

**17<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE IHO HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON  
ANTARCTICA (HCA)  
14 JUNE 2021**

**Paper for Consideration by the HCA**

**Proposal to Amend Statutes of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica  
(Action HCA 16/04 refers)**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	United States supported by IHO Secretariat
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	This paper proposes amendments to the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica Statutes as per revised Resolution 2/1997 and per HCA 16/04
<b>Related Documents:</b>	Summary of proposed changes and ATCM – Resolution 6 (2019) IHO Resolution 2/1997 – Establishment of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) as amended. IHO General Regulations – Article 8.e

**Introduction / Background**

1. In 2020 IHO member states approved the new Resolution 2/1997. HCA 16/04 assigns the task to the USA to draft proposed amendments to the HCA Statutes.

**Analysis/Discussion**

2. Upon review of the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) and Resolution 2/1997, proposed amendments will bring HCA Statutes in alignment with referenced doc.

**Conclusions**

3. Revisions will improve and more clearly define the mission of the HCA.

**Recommendations**

4. Review and consider endorsing draft Statutes.
5. Consider Art. 8.e of the IHO General Regulations simultaneously with the revision of the HCA Statutes, as it is currently written that HCA Membership is limited to the data contribution for INT chart coverage in Region M.  
*Art. 8.e: “Full membership is reserved for Member States within the region. In the unique case of the Antarctic region, membership of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) is reserved for Member States whose governments have acceded to the Antarctic Treaty and contribute resources and/or data to IHO INT Chart coverage of Region M.”*

**Justifications and Impacts**

6. Bring into alliance the Statutes of the HCA with the new IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended by Decision IHO-A2/09.

7. To improve the HCA relationship with ATCM and ATS broadly.

**Action Required of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica**

8. The HCA is invited to:
  - a. Endorse the proposed relevant amendments to the HCA Statutes.
  - b. Consider whether a proposal should be made to the Council (then Member States) to amend Art. 8.e of the IHO General Regulations currently limited to INT chart coverage in Region M.
  - c. Take any other action considered appropriate.