

**17th Conference of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA)
Video-conference, 14 June 2021**

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2021	
Tasks	
§ 1.1.2	Maintain relationship with the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM)
§3.2.2	Organize, prepare for and report meetings of Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA)

Initially planned in Paris, back-to-back with the XLIII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM XLIII), the 17th Conference of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica was held in virtual format on 14 June 2021.

The Conference was chaired by Dr Mathias Jonas, Secretary-General of the IHO, supported by Assistant Director Yves Guillam, HCA Secretary and Ms Caroline Fontanili (IHO Secretariat), as rapporteur. Forty-one delegates from 16 Member States out of 24 (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Republic of Korea, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Uruguay, United Kingdom, USA) and one subject matter expert (GEBCO IBCSO Project Representative), attended the meeting.



The Chair table of the 17th Conference of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica

The Chair opened the meeting explaining the objectives of this bespoke virtual Conference, keeping in mind the goal to be able to meet in person in 2022, in conjunction with ATCM XLIV, to progress some important topics that cannot be discussed in depth in a remote format.

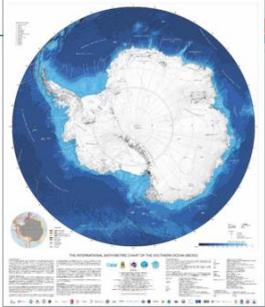
The Conference considered the progress made on the decisions and actions from the previous Conferences, some of them, still pending implementation or completion, were slightly amended and wording improved. This was the case for the action encouraging HCA Members to contribute to the IHO DCDB with survey data as a direct application of the Antarctic Treaty, Article II 1.(c) which states that “*scientific observations and results from Antarctica shall be exchanged and made freely available*”. A binding statement that the US recommended to consider as an incentive among others to

amend the current HCA Statutes. Reasons for the revision of the Statutes were presented to the participants such as: recommendations in the newly amended IHO Resolution 2/1997, last ATCM Resolutions on hydrography and the IHO Strategic Plan 2021-26. The HCA Chair invited the HCA Members to provide their comments on the proposed amended Statutes aiming to approve them at the next Conference.

An update on the development of the GEBCO IBCSO 2.0 was presented by the representative of the Chair of the Project. France, Japan and South Africa were thanked for the provision of their data to support the project. The Conference took note that the GEBCO Polar Grid of IBCSO 2.0 in polar projection is nearing completion, with a resolution of 500 m, and a coverage extended to 50°S (60°S for IBCSO 1.0). The strategy for “mapping the gaps” in this area was also presented in the report.

IBCSO

- IBCSO v1
 - Arndt et al., 2013
 - Resolution 500 m
 - South of 60°S
- IBCSO v2
 - Product of Seabed2030
 - Publication draft nearing completion
 - Resolution 500 m
 - South of 50°S



IBCSO

IBCSO

SEABED 2030

IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA)

International Bathymetric Chart of the Southern Ocean (IBCSO)

Laura Hehemann, Boris Dorschel and the IBCSO Team

Alfred Wegener Institute
Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research

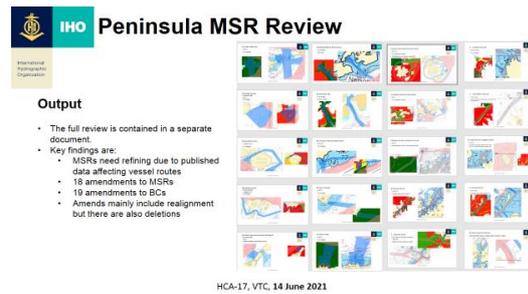
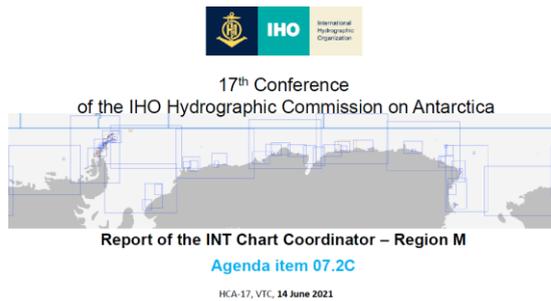


The Chair informed HCA members that Turkey is currently in discussion with the IHO regarding membership to the HCA. Turkey has been surveying in Antarctica and has offered to share data with the HCA Hydrographic Priorities Working Group (HPWG) and chart producing countries.

Mr Lee Truscott (UKHO), Chair of the HCA Hydrographic Priorities Working Group (HPWG) and Chart Coordinator for Region M, provided an outstanding review of the adequacy of the Maritime Shipping Routes in the Peninsula and a compilation of the updates received from Members on INT charts and ENC production. The format of the Conference did not allow an in-depth discussion on the proposals. Although principles were agreed to modify some corridors to better match traffic density AIS data, it was also suggested to consider the new Global Maritime Traffic Density Service in development by the US (NGA) which will become part of INTToGIS II layers in the near future.

During the review of pending actions related to the nautical charting coverage of Deception Island, the HCA noted the statement made by Argentina:

- thanking Brazil, Germany, Spain, and United Kingdom for their cooperation (data provision for new Ed. of INT 9120) and particularly to the Region M Coordinator for his guidance and to the US for their coordination;
- proposing the simultaneous production of INT 9120 and equivalent UB4 ENC of Deception Island as a possible solution to solve pending issues and avoid duplication.



The HCA Chair informed the participants that the recent publication of an article¹ in National Geographic recognizing the name “Southern Ocean” was noted by the IHO Secretariat. Related requests by media were provided with an explanation on how this name had been discussed in the course of the historic reviewing of S-23². By means of this statement it was also pointed out that IHO itself is not a naming authority and has no mandate to denominate the name “Southern Ocean” to the area.

The Conference occurred in conjunction with the XLIII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting where the IHO was invited, on Friday 18 June, to present its report to ATCM (Information Paper Nr 4). In accordance with ATCM Resolutions 5 (2008), 5 (2014) and 6 (2019), the HCA Chair stated that the IHO stands ready to support the implementation by the ATCM of these Resolutions, based on geographic and thematic priorities to be provided by ATCM to the IHO. The report, supported by Argentina, Chile and the US was noted by the ATCM.

Noting the 3rd Session of the IHO Assembly in April 2023, the Chair proposed that the 18th Conference of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica be held in 2022, and the 19th Conference in 2024. The 18th Conference was planned to be arranged in conjunction with ATCM XLIV 2022 which is expected to take place in Berlin, Germany.

¹ <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/theres-a-new-ocean-now-can-you-name-all-five-southern-ocean>.

² The IHO is not itself a naming authority. The current edition of the IHO’s Publication for the Limits of Oceans and Seas (S-23) was published in 1953 (3rd edition) and does not include the term “Southern Ocean” (See page 4).

The Antarctic or Southern Ocean has been omitted from this publication as the majority of opinions received since the issue of the 2nd Edition in 1937 are to the effect that there exists no real justification for applying the term Ocean to this body of water, the northern limits of which are difficult to lay down owing to their seasonal change. The limits of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans have therefore been extended South to the Antarctic Continent.

Hydrographic Offices who issue separate publications dealing with this area are therefore left to decide their own northern limits. (Great Britain uses the Latitude of 55° South).

Although this name to designate the southern waters of this hemisphere was included in the 2nd edition of the IHO Publication for the Limits of Oceans and Seas published in 1937, the majority of opinions from Member States received after this were not in favour to this inclusion. In short: the “Southern Ocean” became an official ocean in 1937, but lost its official status in 1953. It is however recognized that GEBCO does use IBCSO for “International Bathymetric Chart of the Southern Ocean”.



Some of the participants of HCA-17