

TITLE	Reference	Last amendment (CL or IHC/A)	1 st Edition Reference
ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS (RHC)	2/1997 as amended	xx/201x	T1.3

1 It is resolved that the [IHO Secretariat](#)~~IHB~~ shall encourage Member States having common regional interests in data collecting or nautical charting to form Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) to cooperate in the undertaking of surveys and other projects. As part of IHO, the RHC shall complement the work of the [IHO Secretariat](#).~~Bureau~~

2 RHCs are intended to provide, in pursuance of the resolutions and recommendations of the IHO, regional co-ordination with regard to nautical information, hydrographic surveys, production of nautical charts and documents, training, technical cooperation and hydrographic capacity building projects. They (RHC) should enable the exchange of information and consultation between the hydrographic services concerned. Geographically adjacent RHCs should liaise with each other.

2 bis Where Capacity Building is required in a region, RHCs are recommended to establish an internal body to deal with CB matters and to designate a focal point to ensure continuity in the CB process. This part-time allocation to assist RHCs should come primarily and ideally from an HO within the region. If that is not possible then the RHC might agree to request support from another RHC or an HO that might wish to take that responsibility.

These regional contact points, the responsibilities of which should be given directly and in detail by the RHC concerned, shall have the support of the RHCs; shall be nominated having in mind the importance of continuity; shall be in permanent contact with the corresponding RHC Chairman as well as with the [CBSC](#) Chairman. Ideally should be a [CBSC](#) member with access to RHC meetings.

In the absence of any other viable alternative and despite its limited human resources availability a request of support could be requested to the IHB.

3 RHCs shall be properly constituted and have activities in line with the objectives of the IHO as described in Article II of the Convention [and Article 8 of the General Regulations](#) on the IHO and in accordance with the approved IHO Work Programme. Geographical areas of the RHC will normally coincide with INT chart regions, modified as appropriate to meet regional requirements and special circumstances. There are special provisions for Region M (Antarctica) because of its special status.

4 RHC membership may include full members, [and](#) associate members, ~~and observers~~, all-willing to contribute to the safety of navigation in the fields of hydrography, nautical charting, nautical information or navigational warnings in the region concerned. The roles of full members, associated members and observers will be defined by each RHC.

Full membership is reserved for IHO Member States within the region who sign the statutes of the RHC.

Associate membership is available to other IHO Members States or States of the region who are non-IHO members, both being signatories of the statutes of the RHC.

Other States and International Organizations active in the region concerned may be invited by the RHC to participate as observers.

The invitation procedures should be established by each RHC.

5 The working languages used by the RHC shall be agreed upon by their members and designated to ensure the best communication between participants. The reports and IHO documents relating to RHC activities shall be in at least one of the official languages of the IHO. For correspondence with the [IHO Secretariat](#)~~Bureau~~, one of the official languages of the IHO shall be used.

6 A representative of the [IHO Secretariat](#) ~~Bureau~~ shall be invited to attend meetings of RHCs.

6bis RHCs shall assess regularly the hydrographic capacity and requirements within their region.

7 Chairs of RHCs shall report to the ~~I.H. Conference~~ Assembly on RHC activities, hydrographic capacity and requirements within their region, future plans and the agreed key targets that support RHC tasks detailed in the IHO Work Programme. The Chairs of RHC's shall also submit an annual report to the IHB indicating progress made against the agreed key targets in the IHO Work Programme for general dissemination. Between sessions of the ~~Assembly~~IHC, reports of studies or other activities, which may be considered of general interest to all IHO Member States, shall be sent by Chairs of RHCs to the Bureau for general dissemination.

8 The following structure is to be used for National Reports made to those RHCs that wish to receive such reports:

Structure for National Reports to Regional Hydrographic Commissions

Executive summary

1	Hydrographic Office / Service:	General, including updates for the IHO Yearbook e.g. reorganization
2	Surveys:	Coverage of new surveys. New technologies and /or equipment New ships Problems encountered
3	New charts & updates:	ENCs ENC Distribution method RNCs INT charts National paper charts Other charts, e.g. for pleasure craft Problems encountered
4	New publications & updates:	New Publications Updated publications Means of delivery, e.g. paper, digital Problems encountered
5	MSI	Existing infrastructure for transmission New infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan Problems encountered Note : Use the WWNWS template for this section
6	C-55	Latest update (Tables)
7	Capacity Building	Offer of and/or demand for Capacity Building Training received, needed, offered Status of national, bilateral, multilateral or regional development projects with hydrographic component. (In progress, planned, under evaluation or study) Definition of bids to IHOCBC
8	Oceanographic activities	General GEBCO/IBC's activities Tide gauge network New equipment Problems encountered

9 Other activities

Participation in IHO Working Groups
Meteorological data collection
Geospatial studies
Disaster prevention
Environmental protection
Astronomical observations
Magnetic/Gravity surveys
MSDI Progress
International
Etc.

10 Conclusions