

**18<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**IHO-CBSC18**  
**Online meeting 02 - 03 June 2020**

**Paper for the Consideration by CBSC18**

**South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (SWAtHC) Report**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	SWAtHC CB Coordinator
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	This document provides a summary report of the CB activities at SWAtHC.
<b>Related Documents:</b>	SWAtHC CB Work Plan 3 years 2020-2022.
<b>Related Projects:</b>	xxx

### 1. Introduction / Background

On 16<sup>th</sup> November 2006, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay signed the cooperation agreement that resulted in the South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (SWAtHC). The main achievements have been the development of a regional Cartographic Plan, establishment of a Planning Commission to coordinate INT Charts and ENC production and the acceptance of Paraguay and Bolivia as Associate Members and Observer, respectively. The high level of harmonisation between all members results in a region without overlaps in ENCs, nor unassessed CATZOCs and gaps being addressed.

Bolivia is in the process of becoming an associate member.

The new CB Work Plan (2020-2022) is based on the assessment of the phase of development of each of the coastal State within the SWAtHC region in accordance with the IHO CB Strategy and arranging training activity to build the necessary capability to meet SOLAS Convention obligations and IHO Standards and Resolutions.

### 2. Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States

Members	NHC or NHCC	CB Phase 1	CB Phase 2	CB Phase 3	Last TV
Argentina	0	4	4	4	N/A
Brazil	0	4	4	4	N/A
Uruguay	0	4	4	4	N/A
Paraguay (Associate)	0	2	2	1	2014
Bolivia (Observer)	0	2	2	1	*

\* : SWAtCH will carry out a Technical Visit to Bolivia in the last quarter of 2020.

### KEY

1. The numerical grid below describes the status of the National Hydrographic Committee (NHC)/National Hydrographic Coordination Committee (NHCC):

Value	Assessment
-1	No information available.
0	The country does not have a NHC/NHCC.
1	The country is in the process of establishing a NHC/NHCC.
2	The country has established a NHC/NHCC.



2. The numerical grid below applies to the Phases:

Value	Assessment
-1	No information available.
0	The country is unaware of its national obligations 1.
1	The county is aware of its national obligations but does not have the means to do it.
2	The country has the ability to fulfill national obligations.
3	The country fulfills its national obligations through a third party.
4	The country fulfills its national obligations in a sustainable manner.

**Note:** the assessment represented by 3 is an alternative to 4 as explained in the IHO's Capacity Building Strategy.

3. Those coastal states with a mature hydrographic service and consequently don't require a technical visit are marked as N/R (not required).

Technical Visit reference: [https://www.iho.int/mtg\\_docs/CB/Assessment\\_Reports.htm](https://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/CB/Assessment_Reports.htm)

### 3. Completed Activities since CBSC17

In 2019 there was no event approved and funded by the CBSC. Nevertheless, SWAtHC held the 1st Workshop on MBES Processing in Caris Hips & Sips, at DHN-Brazil, conducted by the hydrographic officers who attended this same training at Argentina in 2018. The Workshop was directed to the other hydrographers of the DHN's vessels in order to promote the dissemination of the knowledge received in the event sponsored by the CBSC-IHO.

Unfortunately, in 2019 there was also no invitation for SWAtHC to participate in IHO-funded events at MACHC or SEPRHC.

In 2020, just after the 14th SWAtHC meeting, on 10-11 March a Hydrographic Awareness Seminar was arranged with the dual objective of raising awareness of the importance of hydrography for the Associate and Observer members of the SWAtHC, as well as to give to these representatives the opportunity participate in the HC meeting, exposing them to the benefits of being proactive members of the Commission and encourage eventual full membership of the IHO.

The seminar was attended by the heads of Bolivian and Paraguayan Hydrographic Services, and presented the importance and economic advantages of an adequate Hydrographic Governance, addressing the visions of that matter related to IHO, IMO, IALA, Chapter V of the SOLAS convention, the Capacity Building Strategy and the National Hydrographic Services of Brazil and Uruguay.

### 4. Planned Activities for 2020 and 2021

SWAtCH has proposed the following events for 2020 with their respective priorities within the current Capacity Building Work Plan:

- Technical Visit to Bolivia (DHN – Brazil) – A-02;
- Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography (DHN – Brazil) – P-10;
- MSI Course (3 days) – (SHN–Argentina) – P-13;
- Seabed Classification Workshop (DHN – Brazil) – P-17; and
- ENC Production and QA (SOHMA–Uruguay) – P-34.

To date, the first two events have been the only approved financing. The Technical Visit to Bolivia is scheduled for November. The Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography was held at DHN-Brazil on March.

Regarding the other events, SWAtHC has high expectations for IHO's approval of financing the MSI Course in Argentina. The last two events may also be held in the last quarter of 2020, if the financing is approved.

For 2021, SWAtHC submitted to CBSC the following events:

- Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography (2 days) – Argentina (Priority 1);
- Port and Shallow Water Survey Course (5 days) – Brazil (Priority 2);
- Multibeam Data Processing and bathymetry database Workshop (5 days) – Argentina (Priority 3); and
- Data Management Workshop (5 days) – Uruguay (Priority 4).

Despite the pandemic situation of COVID-19, SWAtHC believes that it will be possible to hold the proposed events whose financing is approved. This can obviously change if the current endemic situation persists during the last quarter of the year.

## **5. Challenges faced in the region**

Currently, our biggest challenge is to maintain the existing training schedule in our hydrographic services in view of the social isolation measures perpetrated by our government officials, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Another permanent challenge in our region is to encourage Paraguay and Bolivia to join the SWAtHC as full members following their accession to the IHO. In 2020, SWAtHC will make a technical visit to Bolivia. After that, the country is expected to realize the importance of establishing an appropriate Hydrographic Governance and, therefore, affiliates with IHO. The implementation of the S-100 is another goal that SWAtHC members are constantly striving to achieve.

## **6. Achievements and lessons learned**

All activities conducted in recent years improve the practical and theoretical skills developed by Latin America hydrographers and nautical cartographers in performing hydrographic activities.

The execution of internal training led by the personnel who received the same training in other events is an effective tool for knowledge management and shows itself as a positive action in capacity building.

The execution of an awareness seminar proved to be an excellent tool for disseminating the importance of hydrography not only in scientific terms but mainly in an economic view. In the coming years, it will be possible to measure the effectiveness of these discussions in terms of practical actions taken by the hydrographic services of these countries.

Training of Foreign Countries Personnel:

- at DHN (Brazilian financing), in 2019, one Bolivian Officer concluded the Advanced Training Course in Hydrography for Officers (CAHO), course recognized by IHO as Cat “A”; and

- In 2020, at DHN, a Petty Officer from the Senegalese defense forces is taking the basic specialization course in hydrography. Next year she is expected to continue at DHN taking the advanced hydrography course (Category B).

## 7. Conclusions

SWAtHC is committed to carrying out hydrographic, cartographic and capacity building activities in a tight alignment with IHO objectives and goals.


The Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography achieved its aim of raising the awareness of the SWAtHC Associate and Observer members to their obligations under SOLAS to deliver hydrographic services in their countries. They are now in better position to determine how best to fulfill their States' obligations for providing appropriate hydrographic services in the interests of safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment.

It is important that the hydrographic services take concrete knowledge management measures in order to disseminate the learning received in the training programs financed by IHO, fulfilling that organization's Capacity Building strategy.

## 8. Action Required of CBSC18

The CBSC is invited to:

- a. Note this report.
- b. The SWAtHC is proposing four events to be performed in 2021 and requires approval.

  
Captain (Ret.) LUIZ CLAUDIO Monteiro da Fonseca  
SWAtHC Capacity Building Coordinator