

**21st MEETING OF THE CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE
(CBSC21)
7 - 9 June 2023, Tokyo, Japan**

Paper for the Consideration by CBSC21

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 2023-2025.
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 (2023-2025) 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)	2	2	2	1	2014
Bolivia (Observer)	0	0	3	2	2023

* SWAtCH carried out a Technical Visit to Bolivia in november, 2023.

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 fulfills its national obligations through a third party.
3	The country has the ability to fulfill national obligations.
4	The country fulfills its national obligations in a sustainable manner.

Note: the assessment represented by 2 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 CBSC20

On the eve of the 16th SWAtHC Meeting, on August 29, 2022, the 3rd Seminar on Raising Awareness in Hydrography was held, in hybrid format, with the coordination of the “Servicio de Oceanografía, Hidrografía y Meteorología de la Armada” (SOHMA), Uruguay. The participation was satisfactory with the attendance of 41 participants, representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Guyana, Dominican Republic, Spain and Uruguay and from the companies Kongsberg Maritime, Norbit Brasil, Xylem HYPACK and Teledyne Geospatial.

The Maritime Safety Information Workshop held from September 26 to 30, 2022, in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, by MACHC, was attended by a representative from Argentina and a representative from Uruguay.

The “Diretoria de Hidrografia e Navegação” (DHN), Brazil, through the Educational and Training Center Admiral Radler de Aquino (CIAARA), carried out the Port and Shallow Water Survey Course, from October 10 to 14, 2022, which included practice activities in a navigation simulator and in a hydrographic boat. The course received a total of 17 participants, 6 of which were representatives of the Hydrographic Offices of Argentina, Peru and Uruguay and of the Maritime Authority of Guatemala.

A delegation from the Commission headed by Commodore Valentín Alejandro SANZ-RODRIGUEZ, Director of the “Servicio de Hidrografía Naval” (SHN), Argentina, with the assistance of Commander Marcelo OLIVERA from SOHMA, carried out a Technical Visit to the “Servicio Nacional de Hidrografía Naval” (SNHN), Bolivia, on November 15 and 16, 2022.

The Workshop on Hydrographic Databases Management held from November 29 to December 2, 2022, in Guayaquil, Ecuador, by SEPRHC, was attended by a representative from Brazil and a representative from Uruguay.

It should be noted that for all these activities mentioned above, the costs of accommodation, food and airfare were covered by the IHO Capacity Building fund.

The events that had not resources allocated, but were established in CBWP-2022, as shown below, were canceled:

- MBES Data Processing Course (SOHMA - Uruguay);
- MSDI and Data Management Workshop (SHN - Argentina); and
- Basic ENC production Course (DHN - Brazil).

4. Activities planned for 2023 and 2024

SWAtHC proposed three (3) events for 2023, but they did not receive funds so far:

- MBES Data Processing Course – (SHN - Argentina);
- Data management course for ENC S-100 production – (SOHMA - Uruguay); and
- Tides and Water Level Workshop – (DHN – Brazil).

For 2024, SWAtHC submitted to CBSC the following proposals, in priority order:

- Seminar on Raising Awareness in Hydrography (proposed by Argentina),
- MBE Data Processing Course (proposed by Uruguay),
- Basic ENC production (S-100) (proposed by Argentina), and
- MSDI and data assessment (proposed by Brazil).

The Commission has sought to submit proposals jointly with neighboring Regional Hydrographic Commissions (MACHC and SEPRHC) in recent years and has benefited from this partnership. Then, SWAtHC intend to invite 2 representatives from MACHC and SEPRHC to participate in all Courses or Workshops approved for 2024.

5. Challenges faced in the region

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

Hydrographic data acquisition and processing activities with new technologies require effective data management and a large storage. Therefore, it has been necessary to invest in training related to information technology, such as MSDI and “big data”.

Another challenge is to encourage Paraguay and Bolivia to join the SWAtHC as full members following their accession to the IHO.

6. Achievements and lessons learned

The Seminar carried out by Uruguay had approximately 41 participants, and the feedback was so good.

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

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 Full Members updated C-55 by April 2023.

The Full Members have approved the request of the SNHN (Bolivia) to become an Associate Member of SWAtHC and Bolivia started the procedure of its adhesion.

The Statutes of the SWAtHC was updated accordingly with the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended at A-2. The most important modification was the northern limit of the SWAtHC Region that makes boundary with the MACHC Region, moving it from 0° (Equator) to 1° South. This change implied the inclusion of the entire Amazon Basin in the MACHC Region to facilitate regional coordination.

There are no issues between Nautical Charts of the Members in the Region. The few inconsistencies and overlaps in ENCs found by IC-ENC during last year were immediately solved.

The invitation to “Instituto Hidrográfico” of Portugal and “Instituto Hidrográfico de la Marina” of Spain to attend last two SWAtHC Meetings was very positive, as the Members were able to learn about the ongoing developments with S-100 implementation and MSDI.

Training of Foreign Countries Personnel:

- In 2022, at DHN, an Officer from Cameroon concluded the Course in Hydrography for Officers (CAHO), course recognized by IBSC/IHO as Cat “A”.
- In 2023, an Officer from Bolivia and an Officer from Cameroon are attending the IHO Category “A” Advanced Course in Hydrography (CAHO) offered by DHN. The course is being offered free of charge to Bolivia and Cameroon.

7. Conclusions

In 2022, with the improvement of the pandemic situation, the SWAtHC resumed staff training activities, holding 3 events of great importance for the technical training of our staff: such as the Seminar coordinated by SOHMA (Uruguay), which had a total of 41 participants, the Multibeam Bathymetry in Shallow Waters course, with practical activities in a hydrographic vessel; and the Technical Visit to Bolivia.

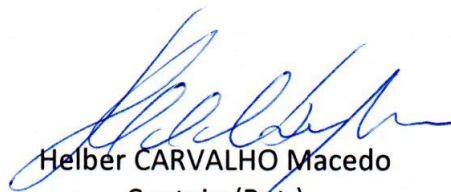
The continuity of the Capacity Building (CB) program in Hydrography is an important strategic issue for all countries, because it promotes technical development, disseminates knowledge related to the state of the art in hydrography and encourages the integration of professionals from different Hydrographic Services.

SWAtHC is committed to carrying out Hydrographic, Cartographic and Capacity Building activities according to IHO objectives and goals.

8. Action Required of CBSC21

The CBSC is invited to:

- a. Note this report.
- b. The SWAtHC is proposing three events to be performed in 2024 and requires approval.



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