



**8<sup>th</sup> ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION CONFERENCE**  
**Islamabad, Pakistan**  
**18 – 20 February 2019**

**IHO Secretariat Report**

Operations of the Organization under the IHO Convention since the last RSAHC Conference (RSAHC8) in 2017.

1. Since last RSAHC Meeting held in Muscat in February 2017, the first session of the IHO Assembly (A-1) held in April 2017 in Monaco. IHO Document P-6, Proceedings (including the Decisions) of the A-1 is available on the IHO website. After the A-1, the first and second meetings of the Council (C-1 and C-2) were held in October 2017 in Monaco and October 2018 in London respectively. The main outcomes of the first and second meetings of the IHO Council were reported in CL 55/2017 and CL 51/2018. The Council agreed to hold C-3 in Monaco, at the IHO Secretariat, from 15 to 17 October 2019.

2. Regional Hydrographic Commissions are established in their own right by statutes and recognized by the Assembly (Article 8 of IHO General Regulations). They are sovereign to identify tasks, ways and means to address the specifics of hydrography within their respective region. With regard to the interrelation between the Regional Hydrographic Commissions and the Assembly, Regional Hydrographic Commissions enjoy the right to report to the Assembly directly. However, the applicable IHO Resolution 2/1997 is under review. The Secretariat proposes to discuss how reporting items of relevance shall be synchronized with the Council Chair report to the Assembly which is largely based on the annual IRCC chair report put forward to the Council.

**3. Recommendations. RSAHC to consider:**

- a) Discuss how the RSAHC reporting to the Assembly shall be synchronized with the Council Chair report to the Assembly.

**Status of Membership of the IHO**

4. One of the main changes resulting from the entry into force of the revised IHO Convention is that, for States wishing to join the IHO that are already Member States of the United Nations, there is no requirement to seek the approval of existing Member States of the IHO. In 2017 **Malta, Vanuatu, Seychelles** and in 2018 **Bulgaria** acceded to the IHO Convention and became the 86<sup>th</sup>, 87<sup>th</sup>, 88<sup>th</sup> and 89<sup>th</sup> Member States of the IHO respectively. On 1 January 2018 Dominican Republic was reinstated as Member State, suspended since 1983. Unfortunately there are still three Member States remaining suspended, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Serbia and regrettably Syria was recently suspended from Member States rights, being in arrears in its contributions now for two consecutive years.

5. Iraq, as an Associate Member of the RSAHC has yet to apply to become member of the IHO: The RSAHC is encouraged to engage with Iraq to raise awareness on the importance and value of hydrography.

## Preparation of the Second IHO Assembly

The second IHO Assembly is scheduled to take place from 21 to 24 April 2020. The announcement and draft agenda of the Assembly-2 will be issued in April 2019. The IHO Work Programme and budget for the next 3 year (2021-2023) will be prepared for approval of the Assembly.

### INT Chart and ENC Production Coordination - Region I

6. Islamic Republic of Iran (Mr Saeid Parizi) is the designated INT Chart / ENC Coordinator for Region I. The status of the INT chart scheme for Region I is contained in Edition 3.0.3 of S-11 Part B which was made available in January 2018. According to the S-11 Part B Web Catalogue, there are 143 INT charts in the scheme, from which 100 have been produced and published. All RSAHC members and associates are requested to check their individual entries and provide updated information as appropriate. Adoption of Ed. 3.1.0 of IHO Publication S-11 Part A requires new arrangements for the monitoring of INT charts ([CL 11/2018](#) refers).

7. Early January 2018, the IHO Secretariat informed the Chart Coordinators that the project INTToGIS Phase II was underway, thanks to the outstanding support provided by KHOA (Republic of Korea). For more information, see Doc. [HSSC9-11A-INF1](#). INTToGIS Phase II aims to provide a very useful scheming tool, putting together ENC and INT charts, new base maps and some useful tools for a more efficient and consistent INT chart and ENC scheming (AIS data base, overlap checker, etc.). As agreed at the last WENDWG meeting, some Chart Coordinators are now experimenting INTToGIS II before it is commissioned and made available to all, hopefully early next year.

8. The elimination of overlapping ENC data that are navigationally significant is one of the main objectives of the WEND Principles. A new IHO Resolution addressing this issue was adopted by IHO Member States (See IHO [CL 19/2018](#) – *Adoption of new IHO resolution on the elimination of overlapping ENC data*). WENDWG considered the outcome of this resolution at its recent 8<sup>th</sup> meeting from 20 to 22 March 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina and IRCC10 endorsed the resulting report. RSAHC was represented at the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting (March 2018) of the WENDWG. The RSAHC should also note the comment provided by France in preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Council (See Doc. [C2-4.2B](#)).

9. At its 13<sup>th</sup> meeting in Monaco (January 2018), the Data Quality Working Group arranged a workshop where participants shared their best practices on the way CATZOC values are populated for S-57 ENCs by Hydrographic Offices. In order to facilitate the harmonization and prepare the future transition to S-101 ENCs, it is recommended that RSAHC ENC Producers provide their guidelines to the DQWG.

#### 10. **Recommendations. RSAHC to consider:**

- a) the results of the 8<sup>th</sup> WENDWG meeting held in March 2018;
- b) providing regional CATZOC practices to the DQWG;
- c) the maintenance of ENC Schemes when the INTToGIS Phase II is commissioned;

### Maritime Safety Information Services

11. MSI Capability and Supportability. The IHO Capacity Building Strategy lays particular emphasis on the fundamental capability for all coastal States to provide a maritime safety information (MSI) service in support of their international obligations.

12. **Recommendations.** The Chair is requested to encourage all coastal States to:

- a) maintain regular communication with the regional NAVAREA IX Coordinator (Pakistan) and inform of any change of personnel or contact details;
- b) use and follow the guidance provided in S-53 – *Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information*;

- c) request National Coordinators to review the contents of the relevant Annexes of the GMDSS Master Plan (GMDSS.1/Circ.21 31May 2017 refers) and to use the annexed questionnaire for electronic submission, whilst also cross checking the details submitted for inclusion in IHO publication C-55 for consistency; and
- d) report, as appropriate, on the outcomes of IMO Mandatory/Voluntary Audits that have occurred in their country, which may include recommendations on MSI, hydrographic and charting matters.

### **Capacity Building Programme**

- 13. The level of activity of the IHO Capacity Building (CB) Programme increased in 2018. Expenditure in the IHO 2018 CB Work Programme (861 000 Euros) was 37% bigger than the budget for the previous year. Ongoing financial support is provided by the Nippon Foundation of Japan, the Republic of Korea and by a contribution from the IHO budget with in-kind support from Member States and from industry. The Secretariat is continuing its campaign to find additional donor States and funding organizations. In 2018, 81% of the budgeted work program was executed and paid for.
- 14. The RSAHC MS have not benefited from CB activities under the IHO CB Work Programme (CBWP) in the last two years due to the lack of CB Coordinator. Currently, Mr Saeid Parizi (Islamic Republic of Iran) has assumed the role of the CB Coordinator for planning future CB activities.
- 15. Mr Tajammal ABBASI from Pakistan attended the Nippon Foundation funded CB Category B course in Marine Cartography and Data Assessment which took place at the UKHO from 3 September to 14 December 2018.
- 16. A call for applications was issued in CL 48/2018 for the 2019-2020 session of the Master of Science Programme in Hydrographic Surveying at the University of Southern Mississippi (USA). Its deadline was 25 February 2019.
- 17. A call for applications was issued in CL 04/2019 for the 2019 session of the UKHO Category "B" programme (IHO - Nippon Foundation CHART Project). Hydrographic Offices are invited to provide their nominations, if any, by 29 March 2019.
- 18. **Recommendations.** RSAHC members are invited to be more active for CB activities for short technical courses and also long term trainings.

### **Crowdsourced Bathymetry**

- 19. In accordance with Decision 8 of the EIHC5, IRCC7 established the Crowdsourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG) to provide guidelines on the collection and use of crowdsourced bathymetry. Member States and other interested parties were invited to nominate representatives to participate in the CSBWG (see IHO CL 42/2015). The CSBWG has developed the draft IHO publication B-12 – IHO Guideline on Crowdsourced Bathymetry, which has completed extensive stakeholder and IHO Member State consultation. Edition 1.0.0 was presented to IRCC10 for endorsement and subsequently endorsed by the IHO Council-2 with the caveat that "This document provides technical guidelines only that in no way supersede or override national or international laws and regulations". Work has commenced on the draft of Edition 2.0.0 (Action C2/23 refers); additionally as a result of Decision C-1/31 IRCC10 endorsed to enlarge the scope of the tasking of the CSBWG, the CSBWG drafted revised ToRs.
- 20. The web-based interface portal to the IHO Data Center for Digital Bathymetry, hosted by the USA in Boulder, Colorado, as part of its commitment to the system of World Data Centres, is being upgraded to be compatible with the crowdsourced bathymetry concept. This will enable an IHO-led CSB infrastructure to be established and promoted in the IMO and across the wider maritime community.
- 21. **Recommendations.** RSAHC members are invited to identify further potential sources of bathymetric measurements and survey data providers to be facilitate the further completion of the DCDB data holdings.

## **GEBCO support through Seabed 2030**

22. The Nippon Foundation (NF)-GEBCO Seabed 2030 project builds on more than 100 years of GEBCO history; the project has established regional connections to all corners of the World and benefits from the human network of ocean mapping capacity built over 15 years through The Nippon Foundation – University of New Hampshire (UNH) training project. Through Seabed 2030, GEBCO's role will be recognized and reinforced as the authoritative international initiative for mapping the World Ocean, from the coasts to the deepest trenches. The project will champion, develop and nurture the technical and human capacity to complete this task by 2030.

23. Seabed 2030 has established a network of 4 regional centres. Each centre focuses on discovering, gathering and assembling all available bathymetric data from their region to produce regional datasets and resulting products. The Atlantic and Indian Oceans are covered by the center located at the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO). A global centre will merge the regional datasets to generate the production of the annual GEBCO grid as well as other products. Within this structure, the IHO-DCDB will remain the central GEBCO repository for all raw bathymetric data and all Seabed 2030 project data will be data based there.

**24. Recommendations.** RSAHC members are invited to consider the future invitation of Seabed 2030 project representatives to RSAHC meetings to discuss options for deepened cooperation and support.

## **IHO GIS and Databases**

25. Work has continued on the development of the IHO GIS which is composed of two main parts:

- a country information database, and
- a regional information database.

26. The country information database has been progressively upgraded to include additional administrative information and facilitate the maintenance of the IHO Yearbook (IHO Publication P-5) and related lists posted on the IHO website. Countries in the RSAHC Region are invited to review their entry in the Yearbook on an annual basis and provide the IHO Secretariat with the appropriate updates or report no change.

27. An Esri-based GIS solution is being implemented to develop further the regional information database. This will enable access to various layers of information through the IHO website and through cloud-based on-line GIS options. The IHO ENC Catalogue and the IHO GIS for Antarctica have been transferred to this new environment.

28. Work has continued on developing a GIS database application to support C-55 - Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide and the work of the IHO. In response to the request to complement C-55 composite data (percentage of areas adequately surveyed / requiring re-survey / not surveyed) with CATZOC information (see IHO CL 52/2015), CATZOC data was provided by PRIMAR - on behalf of IC-ENC, PRIMAR and Canada, Singapore, Sweden and Thailand. Useful options for visualizing the data in the IHO C-55 GIS are being investigated.

29. The IHO Secretariat is developing an online form to allow Member States to input data to the Yearbook and to C-55. A CL will shortly be issued to provide instructions on its use.

**30. Recommendations.** Countries in the RSAHC Region are invited to review their entry in the IHO Yearbook and C-55 and to provide the IHO Secretariat with the appropriate updates or to report no change.

## **IHO Outreach**

### World Hydrography Day:

31. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2018 was *"Bathymetry - "The foundation for*

*sustainable seas, oceans and waterways*". Iran and Pakistan from the RSAHC reported hosting events in connection with World Hydrography Day 2018 and those reports were displayed on IHO website.

32. Taking into account the discussions at the first IHO Council meeting held in London in October 2018, the theme of the World Hydrography Day for 2019, as announced by IHO CL 01/2019, is:

***“Hydrographic information to drive Marine knowledge”***

33. As part of the report on the proposed Work Programme 2019 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Council, the Secretary-General introduced the priorities, which he had defined with the associated issues and risks, for Work Programme 1 (Corporate Affairs). One of the priorities was to plan and start a complete overhaul of the IHO website including incorporation of GIS-services.

34. The Secretariat conducted an internal workshop in December 2017, to assess the deficiencies of the IHO website in place, the up-to-dateness of the underlying technology and future requirements. The workshop resulted into a comprehensive list of topics to be addressed by an overhaul of the IHO website. In the course of the workshop it turned out that the reshape should not be limited to the establishment of a newsfeed mechanism, to the website structure and design only. Instead, a holistic approach covering IHO’s corporate design of all media channels in digital and print was concluded as the appropriate scope of action. A report was presented at the second IHO Council in London in October (doc. C2/7.2 refers).

35. It was concluded further that the current IHO communication strategy is completely lacking the provision of social media. The Secretariat therefore gladly accepted the temporary secondment of the social media expert through NOAA (USA) to assist the future set up and maintenance of such a component.

### **International Hydrographic Review**

36. Twice a year, the IHR provides an opportunity for Member States to publicize technical and other achievements in their region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. The representative for the RSAHC region is Mr Keith Brown (Oman).

37. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the editor (ihreview@iho.int, copy to ian.halls1@defence.gov.au). The deadlines are:

- end of January for the May Edition
- end of July for the November Edition

38. The IHO Secretariat worked with the University of New Brunswick (UNB), Canada, in a project to develop a digital repository of the complete library of the IHR. As a result, volumes from the entire collections (1923 to 2018) are available online at: <https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/ihr>.

39. The Secretariat also works on a digital revamp of the International Hydrographic Review (IHR). First consultations were held with the Editor in Chief of the IHR, Mr Ian Halls. The following principal changes are proposed jointly:

- Design and building new separate website [www.ihr.iho.int](http://www.ihr.iho.int) using the new corporate design.
- Design the International Hydrographic Review as online publication and printable version (PoD).
- Facilitate technical options to create customized topical compilations from the digital repository of IHR articles for pdf-download and print.

40. Further and more detailed information was presented at and endorsed by the second IHO Council meeting in London in October (Decision C2/46 refers).

**41. Recommendations.** RSAHC Members are invited to submit papers for publication in the IHR.

## IHO Centenary Celebrations (IHO-100)

42. The years 2019 and 2021 will be important in the history of the International Hydrographic Organization. 2019 will mark the centenary of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Hydrographic Conference, which was held in London in 1919 and 2021 will be the centenary of the establishment of the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) in 1921 in Monaco as precursor of the modern IHO.

43. The IHO Secretariat has already undertaken the preparations for the centenary celebrations of the International Hydrographic Organization ranging from 2019 to 2021 as important milestones of the IHO. In this respect, it is planned to organize workshops, exhibitions, outreach events and similar activities from 2019 to 2021, either independently or jointly with sister institutions and agencies. **The” peak-of-the-peak” will be World Hydrography Day (WHD) on 21 June 2021.** There will also be an opportunity to present IHO’s achievements at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2021 and at the IMO Assembly in November 2021.

44. The main activities scheduled for the IHO centenary celebrations, coordinated by the IHO Secretariat are as follows (CL 32/2017 refers):

- To hold an exhibition on "*Historical Nautical Charts and Mediterranean*" which will be displayed at the Monaco Yacht Club from 1 to 13 April 2019,
- To organize an international Symposium on "*A Historical Approach for Measurements and Protection of Oceans and World Waters*" is scheduled to be held at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco from 20 to 21 June 2019 (in conjunction with the World Hydrography Day), Call for Papers of this Symposium has already been circulated.
- To highlight the centenary celebrations as part of the media and press-campaign associated the Council meetings in 2019 and 2021.
- To organize a half day special session on IHO-100 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the IHO Assembly (A-2) in April 2020.
- To prepare, publish and distribute an IHO Prestige Book on "*100 Years of International Cooperation in Hydrography*".

45. The centenary events could also be linked with the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) which has been coordinated by the IOC of UNESCO.

### Action Requested of RSAHC:

- a) **Note** this report
- b) **Consider** the recommendations on Council/Assembly interactions as presented in **Paragraph 3**
- c) **Consider** the recommendations on Charting as presented in **Paragraph 10**
- d) **Consider** the recommendations on MSI as presented in **Paragraph 12**
- e) **Consider** the recommendations on Capacity Building in **Paragraph 18**
- f) **Consider** the recommendations on Crowd Sourced Bathymetry in **Paragraph 21**
- g) **Consider** the recommendations on Seabed 2030 collaboration in **Paragraph 24**
- h) **Review** entries related to IHO C-55 and P-5 (Yearbook) at least annually (**Paragraph 30**)
- i) **Consider** submitting papers for publication in the International Hydrographic Review (**Paragraph 41**)
- j) **Take any other actions** as considered appropriate.