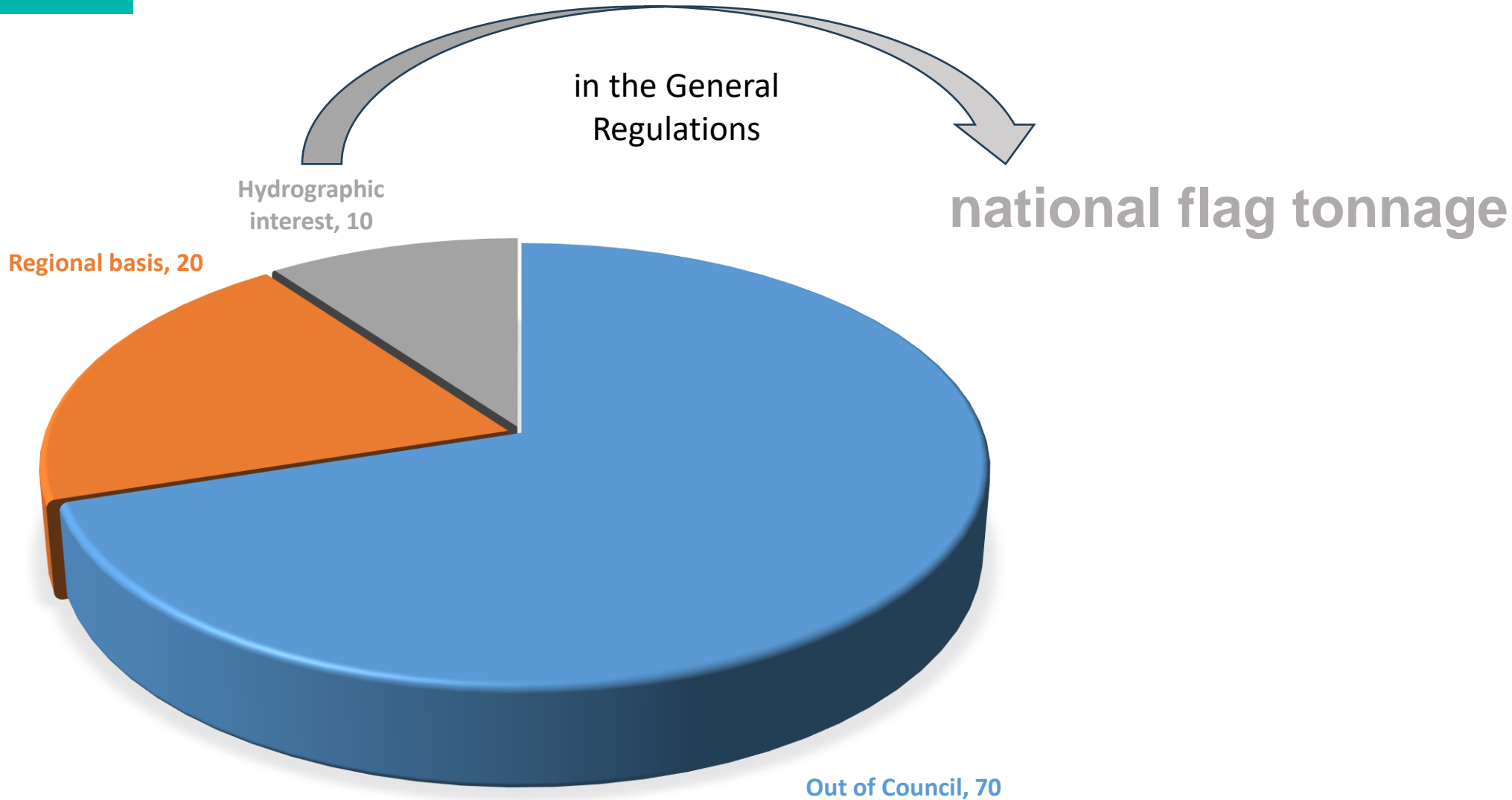




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CONCERNS OVER TIME

In A-2 (2020):

Uruguay made a submission and supported by **Argentina** and **Brazil**. **India** also made a submission.

In C-4 (2020):

C4/09: The Council invited **interested parties** (Argentina, Brazil, India, Uruguay ...) **in the development of a definition of hydrographic interest.**

In C-5 (2021):

C5/04: The Council thanked Council Chair for the update on the ongoing work by the interested parties Argentina, Brazil, India and Uruguay and **invited them to submit a consolidated report on possible ways forward, including impact assessment on IHO Basic Documents.**

In A-3 (2023):

Decision No.5: The Assembly endorsed that the item related to a revised definition of hydrographic interest is **closed until a new submission or proposal by Member State(s) is put forward to the Council/Assembly.**



IHO SCORING TABLE

International Hydrographic Organization

BASWG17 (2024): the proposal made by Türkiye received support from the four BASWG member nations and was decided to be presented at MBSHC24.

Interest in Hydrographic Matters (20XX)	ASSEMBLY	COUNCIL	IRCC											HSSC					RENCs	C-55	Voting right according to Tonnage	INT CHART CATALOGUE			
			IRCC	RHCS	HCA	WWNWS	CASC	WENDWG	MSDIWG	IEHWG & EC	CBWG	IBSC	DCDB	GEBCO	HSSC	S-130PT	MASS PT	S-100 ICE PT					S-100 Security Scheme PT		
Chair	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1			
Vice Chair	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Secretary				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Coordinator					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Member					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
WG/PT Chair					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
WG/PT Vice Chair					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
WG/PT Secretary					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Participate meeting	0	0		1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
host meeting				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
host WG/PT meeting					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
host training/workshop/course								0	0												0				
Participate training/workshop/course								0	0												0				
Member in a WG/PT					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Participate WG/PT					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Participate IHO exhibition	0																				0				
Number of articles published in the International Hydrographic Review					0																				
Education & Programme Recognition Update								1															1		
Number of INT Charts																									28
Number of Votes																								5	
Total Hydrographic Interest Point (20XX)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	28	



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MBSHC24 (2024):

MBSHC24/5: Noting the proposal from 5 nations of BASWG, MBSHC invited interested members to submit consolidated proposal on the evolution of the hydrographic interest (criteria).



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PORTUGAL

Portugal recognizes the work/effort to develop this proposal. However, our preference is to keep the representation within the IHO Council as it is, based on the tonnage of the national flag. **It is simple, not ambiguous and already implemented.**

There is no ideal or perfect scoring table to measure the interest in hydrographic matters of a MS. The proposed scoring table may not reflect some relevant activities to measure the interest for hydrographic matters. As an example, it is not accounted the effort that a MS devotes to capacity building of others MS, or its contribution for technological development in hydrography.

The proposed scoring table also adds administrative work to MS and RHCs, as it is necessary to account and show evidences of the score achieved.



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CONCERNS

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IHO SECRETARY-GENERAL

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As indicated in the Red Book for A-2 as well, the Secretary-General wishes to highlight that the regular acquisition of information as required for revised calculation methods, such as those proposed by Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Türkiye and Ukraine, or other methods, **may place a significant additional administrative burden on all Member States, the RHCs, and the Secretariat.**



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SUPPORT

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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The US thanks the proposal authors for the well thought out approach to Hydrographic Interest (HI). **As discussed at C-4, tonnage, as the sole indicator of HI, is incomplete.** This proposal highlights participation of MS within the meetings and subordinate bodies of the IHO and emphasizes MS involvement in the work of the IHO. **However, this approach has similar challenges to tonnage, it over-weights one aspect of hydrographic service.**

The US supports the need to reconsider tonnage as the indicator of HI, and is willing to participate within a PT dedicated to this task.



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CLASHING IDEAS

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- **No ideal or perfect scoring table to measure the interest in hydrographic matters of a MS (YES, BUT...)**
 - Flag tonnage shows a country's maritime fleet size, indicating reliance on shipping, but doesn't measure commitment to hydrographic services.
 - Contributions may reflect economic capability, not true interest in hydrography.
 - A mix of qualitative and quantitative indicators is important for assessing a state's engagement in hydrographic matters.



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CLASHING IDEAS

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- **Revised calculation methods, such as those proposed by Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Türkiye and Ukraine, or other methods, may place a significant additional administrative burden on all Member States, the RHCs, and the Secretariat (YES, BUT...)**
 - Although the new methods may complicate current processes, **the long-term benefits of a well-managed data system could enhance efficiency and improve decision-making.** Embracing digital solutions is vital for advancing hydrographic management and ensuring that we prepare effectively for the future. **At the end IHO has all the data to fill a scoring table.**
 - **The burden has already been centralized on some members within the IHO's activities.** Redefining the definition of HI could play a promotional role to distribute the burden on HO's.



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CLASHING IDEAS

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- **Submit consolidated proposal**

- It seems that the countries seeking changes in HI are primarily small and medium-sized hydrographic offices. **Given their limited resources, I am unsure about the feasibility of expecting such a consolidated effort from these offices, especially as they strive to meet the IHO's 2026 goals.**
- Perhaps a more practical approach would be to consider **allocating a modest amount from the IHO CB budget for a rapid procurement service to facilitate the development of this work.** I believe this would allow for a more efficient and timely response to the needs.



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CLASHING IDEAS

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- **The whistle blows for those who have the money.**
 - If this is the case, there is **nothing to say...**



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CONCLUSION

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The C-8 is invited to

- a. establish a PT dedicated to this task and allocate a budget from CB budget,
- b. publish the list of countries that have held seats on the Council, categorised by regional basis and HI quota for each year, and to identify and publish those countries that are consistently on these lists as a statistical data.
- c. consider the SCORING TABLE for the formulation of the definition of Hydrographic Interest (HI),
- d. encourage members to share their opinions, make any necessary adjustments based on their feedback and revise accordingly,
- e. include in its work program the consideration of the definition of the term HI as it pertains to the composition of the Council, with the aim of reporting to the A-4 in 2026,
- f. take such other action as may be appropriate.



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Thank You!

Burak Inan
Türkiye

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