

**19th MEETING OF THE IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE
IHO-CBSC19
Online meeting 09 - 10 June 2021**

Paper for the Consideration by CBSC19

South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (SWAtHC) Report

Submitted by:	SWAtHC CB Coordinator
Executive Summary:	This document provides a summary report of the CB activities at SWAtHC.
Related Documents:	SWAtHC CB Work Plan 3 years 2021-2023.
Related Projects:	xxx

1. Introduction / Background

On 16th 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.

The new CB Work Plan (2021-2023) 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	2	4	4	4	N/R
Brazil	2	4	4	4	N/R
Uruguay	2	4	4	4	N/R
Paraguay (Associate)	0	2	2	1	2014
Bolivia (Observer)	0	2	2	1	*

* SWAtCH will carry out a Technical Visit to Bolivia in 2022, as soon the situation of pandemic improving.

KEY

2.1. 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.

2.2. 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.

2.3. Those coastal states with a mature hydrographic service do not require a technical visit and can be marked as N/R (not required).

Technical Visit reference: https://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/CB/Assessment_Reports.htm

3. Completed Activities since CBSC18

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 other event which had allocated resources, Technical Visit to Bolivia, has been affected by the incidence of the pandemic and it was postponed. Then, SWAtHC intend to carry out this event in the second semester of 2022, and it was submitted to the CBSC, in May, 2021.

The events that had not resources allocated, but were established in CBWP-2020, as shown below, were canceled:

- MSI Workshop
- Seabed Classification Workshop
- ENC Production and QA

4. Activities planned for 2021 and 2022

SWAtCH has proposed the following events for 2021, with their respective priorities within the current Capacity Building Work Plan:

- Technical Visit to Bolivia (2 days) - (Priority 1);
- Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography (2 days) – Argentina (Priority 2);
- Port and Shallow Water Survey Course (5 days) – Brazil (Priority 3);
- Multibeam Data Processing and bathymetry database Workshop (5 days) – Argentina (Priority 4, but not funded yet); and
- Data Management Workshop (5 days, but not funded yet) – Uruguay (Priority 5).

As explained before, due to pandemic situation, SWAtHC proposed to postponed to 2022 the Technical Visit; and intend to carry out the Port and Shallow Water Survey Course by VTC.

For 2022, all of us are hoping for pandemic situation is under control and we can realize all funded events by face-to-face. Thus, SWAtHC submitted to CBSC the following proposals, in priority order:

- Technical Visit to Bolivia;
- Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography (SHN - Argentina);
- MBES Data Processing Course (SOHMA - Uruguay);
- Basic ENC production Course (DHN - Brazil); and
- MSDI and Data Management Workshop (SHN - Argentina).

In addition, SWAtHC intend to invite 2 representatives from MACHC and SEPRHC to participate in all Courses or Workshops approved for 2021 or proposed to 2022.

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 2022, after the improving of pandemic situation, SWAtHC intend to carry out a technical visit to Bolivia.

The implementation of the S-100 is another goal that SWAtHC members are constantly striving to achieve.

SWAtHC participated with 10 hydrographers or cartographers in the virtual training kindly organized by UKHO, whose contents were:

- Understanding ENCs,
- Introduction to S-57, and
- Compiling for Navigational Safety.

Our Hydrographic Commission acknowledge the great opportunity offered by UKHO allowing the large number of participants in this kind of training.

6. Achievements and lessons learned

6.1. 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.

6.2 Training of Foreign Countries Personnel:

- In 2020, at DHN, a Petty Officer from the Senegalese Defense Forces concluded the basic specialization course in hydrography.

- at DHN (Brazilian financing), in 2021, one Officer from Senegalese Defense Forces is taking the Advanced Training Course in Hydrography for Officers (CAHO), course recognized by IBSC/IHO as Cat “A”.

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.

As soon the pandemic situation becomes better, we are hoping to come back to face-to-face activities.

It is important that the hydrographic services take concrete knowledge management measures 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 five events to be performed in 2022 and requires approval.

Captain (Ret.) Helber CARVALHO Macedo
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