

**19<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**IHO-CBSC19**  
**June 2021**

**Paper for the Consideration by CBSC19**

**North Indian Ocean HC Report**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	NIOHC CB Coordinator
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	This document provides a summary report of the CB activities at NIOHC.
<b>Related Documents:</b>	NIOHC CB Plan 2021-2023
<b>Related Projects:</b>	

### 1. Introduction / Background

A three-year plan for CB activity in the NIOHC region was approved by the membership in December 2020. This plan covers the period 2021-2023 and is reviewed annually (during NIOHC meetings) to ensure it meets regional requirements. The plan is based on assessing the phase of development of each of the coastal states within the NIOHC region (as determined by the IHO's three phases of CB) and arranging training activity to build the necessary capability to meet SOLAS treaty obligations. There is a great deal of 'SOLAS awareness' required in this region.

The regional CB Plan for 2021-2023 looks to develop the coastal states in the region as new challenges and opportunities are faced by the RHC such as emerging standards and technologies. Capacity Building support will become critical for the region following the long term and as yet not fully realised impacts of pandemic, COVID-19 are felt.

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

#### NIOHC Counties/Territories Capacity Building Phase Stage

Reference: [http://www.iho-ohi.net/mtg\\_docs/CB/CBA\\_TechnicalVisits.htm](http://www.iho-ohi.net/mtg_docs/CB/CBA_TechnicalVisits.htm)

	Country / Territory	NHC or NHCC	CB Phase 1	CB Phase 2	CB Phase 3	Last TV
1	Bangladesh	-1	4	4	4	2012
2	British Indian Ocean Territories	-1	4	4	4	N/R
3	Djibouti	-1	-1	3	3	N/R
4	Egypt	-1	4	4	3/4	
5	Eritrea	-1	0	0	3	
6	India	-1	4	4	4	N/R
7	Israel	-1	4	4	4	2014
8	Jordan	-1	1	1	3	
9	Maldives	-1	-1	3	3	2008*
10	Mauritius	-1	3	3	3	2012
11	Myanmar	-1	4	4	3/4	2008*
12	Oman	2	4	4	3/4	2007

13	Pakistan	-1	4	4	4	N/R
14	Saudi Arabia	-1	4	4	3/4	2007
15	Seychelles	2	4	3	3	2012
16	Somalia	-1	-1	0	3	
17	Sri Lanka	-1	4	4	3/4	2014
18	Sudan	-1	1	1	3	2007
19	Thailand	-1	4	4	4	2008*
20	Yemen	-1	-1	1	3	2007

\* IOC/IHO (IO COAST-MAP Joint project) consolidated report

### 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	The country is aware of its national obligations but does not have the means to do it
2	The country has the ability to fulfil national obligations
3	The country fulfils its national obligations through a third party
4	The country fulfils 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)

### 3. Activities completed since CBSC18

Due to the impact of COVID-19, IHO CB funded activities for the NIOHC region were postponed in 2020 however other non-IHO funded activities have been conducted to continue to build regional awareness and knowledge sharing:

MSDI Awareness Course – In support of the IHO CB Workplan the UKHO delivered a 2-day virtual MSDI Awareness Course for the NIOHC, SAIHC and RSAHC. The course was supported by MSDI Subject Matter Experts including the IHO MSDIWG Chair, Jens Peter Hartman.

NIOHC 'Learn Through Each Other' – To support regional engagement and develop knowledge sharing NIOHC Chair has established the 'Learn Through Each Other' Programme - a monthly VTC meeting for NIOHC Members to discuss topics important to the region. Topics

discussed are Crowd Sourced Bathymetry, MSDI, Seabed2030, Satellite Derived Bathymetry, ENC Production and Migration from S-57 to S-100.

#### **4. Activities planned for 2021**

P-08 MSI Training – In discussion with WWNWS regarding delivery through VTC

P-13 Seminar on Raising of Hydrography – to be delivered 08 Jul, via VTC. The focus of Seminar will be MSDI Governance. Due to delivery method the seminar will be condensed, and objectives of the activity will be modified to those in the initial proposal. No funding will be required for this delivery.

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

The pandemic, COVID-19, is of course not unique to NIOHC and has impacted regional engagement. NIOHC20, which was due to be held in Colombo in July 2020 was postponed and will now be convened via VTC in July 2021. We need to strive to maintain communications using the variety of remote conferencing technologies available in order to maintain momentum.

The Indian Ocean provides major sea routes connecting the Middle East, Africa, and East Asia with Europe and the Americas. It carries a particularly heavy traffic of petroleum and petroleum products from the oilfields of the Persian Gulf and Indonesia. Every year some 100,000 cargo ships pass through the Indian Ocean, as well as 66% of the world's oil shipments. Large reserves of hydrocarbons are being tapped in the offshore areas of Saudi Arabia, Iran and India. An estimated 40% of the world's offshore oil production comes from the Indian Ocean. Beach sands rich in heavy minerals and offshore placer deposits are actively exploited by bordering countries, particularly India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. For these reasons, it is crucial that SOLAS contracting Governments undertake hydrographic surveys as and when required, that they arrange for the compilation and publication of hydrographic data, the dissemination and keeping up to date of all nautical information necessary for safe navigation.

The Indian Ocean continues to face significant environmental challenges such as cyclones that cause significant devastation and disruption. Having a comprehensively trained community in phase I activity supports robust reporting in the lead up to, and after these environmental impacts.

One of the most significant challenges the NIOHC faces is engaging with the Red Sea maritime states, some of whom remain out of communication. Much work is required in building and developing sustainable Hydrographic services in these states. This also applies to the Maldives.

Very few of these Red Sea states are IHO members so don't qualify for the higher-level training opportunities which are only available to members.

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

There is close coordination between the NIOHC CB Coordinator and their counterpart in the RSAHC, with CB activities being opened up to RSAHC Members. This coordination allows greater benefits to be realized from the CB fund and a wider sharing of knowledge and experience.

Whilst VTC and eLearning technology can support the delivery of Capacity Building activities it is important to recognise that limited connectivity can impact engagement and may prevent

participation by all stakeholders and may not meet all identified objectives of the activity.

India has been very active over many years in developing hydrographic services in Mauritius. This also applies to several other IO nations

## **7. Conclusions:**

Regional activities are important to enable greater engagement and the sharing of knowledge and best practice.

The Indian and UK Government's contribution to regional capacity building has augmented the IHO's efforts and undoubtedly improved both the education and data gathering regionally.

A CB Plan for 2021-2023 has been drafted and looks to develop the coastal states in the region as new challenges and opportunities are faced by the RHC. The plan has been shared with NIOHC Members states and will be reviewed regularly in consideration of the New standards that will be implemented that will call for a review of the products and services coastal states provide; new technologies that will begin to change the maritime industry and global events such as COVID-19 will call for coastal states to be able to react to economic pressures, all of these will call for a greater efficiency in the use of resources to build capacity.

## **8. Actions required of CBSC:**

The CBSC is invited to:

- a. note the report
- c. take any action considered appropriate.

Lucy Fieldhouse  
NIOHC RHC CB Coordinator