

Statutes	Text changes for review	Consolidated Comments Recommendation	Authors and Secretariat Comments	US Comments	FR Comments	BR Comments	CL Comments
Notes	Recommend Removal of Notes, include on web page for routine updates	Remove from document		Tracked elsewhere, recommend deletion.			
Article 1	Article 1: ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM AND THE COMMISSION	Article 1: THE COMMISSION AND THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM				Article 1: THE COMMISSION AND THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM	
1.1	1.1 The Antarctic Treaty and related agreements, collectively known as the Antarctic Treaty System, provide a legal framework for international relations with respect to Antarctica, Earth's only continent without a native human population. The Treaty applies to the area south of 60° South Latitude, including all ice shelves and islands. The principle aims of the AT System, of interest to the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), are the focus on cooperative relations with International Organizations, scientific research and the free exchange of data.	1.1 The Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA or the Commission) is a unique Regional Hydrographic Commission (hereinafter RHC) recognized by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). The HCA is established in conformity with IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended "Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC)" (Appendix A) and shall be governed according to these statutes. The Commission should provide, in pursuance of the resolutions and recommendations of the IHO, and the Antarctic Treaty System, regional coordination in the provisioning of hydrographic services, freedom of scientific investigation, cooperation, free exchange of, and access to, scientific observations in support of safe maritime navigation and for broad scientific use.	<i>Authors: Regarding BR comment, we recommend starting with the Commission background, then moving to the linkage to the AT.</i> <i>Sections 1.1 and 1.2 establish the relationship between the Commission and the Antarctic Treaty (AT), and as noted by BR, should be included after the Commission discussion in 1.3. Of note, the AT is a binding agreement (treaty), where the Commission Statutes are non-binding and can not deviate from the binding agreement in areas of overlap. Recommend keeping the linkage tight, and align language for implementation of hydrographic data, products and services where possible.</i>	AT Article III 2. "cooperative working relations with ... international organizations having a scientific or technical interest in Antarctica".		1.1 The Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA or the Commission) is a unique Regional Hydrographic Commission (hereinafter RHC) recognized by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). The HCA is established in conformity with IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended "Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC)" (Appendix A) and shall be governed according to these statutes. The Commission should provide, in pursuance of the resolutions and recommendations of the IHO, and the Antarctic Treaty System, regional coordination in the provisioning of hydrographic services, freedom of scientific investigation, cooperation, free exchange of, and access to, scientific observations in support of safe maritime navigation and for broad scientific use.	1.1 The proposed text is correct. However, it is suggested not to include it in the Statutes. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED.
1.2	1.2 ARTICLE 8 (a) of the International Hydrographic Organization's General Regulations states that "Regional Hydrographic Commissions (hereinafter RHCs) are regional bodies, established by Member States and recognized by the Assembly to improve regional coordination, enhance exchange of information and foster training and technical assistance." Additionally, ARTICLE 8 (e) stipulates the membership requirements for RHCs, including the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA or the Commission).	1.2 ARTICLE 8 (a) of the International Hydrographic Organization's General Regulations states that RHCs are regional bodies, established by IHO Member States and recognized by the IHO Assembly to improve regional coordination, enhance exchange of information and foster training and technical assistance." Additionally, ARTICLE 8 (e) stipulates the membership requirements for RHCs, including the HCA.	<i>Authors: adjusted order of sections to Commission background first.</i>	From the AT Article II, focus on freedom of scientific investigation and cooperation, and Article III regarding scientific observations and results shall be exchanged and made freely available.		1.2 ARTICLE 8 (a) of the International Hydrographic Organization's General Regulations states that RHCs are regional bodies, established by IHO Member States and recognized by the IHO Assembly to improve regional coordination, enhance exchange of information and foster training and technical assistance." Additionally, ARTICLE 8 (e) stipulates the membership requirements for RHCs, including the HCA.	1.2 The proposed text is correct. However, it is suggested not to include it in the Statutes. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED.
1.3	1.3 The IHO HCA is a unique RHC recognized by the (IHO). The HCA is established in conformity with IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended "Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC)" and shall be governed according to these statutes. The Commission should provide, in pursuance of the resolutions and recommendations of the IHO, and the Antarctic Treaty System, regional coordination in the provisioning of hydrographic services, freedom of scientific investigation, cooperation, free exchange of, and access to, scientific observations in support of safe maritime navigation and for broad scientific use.	1.3 The Antarctic Treaty and related agreements, collectively known as the Antarctic Treaty System, provide a legal framework for international relations with respect to Antarctica, Earth's only continent without a native human population. The Treaty applies to the area south of 60° South Latitude, including all ice shelves and islands. The principle aims of the Antarctic Treaty System, of interest to the IHO, are the focus on cooperative relations with International Organizations, scientific research and the free exchange of data.	<i>Authors: Recommend keeping language that aligns with the specific intent of the AT as applied to the provision of hydrographic services within the region.</i> <i>Removed reference to Appendix A</i>	From the AT Article II, focus on freedom of scientific investigation and cooperation, and Article III regarding scientific observations and results shall be exchanged and made freely available. AT Article III 2. "cooperative working relations with ... international organizations having a scientific or technical interest in Antarctica".		1.3 The Antarctic Treaty and related agreements, collectively known as the Antarctic Treaty System, provide a legal framework for international relations with respect to Antarctica, Earth's only continent without a native human population. The Treaty applies to the area south of 60° South Latitude, including all ice shelves and islands. The principle aims of the Antarctic Treaty System, of interest to the IHO, are the focus on cooperative relations with International Organizations, scientific research and the free exchange of data.	1.3 The conceptual part of this proposed text is partly covered precisely in 1.1 and 1.2 in force. However, it introduces aspects that are not in line with the raison d'être of the HCA. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED.
1.4	1.4 The geographic limits of the HCA are defined by the IHO International (INT) Charting Scheme Region M. The geographic limits of this region are illustrated at Appendix B.	1.4 The geographic limits of the HCA are defined by the IHO International (INT) Charting Scheme Region M. The geographic limits of this region are illustrated at Appendix B.	<i>Authors: the existing statutes define the HCA as bounded by INT Charting Scheme Region M. Additionally the IHO Resolution 2/1997 recommend areas be defined by INT regions. We recommend no changes to the current geographic limits.</i>				1.4 It is a misconception that the boundaries of the HCA are not defined by the INT chart scheme. The boundaries of the HCA follow the boundaries of the Antarctic Treaty. NOT ACCEPTED AS PROPOSED.

Article 2 MEMBERSHIP							
2.1	2.1 As per ARTICLE 8 (e) of the IHO General Regulations, Full Membership is reserved for IHO Member States who are Party to the Antarctic Treaty and contributes resources and/or data to IHO INT Chart and Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC) coverage of Region M and which becomes a signatory to the Statutes of the HCA.	2.1 As per ARTICLE 8 (e) of the IHO General Regulations, Full Membership is reserved for IHO Member States whose governments have acceded to the Antarctic Treaty and contribute resources to the provision of hydrographic data, products and services supporting marine safety of navigation within, and/or the wider use of marine geospatial information of the Antarctic region.	<i>Authors: shifted language to align with Art 8 (e). Capitalized "Member". Proposed text is in alignment with the proposed change to the GR, Art 8.(e). See HCA Proposal, Annex 4. Shift from INT Charts involvement, to non-specific SoN data, products and services, and/or the wider use of marine information.</i>	A State can become a party through a variety of means, including ratification and accession.		Using initials with capital letters as for Membership in 2.2	2.1 The proposal uses different language from Art 8 (e) which reads: "whose governments have acceded to the Antarctic Treaty ..." and not "who are Party to the ...". The proposal is confusing. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED.
2.2	2.2 Associate Membership is open to any Antarctic Treaty Contracting Party and other States which contributes resources and/or data to IHO INT Chart and ENC coverage of Region M, and which becomes a signatory to the Statutes of the HCA. Associate Members may take part in the discussions but shall not have voting rights, except as contained in Articles 4.2 and 4.3.	2.2 Associate Membership is open to any non-IHO Member State who are Antarctic Treaty Contracting Party, and other States which contributes resources and/or data to IHO INT Chart and ENC coverage of Region M, and which becomes a signatory to the Statutes of the HCA. Associate Members may take part in the discussions but shall not have voting rights, except as contained in Articles 4.2 and 4.3.	<i>Author: Added language regarding non-IHO Members.</i>	Monitor 4.2 and 4.3 for changes			2.2 The proposal is to give Associate Membership to any Contracting Party to the Antarctic Treaty, and others who contribute. For example, would Chile be both Member and Associate Member? Also, there is no mention of IHO membership. NOT ACCEPTED AS PROPOSED.
2.3	2.3 Other States and international organizations active in the region may be invited by the HCA to participate as observers . Observer status is available to organizations and individual experts, having professional involvement in marine data, products or services in Region M either by contributing to those activities, or by providing support to those activities, or as users of derived products. The Observers may take part in HCA discussions, but shall not have voting rights.	2.3 Other States and international organizations active in the region may be invited by the HCA to participate as Observers . Observer status is available to organizations and individual experts, having professional involvement in marine data, products or services in Region M either by contributing to those activities, or by providing support to those activities, or as users of derived products. The Observers may take part in HCA discussions, but shall not have voting rights.	<i>Authors: AM Status requires a nation to "becomes a signatory to the Statutes.." Nations can be Observers and not be a FM or AM.</i>	2.3 Other States and international organizations active in the region may be invited by the HCA to participate as observers. (Comment: This aligns with Article 8.) The Observers may take part in HCA discussions, but shall not have voting rights. (Comment: This is clause is not based on the IHO GR. As there have not been problems, recommend deletion of this sentence.)		2.3 Other States and international organizations active in the region may be invited by the HCA to participate as Observers . Observer status is available to organizations and individual experts, having professional involvement in marine data, products or services in Region M either by contributing to those activities, or by providing support to those activities, or as users of derived products. The Observers may take part in HCA discussions, but shall not have voting rights.	2.3 The proposal is that other States active in the region may be invited as Observers. This is in contrast to what is proposed in 2.2 where "other States" that contribute are categorized as Associate Members. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED.
Article 3 AIMS							
3.1	3.1 The Commission, which is an integral element in achieving the objectives of the IHO and which promotes the aims of the Organization at the regional level, shall have an advisory, scientific and technological character. Activities shall complement the work of the IHO Secretariat, align with and support the intent and objectives of the approved IHO Work Programme , and shall not extend to matters concerning international political issues .	3.1 The Commission, which is an integral element in achieving the objectives of the IHO and which promotes the aims of the Organization at the regional level, shall have an advisory, scientific and technological character. Activities shall complement the work of the IHO Secretariat, align with and support the intent and objectives of the approved IHO Work Programme, and shall not extend to matters concerning international political issues .	<i>Authors: This Article defines the "Aims" of the Commission, and may duplicate some sections. However, it adds fidelity and clarity that is not contained elsewhere.</i>	align with and support the intent and objectives of the approved IHO Work Programme (US Comment: From Resolution 2/1997.)			3.1 The proposed text indicates guidelines that are known. The mission of the HCA is clear and it is felt that this introduction into its statutes is not required. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED

3.2	3.2 The HCA will endeavor to align its mission activities to the intent of the IHO Strategic Plan, IHO Resolution 2/1997 and the Antarctic Treaty System. Freedom of scientific investigation and cooperation, and free exchange of and access to scientific observations and results are considered key objectives of the HCA.	3.2 The HCA will endeavor to align its mission activities to the intent of the IHO Strategic Plan, IHO Resolution 2/1997 and the Antarctic Treaty System. Freedom of scientific investigation and cooperation, and free exchange of and access to scientific observations and results are considered key objectives of the HCA.	<i>Authors: This Article defines the "Aims" of the Commission, and may duplicate some sections. However, it adds fidelity and clarity that is not contained elsewhere.</i>	Antarctic Treaty System (US Comment: Suggested addition to signal that Protocols are also relevant. This paragraph is based on the AT language.)			3.2 This corresponds to an interpretation of the HCA objectives, which certainly go beyond its remit. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED
3.3	The aims of the Commission are: To promote technical co-operation in the domain of hydrographic surveying, marine cartography, and nautical information within the region.	3.3 The aims of the Commission are: To promote technical co-operation in the domain of hydrographic surveying, marine cartography, and nautical information within the region.					
3.4	3.4 To stimulate the Members, Associate Members and Observers forming the HCA to widen hydrographic activity in the region in accordance with relevant Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) Resolutions (Appendix C). Encourage them to seek technical advice and assistance from the IHO Secretariat of the IHO in establishing and strengthening their hydrographic capabilities and policies, including crowdsourced bathymetry (CSB) and satellite-derived bathymetry (SDB).	3.4 To stimulate the Full Members, Associate Members and Observers forming the HCA to widen hydrographic activity in the region in accordance with relevant Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) Resolutions (Appendix C). Encourage them to seek technical advice and assistance from the IHO Secretariat in establishing and strengthening their hydrographic capabilities and policies, including the acquisition of scientific, commercial and crowdsourced survey resources and all types of advancing technology designed for systematic survey.	<i>Authors: Suggest to be more generic than limiting to CSB and SDB. Adjusted based on BR comment, recommend maintaining reference to IHO Secretariat.</i>	SDB (US Comment: Recommend removing as limits activities to IHO Goal 1. However, the other option is to expand the statement to included Goals 2 and 3.)		3.4 To stimulate the Full Members, Associate Members and Observers forming the HCA to widen hydrographic activity in the region in accordance with relevant Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) Resolutions (Appendix C). Encourage them to seek technical advice and assistance from the IHO Secretariat of the IHO in establishing and strengthening their hydrographic capabilities and policies, including crowdsourced bathymetry (CSB) and satellite-derived bathymetry (SDB). BR Comments: When the word "Member" is used (alone), it seems appropriate to use it as reference for Full Members and Associate Members. Both of them are Members since they are signatories to the Statutes of the HCA. When we want to refer to the Members that are IHO Member States, Parties to the Antarctic Treaty and signatories to the Statutes of the HCA, then it seems appropriate to use the term "Full Members".	3.4 The proposed change has formal merit. Indeed, it is plausible that instead of citing any particular ATCM Resolutions, they should be placed in an appendix. It would also be desirable to delete the reference to the IHB. But it is not required to include references to CSB and SDB.
3.5	3.5 To facilitate the exchange of information concerning surveys, research or scientific, technical and operational developments regarding marine information broadly, and, to aid in the planning and organization of hydrographic activities in the widest sense of the term.	3.5 To facilitate the exchange of information between Hydrographic Authorities and other and with other organisations concerning surveys, research or scientific, technical and operational developments regarding marine information broadly, and, to aid in the planning and organization of hydrographic activities in the widest sense of the term.	<i>Authors: revert to original language</i>	concerning surveys, research or scientific, technical and (US Comment: Recommend removal, many other data owners, we need to expand participation to all data providers and users.)			3.5 The proposal deletes the reference to Hydrographic Authorities, which is not appropriate. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED.
3.6	3.6 To encourage Members, Associate Members and Observers forming the HCA to participate actively, of their own free will, on all possible occasions – whether in the form of advice or of assistance – in those hydrographic programmes requiring concerted action, but without prejudice to or interference with their national activities.	3.6 To encourage Full Members, Associate Members and Observers forming the HCA to participate actively, of their own free will, on all possible occasions – whether in the form of advice or of assistance – in those hydrographic programmes requiring concerted action, but without prejudice to or interference with their national activities.	<i>Authors: added "Full".</i>			3.6 To encourage Full Members, Associate Members and Observers forming the HCA to participate actively, of their own free will, on all possible occasions – whether in the form of advice or of assistance – in those hydrographic programmes requiring concerted action, but without prejudice to or interference with their national activities. BR Comment: Inserted "Full"	

3.7	3.7 To examine the implications, in its area of interest, of matters of general interest with which the IHO is concerned, avoiding any interference with the prerogatives of the IHB and of any other Regional Commissions set up by the IHO.	3.7 To examine the implications, in its area of interest, of matters of general interest with which the IHO is concerned, avoiding any interference with the prerogatives of the IHO Secretariat and any other Regional Commissions recognized by the IHO.	<i>Authors: recommend keeping language general (not specific to IRCC) and changed to "Commissions recognized". Adjusted to IHO Secretariat.</i>			3.7 To examine the implications, in its area of interest, of matters of general interest with which the IHO is concerned, avoiding any interference with the prerogatives of the IHO Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) and of any other Regional Hydrographic Commissions. BR Comment #1: It seems adequate to use IRCC, since IRCC is between IHO Council/IHO Secretariat and HCA. Additionally, IRCC can approve Decisions, Actions and Recommendations for the HCA to consider. BR Comment #2: delete "set up by the IHO", RHCs were set up by some of its Full Members and recognised by the IHO.	3.7 NO CHANGE PROPOSED. However in the original text IHB should be replaced by IHO Secretariat.
3.8	3.8 To coordinate INT chart and ENC schemes, and other developing universal hydrographic data model (S-100) data, products and services for the region and to monitor their suitability.	3.8 To coordinate INT chart and ENC schemes, and other developing universal hydrographic data model (S-100) data, products and services for the region and to monitor their suitability.	<i>Authors: This Article defines the "Aims" of the Commission, with this text modified for future data, products and services (S-100). Adds fidelity and clarity that is not contained elsewhere.</i>				3.8 The proposal goes into technical details not appropriate to refer to in the bylaws. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED.
3.9	3.9 To define the needs for new surveys and if necessary to develop co-operative approaches to meet those needs.	3.9 To define the needs for new surveys and if necessary to develop co-operative approaches to meet those needs.					
3.10	3.10 To facilitate the provision and wide dissemination of information for scientific purposes and to consider the potential of Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) concepts for regional implementation.	3.10 To facilitate the provision and wide dissemination of information for scientific purposes and to consider the potential of Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) concepts for regional implementation.		US inserted: and to consider the potential of Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) concepts for regional implementation.			
3.11	3.11 To align regional activities with the approved IHO Strategic Plan and Work Programme, taking into account the actions, recommendations and outcomes of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC).	3.11 To align regional activities with the approved IHO Strategic Plan and Work Programme, taking into account the actions, recommendations and outcomes of the IRCC.	<i>Authors: accepted BR comment. Recommend keeping section as an ongoing Aim of the Commission</i>			3.11 To align regional activities with the approved IHO Strategic Plan and Work Programme, taking into account the actions, recommendations and outcomes of the IRCC.	3.11 The proposed text is unnecessary to incorporate into the bylaws, as it is clear that this has to happen. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED.
3.12	3.12 The HCA may establish committees or working groups as appropriate, to advance regional priorities. If created, subordinate bodies will have approved Terms of Reference, and progress work under the direction of the HCA. Participation within the subordinate bodies will be open to participants of the HCA and other Subject Matter Experts (SME)s as decided by the Members.	3.12 The HCA may establish committees or working groups as appropriate, to advance regional priorities. If created, subordinate bodies will have approved Terms of Reference, and progress work under the direction of the HCA. Participation within the subordinate bodies will be open to participants of the HCA and other Subject Matter Experts (SME)s as decided by the Full Members.	<i>Author: this aim recognizes the need to progress work via WG's and PT's, under authority derived from the HCA. Final decisions will be taken by the HCA, not the WG or PT. Recommend keeping. Added "Full". Adjusted number to 3.12</i>			3.11 11 The HCA may establish committees or working groups as appropriate, to advance regional priorities. If created, subordinate bodies will have approved Terms of Reference, and progress work under the direction of the HCA. Participation within the subordinate bodies will be open to participants of the HCA and other Subject Matter Experts (SME)s as decided by the Full Members. BR Comment: inserted "Full".	3.11 11 What is proposed is covered in the current points 3.9 and 3.11. How the WGs will operate is something to be resolved by the HCA in due course, as is the relevance of adding Experts. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED.
Article 4 CONFERENCES							

4.1	4.1 The HCA shall meet in plenary conference in the country of one of its Members or Associate Members, or such other venue as may be selected, at least once between two successive ordinary sessions of the International Hydrographic Conference (IHC) / IHO Assembly. Members may hold the HCA Conference, and informal discussions, via VTC connections by agreement.	4.1 The HCA shall meet in plenary conference in the country of one of its Full Members or Associate Members, or such other venue as may be selected, at least once between two successive ordinary sessions of the IHO Assembly. Members may hold the HCA conference, and informal discussions, via VTC connections by agreement.	<i>Authors: adjusted language as per comments. Maintained the potential of VTC as a options.</i>	Recommended due to the shift to Assembly on a three year schedule.		4.1 The HCA shall meet in plenary conference in the country of one of its Full Members or Associate Members, or such other venue as may be selected, at least once between two successive ordinary sessions of the IHO Assembly. Members may hold the HCA conference, and informal discussions, via VTC connections by agreement. BR Comment #1: This condition can lead to a situation in which the period between two consecutive conferences could be longer than three years and exceeds the term of the Vice-Chair. BR Comment #2: Members = Full Members + Associate Members	4.1 It is proposed to change the periodicity from at least 2 meetings between ordinary assemblies to at least 1 meeting between ordinary assemblies. This is less restrictive and gives freedom to decide to hold 1, 2 or 3 meetings between assemblies. THE PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED. The reference to the International Hydrographic Conference (IHC) should be deleted, as it is not appropriate to refer to "informal discussions". THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED. It is recommended that participants always attend in person, and if they are unable to do so, they should connect via VTC. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED.
4.2	4.2 At the end of each conference the Members, Associate Members and Observers desirous of hosting the following conference shall put forward their candidatures. Consideration should include locations that collocate the HCA with other international Antarctic discussion venues associated with the Antarctic Treaty System. Priority shall be given to a country that has not yet hosted a conference, or to the one that did so the longest time ago. In cases of equal priority a vote shall be held, the decision being taken by a simple majority of Members and Associate Members present.	4.2 At the end of each conference the Full Members, Associate Members and Observers desirous of hosting the following conference shall put forward their candidatures. Consideration should include locations that collocate the HCA with other international Antarctic discussion venues associated with the Antarctic Treaty System. Priority shall be given to a country that has not yet hosted a conference, or to the one that did so the longest time ago. In cases of equal priority, a vote shall be held, with the decision being taken by a simple majority of Full Members and Associate Members present.	<i>Authors: adjusted text as per comments. This section opens the options for improved meetings via coordinated events, by agreement of the Members.</i>			4.2 At the end of each conference the Full Members, Associate Members and Observers desirous of hosting the following conference shall put forward their candidatures. Consideration should include locations that collocate the HCA with other international Antarctic discussion venues associated with the Antarctic Treaty System. Priority shall be given to a country that has not yet hosted a conference, or to the one that did so the longest time ago. In cases of equal priority, a vote shall be held, with the decision being taken by a simple majority of Full Members and Associate Members present.	4.2 It is proposed that Observers should also be able to host Conferences. It is also proposed that consideration be given to places where international discussions on Antarctica are held. All this proposed addition contributes to muddying the waters, when in practice there has been no problem in selecting hosts for Conferences. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED.
4.3	4.3 If it is in the interest of the HCA, and agreed upon by a simple majority of Members and Associate Members, an alternative venue, or VTC may be selected.		<i>Authors: concur with comment to delete.</i>			4.3 If it is in the interest of the HCA, and agreed upon by a simple majority of Full Members and Associate Members, an alternative venue, or VTC may be selected.	4.3 Holding meetings using VTC is already covered in the new point 4.1 There is no need to reintroduce this matter. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED.
4.4	4.4 Members and Associate Members should designate an official representative, preferably the head of a hydrographic office , or where such services do not exist, by heads of national authorities responsible for hydrography and navigation. They may be accompanied by advisors, but it is most desirable that their number be kept to a minimum.	4.4 Full Members and Associate Members should designate an official representative, preferably the head of a hydrographic office , or where such services do not exist, by heads of national authorities responsible for hydrography and navigation. They may be accompanied by advisors, but it is most desirable that their number be kept to a minimum.	<i>Authors: adjusted text as per comments. Recommend keeping the text in alignment with GR.</i>	"should designate an official representative, preferably the head of a hydrographic office , or" US Comment: The commission cannot direct a nation as to representation. The new language is in alignment with the IHO General Regulations. Recommend deletion.		4.4 Full Members and Associate Members should designate an official representative, preferably the head of a hydrographic office, or where such services do not exist, by heads of national authorities responsible for hydrography and navigation. They may be accompanied by advisors, but it is most desirable that their number be kept to a minimum.	4.4 The current text has worked well and does not require modification or standardization with the General Regulations. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED.

4.5	4.5 The presence of a third (1/3) of the Members of the HCA shall constitute a quorum at all conferences.	4.5 The presence of a half of the Full Members of the HCA shall constitute a quorum at all conferences.	<i>Authors: Adjusted based on BR comment, recommend discussion at HCA.</i>		Proposal to revise Article 4.5 as written in the clean version of the US proposal: "4.5. The presence of a third (1/3) of the Members of the HCA shall constitute a quorum at all conferences, except for decisions affecting the HCA Statutes for which a quorum shall be constituted by two-thirds (2/3) of the Members."	4.5 The presence of a half of the Full Members of the HCA shall constitute a quorum at all conferences. BR comment: situation where currently only 8 Full Members is enough to hold a conference and discuss all matters of interest to the HCA at the expense of the other 16 Full Members is not desirable. As we can see in most IHO bodies, a simple majority of its Members is the fair number to organize a session/meeting/conference. Since 2009, we had 9 conferences and 1 extraordinary meeting and we have seen the participation of at least 12 Full Members. In this way, we verified the participation of at least half of the current Full Members. Still need to recover when IHO Member States joined the HCA to know the correct proportion of participation. Additionally, the IHO Secretariat and HCA Full Members should make an effort to motivate as many Full Members as possible to attend conferences. Besides, couldn't we think about the realization of hybrid conferences ? Some Full Members participating virtually and other Full Members participating in person. Thus, it is suggested to raise the quorum at all conferences to half of the Full Members.	4.5 NO CHANGE PROPOSED.
4.6	4.6 The Chair shall invite the Chairs of adjacent RHCs to send representatives to attend the Commission conferences as observers if appropriate. Any Member may propose to the Chair the invitation of technical experts as Observers.	4.6 The Chair shall invite the Chairs of adjacent RHCs to send representatives to attend the Commission conferences as Observers if appropriate. Any Member may propose to the Chair the invitation of technical experts as Observers.	<i>Authors: this task is associated with the Conference, not the status of Observer. It is intended to create an open and cooperative environment to discuss items that may affect other regions or organizations. Recommend this be maintained. Concur with BR, use of Member includes FM and AM.</i>			4.6 The Chair shall invite the Chairs of adjacent RHCs to send representatives to attend the Commission conferences as Observers if appropriate. Any Member may propose to the Chair the invitation of technical experts as Observers. BR Comment: Associate Members could propose as well.	4.6 This is covered for any observer, in the current point 2.3. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED.
Article 5: CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND SECRETARIAT							
5.1	5.1 The activities of the Commission shall be conducted by the Chair, who shall be the Secretary-General of the IHO or a Director of the IHO appointed by the Secretary General of the IHO. The Chair shall also preside over the conference.	5.1 The activities of the Commission shall be conducted by the Chair, who shall be the Secretary-General of the IHO or a Director of the IHO appointed by the Secretary General of the IHO. The Chair shall also preside over the conference.	<i>Authors: Recommend we maintain the flexibility for the Chair role, based on existing Statutes.</i>	This situation works well due to the nature of the Antarctic, however can be a discussion topic.		5.1 The activities of the Commission shall be conducted by the Chair, who shall be the IHO Secretary-General. The Chair shall also preside over the conference.	

5.2	5.2 The Chair shall be assisted by a Vice-Chair from a Member State of the HCA. The Vice Chair shall be elected for a three-year term at the first Conference after each IHO Assembly by a simple majority of those Members present.	5.2 The Chair shall be assisted by a Vice-Chair from a Full Member of the HCA. At the conclusion of the first Conference after each IHO Assembly, the Vice Chair shall be elected by a simple majority of those Full Members present, and serve until the conclusion of the first Conference after the next IHO Assembly.	<i>Authors: adjusted language based around the first Conference post Assembly.</i>	The Vice Chair should assist with the meeting preparations.		5.2 The Chair shall be assisted by a Vice-Chair from a Full Member of the HCA. The Vice-Chair shall be elected for a three-year term at the first conference after each IHO Assembly by a simple majority of those Full Members present. BR Comment: We could find a situation with much more than 3 years between two consecutive conferences if the HCA meets only twice for two consecutive intersessional periods of the IHO Assembly (in accordance with Article 4.1). Article 4.1 does not provide for a situation for the term of the Vice-Chair to be three years. We will find a three-year term if we define the conferences to take place in the same years of the ordinary sessions of the IHO Assembly and to be held in the same months, for example.	
						So, it seems that the term of the Vice-Chair could have some flexibility or that the election by correspondence could be foreseen right after an ordinary session of the IHO Assembly or that Article 4.1 should be reviewed.	
5.3	5.3 The Secretariat of the IHO shall provide the Secretariat for the Commission. The Chair will prepare a Provisional Agenda for the next conference and will present, as the first item, his report on the activities of the Commission since the last conference.	5.3 The IHO Secretariat shall provide the Secretariat for the Commission. The Chair will prepare a Provisional Agenda for the next conference and will present, as the first item, his report on the activities of the Commission since the last conference.	<i>Authors: concur with change</i>			5.3 The IHO Secretariat shall provide the Secretariat for the Commission. The Chair will prepare a Provisional Agenda for the next conference and will present, as the first item, his report on the activities of the Commission since the last conference.	
5.4	5.4 The Chair will report the activities and future plans of the HCA to the relevant bodies of the IHO. Between sessions, reports of studies or other activities, which may be considered of general interest to all Member States, should be reported through the Chair to the Secretariat of the IHO for general dissemination.	5.4 The Chair will report the activities and future plans of the HCA to the relevant bodies of the IHO. Between sessions, reports of studies or other activities, which may be considered of general interest to all IHO Member States, should be reported through the Chair to the IHO Secretariat for general dissemination.	<i>Authors: concur with change</i>			5.4 The Chair will report the activities and future plans of the HCA to the relevant bodies of the IHO. Between sessions, reports of studies or other activities, which may be considered of general interest to all IHO Member States, should be reported through the Chair to the IHO Secretariat for general dissemination.	
Article 6: ORGANISATION OF CONFERENCES			<i>Authors: concur with change, removed "s" from title.</i>				Article 6 ORGANISATION OF CONFERENCES

6.1	6.1 The Chair shall issue invitations at least four months before the conference.	6.1 The Chair shall issue invitations at least four months before the conference.	<i>Authors: this is a minimum, as the information is known, the Chair can issue invitations earlier. Recommend keeping at 4 months.</i>	These timelines align with several other RHCs.		6.1 It is proposed to reduce the issuance of the invitation from 6 to 4 months to conform to the standards of most RHCs. Making this change is not vital, however experience indicates that the administrative process for travel requires authorizations where the 6 month timeframe seems appropriate and conservative. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED.
6.2	6.2 Proposals to be included in the agenda of a conference shall be sent to the Chair and Secretary at least two months before the date fixed for the opening of the conference.	6.2 Proposals to be included in the agenda of a conference shall be sent to the Chair and Secretary at least three months before the date fixed for the opening of the conference.	<i>Authors: recent experience is many discussion topics are only known a few weeks prior to an event. Recommend a slight shortening of the time frame.</i>			6.2 It is proposed to reduce the proposal submission from 4 months to 2 months. Making this change is not vital and is not justified. There are proposals that may need to go in consultation with other state agencies and require time. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED.
6.3	6.3 The Chair shall prepare the Provisional Agenda in consultation with the Vice-Chair and host nation, and forward it to the participants at least six weeks before the opening of the conference.	6.3 The Chair shall prepare the Provisional Agenda in consultation with the Vice-Chair and host nation, and forward it to the participants at least six weeks before the opening of the conference.	<i>Authors: changes to the provisional agenda are routine up until the meeting. Recommend reducing the time as written.</i>			6.3 It is proposed to reduce the provision of the Provisional Agenda from 8 weeks to 6 weeks. Making this change is not vital and is not justified. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED.
6.4	6.4 The Chair shall be responsible for the organization of the conference, in conjunction with the Vice-Chair and meeting host.	6.4 The Chair shall be responsible for the organization of the conference, in conjunction with the Vice-Chair and meeting host.	<i>Authors: recommend flexibility and recognize that nations are not always the host.</i>	There are times the nation is not the host. At the last meeting, the IHO was the host.		6.4 It is proposed to change "host nation" to "meeting host". This is not vital and although it does not change the substance, the term "host nation" is standardized in the current text of this article. However, this article proposes the use of "host nation", "host" and "meeting host" interchangeably. While there was no "host nation" at the last conference, this was an exceptional case and we should not standardize for the exceptional. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED.
6.5	6.5 The host nation (as applicable) shall provide the Rapporteur and the secretarial facilities for the conference.		<i>Authors: concur with comment to delete.</i>			6.5 The host (as applicable) shall provide the Rapporteur and the secretarial facilities for the conference. 6.5 It is proposed to include "as applicable" in parentheses. It is felt that such a notation could be incorporated in many parts of the text. It is understood that everything is "as applicable". NOT ACCEPTED AS PROPOSED
6.6	6.6 The host shall be responsible for the expenses of the conference except those expenses described in Article 6.8 below.	6.6 The host shall be responsible for the expenses of the conference except those expenses described in Article 6.8 below.	<i>Authors: recommend flexibility and recognize that nations are not always the host.</i>			6.6 It is proposed to shift the responsibility for conference costs from the "host nation" to the "host". This is misleading in that the person acting as host will be responsible for the payments. The current text is quite clear. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED

6.7	6.7 The host will assist with the arrangement of authorisations and visas, so as to facilitate attendance at the conference.	6.7 The host will assist with the arrangement of authorisations and visas, so as to facilitate attendance at the conference.	<p><i>Authors: recommend flexibility and recognize that nations are not always the host.</i></p> <p><i>We note IRCC10-06.2A, Annex B provides general instructions to Commission Chairs. Consideration could be give to a similar set of expectation on meeting hosts. Removing many sections from Statutes.</i></p>				6.7 It is proposed to move from "host nation" to "host". This is misleading in that the person acting as host will be the one who personally assists, for example with visas. The current text is quite clear. THE PROPOSAL IS NOT ACCEPTED.
6.8	6.8 All expenses connected with the participation of the Chair and the delegates in the conference shall be defrayed by their respective organizations.	6.8 All expenses connected with the participation of the Chair and the delegates in the conference shall be defrayed by their respective organizations.					
Article 7: CONFERENCE AGENDA							
7.1	7.1 The Agenda shall be adopted by the HCA at the beginning of each conference.	7.1 The Agenda shall be adopted by the HCA at the beginning of each conference.					
7.2	7.2 The HCA may modify in the course of the conference the order in which Agenda items are to be discussed.	7.2 The HCA may modify in the course of the conference the order in which Agenda items are to be discussed.					
Article 8: DECISIONS, ACTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS			<i>Authors: added "Actions" to title</i>			The word "Action" is openly used by IHO organs as an outcome instead of Resolution. A Resolution is derived from a Decision. There are three possible outcomes from the sessions/meetings/conferences: Decisions, Actions and Recommendations.	
8.1	8.1 Decisions taken during each conference should be prepared in written form by the Chair and presented the next day to the participants present.	8.1 Decisions taken during each conference should be prepared in written form by the Chair and presented the next day to the participants present.					
8.2	8.2 At the end of the conference, the Chair shall circulate the decisions taken during the conference. These decisions shall be adopted by means of a simple majority of the members present. Votes in favour shall be indicated by a show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested by any Member present. However, when the Chair, or a majority of Members present, decide that the decision so requires, the decision shall be made by correspondence. Such decision will be approved by a simple majority of the Members who have responded by the due date, provided that the number of votes received is at least equal to the quorum indicated in Article 4.5.	8.2 At the end of the conference, the Chair shall circulate the decisions taken during the conference. These decisions shall be adopted by means of a simple majority of the members present. Votes in favour shall be indicated by a show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested by any Member present. However, when the Chair, or a majority of Members present, decide that the decision so requires, the decision shall be made by correspondence. Such decision will be approved by a simple majority of the Members who have responded by the due date, provided that the number of votes received is at least equal to the quorum indicated in Article 4.5.	<i>Authors: based on comments received, recommend no change to existing wording</i>	No change has been made to this sections - For consideration by the HCA.	Proposal to revise Article 8.2 as written in the clean version of the US proposal: "8.2. At the end of the conference, the Chair shall circulate the decisions taken during the conference. These decisions shall be adopted by means of a simple majority of the members present. Votes in favour shall be indicated by a show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested by any Member present. However, when the Chair, or a majority of Members present, decide that the decision so requires, the decision shall be made by correspondence. Such decision will be approved by a simple majority of the Members who have responded by the due date, provided that the number of votes received is at least equal to the quorum indicated in Article 4.5. As an exception to the rule defined above, decisions affecting the HCA Statutes are adopted by means of a majority of 50% of the Members present, provided that this number is	8.2 At the end of the conference, the Chair shall circulate the decisions taken during the conference. These decisions shall be adopted by means of a simple majority of the Full Members present. Votes in favour shall be indicated by a show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested by any Full Member present. However, when the Chair, or a majority of Full Members present, decide that the decision so requires, the decision shall be made by correspondence. Such decision will be approved by a simple majority of the Full Members who have responded by the due date, provided that the number of votes received is at least equal to the quorum indicated in Article 4.5. BR Comment: The issue seems to be in the current quorum to hold the conference (8 Full Members) being entitle to discuss all matters of interest of the Commission (in the interest of all Full Members). In many and main IHO organs this is the criteria adopted (simple majority) for decisions and actions to be approved.	

8.3	8.3 Only Full Members are entitled to vote, each having the right to one vote. The exception to this rule is found at Articles 4.2 and 4.3.	8.3 Only Full Members are entitled to vote, each having the right to one vote. The exception to this rule is found at Articles 4.2.	<i>Authors: based on decision to delete section 4.3, removed reference</i>	Adjust if format changes.			
8.4	8.4 All decisions become operative immediately.	8.4 All decisions become operative immediately.					
8.5	8.5 The Chair shall dispatch within one month of the close of the conference a copy of the Summary Report containing the discussions, decisions and recommendations of the conference for verification or comment, to each Member, Associate Member and Observer. Comments are to reach the Chair within one month of the receipt of the Summary Report. The final version of the Minutes shall be forwarded within four months of the close of the Conference.	8.5 The Chair shall dispatch within one month of the close of the conference a copy of the Summary Report containing the discussions, decisions and recommendations of the conference for verification or comment, to each Full Member, Associate Member and Observer. Comments are to reach the Chair within one month of the receipt of the Summary Report. The final version of the Minutes shall be forwarded within four months of the close of the conference.	<i>Authors: adjusted for BR comment</i>			8.5 The Chair shall dispatch within one month of the close of the conference a copy of the Summary Report containing the discussions, decisions and recommendations of the conference for verification or comment, to each Full Member, Associate Member and Observer. Comments are to reach the Chair within one month of the receipt of the Summary Report. The final version of the Minutes shall be forwarded within four months of the close of the conference.	
8.6	8.6 Any decision, which may be of interest to the Member States of the IHO as a whole, shall be brought to the attention of the Secretariat of the IHO. This fact shall be mentioned as part of the text of the decisions reached.	8.6 Any decision, which may be of interest to the IHO Member States as a whole, shall be brought to the attention of the IHO Secretariat. This fact shall be mentioned as part of the text of the decisions reached.	<i>Authors: adjusted for BR comment</i>			8.6 Any decision, which may be of interest to the IHO Member States as a whole, shall be brought to the attention of the IHO Secretariat. This fact shall be mentioned as part of the text of the decisions reached.	
Article 9: EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS							
9.1	9.1 By majority agreement of the Members, the Chair may call a meeting of the HCA when their representatives are assembled for a session of the IHO Assembly or IHO Council inviting others qualified to attend as Observers. The Chair may also propose a meeting by VTC when agreed by majority of Members.	9.1 By majority agreement of the Full Members, the Chair may call a meeting of the HCA when their representatives are assembled for a session of the IHO Assembly or IHO Council inviting others qualified to attend as Observers. The Chair may also propose a meeting or VTC when agreed by majority of Full Members.	<i>Authors: adjusted for BR comment. Regarding CL comment on the Council, all IHO Member States are welcome to attend, and should there be an HCA meeting proposed, this will be done in advance of the Council allowing HCA Members to comment as needed. To maximize flexibility of the HCA, recommend keeping the option in the section.</i>	If decisions can be made, should this read Extraordinary Conference?		9.1 By majority agreement of the Full Members, the Chair may call a meeting of the HCA when their representatives are assembled for a session of the IHO Assembly or IHO Council inviting others qualified to attend as Observers. The Chair may also propose a meeting by VTC when agreed by majority of Full Members. BR Comment: It could be a meeting.	9.1 It should be kept in mind that the IHO council has a limited representation and this can lead to discriminatory situations, but not the Assembly. THE PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED, EXCEPT FOR THE ONE REFERRING TO THE COUNCIL.
9.2	9.2 In the case of urgent matters, which cannot be treated by correspondence, VTC or other scheduled event, and which cannot be postponed until the next conference, the Chair, with majority agreement of the Members, may request that an extraordinary meeting be held in a place considered most appropriate.	9.2 In the case of urgent matters, which cannot be treated by correspondence, VTC or other scheduled event, and which cannot be postponed until the next conference, the Chair, with majority agreement of the Full Members, may request that an extraordinary meeting be held in a place considered most appropriate.	<i>Authors: adjusted for BR comment</i>			9.2 In the case of urgent matters, which cannot be treated by correspondence, VTC or other scheduled event, and which cannot be postponed until the next conference, the Chair, with majority agreement of the Full Members, may request that an extraordinary meeting be held in a place considered most appropriate.	
9.3	9.3 The provisions applicable to the conference shall apply to all extraordinary meetings.	9.3 The provisions applicable to the conference shall apply to all extraordinary meetings.					
9.4	9.4 When these extraordinary meetings do not include all Members, the decisions reached shall be circulated to all Members for comment prior to being taken. All decisions shall be reported by correspondence.	9.4 When these extraordinary meetings do not meet quorum and number of votes for decisions as per Sections 4.5 and 8.2, the decisions reached shall be circulated to all Full Members for comment prior to being taken. All decisions shall be reported by correspondence.	<i>Authors: Decisions are based on quorum, and numbers of votes as per Section 4.5 and 8.2. If both are met for an extraordinary meeting, the decisions should be considered valid.</i>			9.4 When these extraordinary meetings do not include all Full Members, the decisions reached shall be circulated to all Members for comment prior to being taken. All decisions shall be reported by correspondence.	
Article 10: STATUTES							
10.1	10.1 The Secretariat of the IHO shall be the custodian of these Statutes.	10.1 The IHO Secretariat shall be the custodian of these Statutes.	<i>Authors: adjusted for BR comment</i>			10.1 The IHO Secretariat shall be the custodian of these Statutes.	

10.2	10.2 Members of the HCA may propose amendments to the Statutes. The Chair shall submit the proposal(s) to all Members for decision at Conference, or voting via CL. A simple majority of Members of HCA is required for approval. If an amendment is approved, the Chair will update the Statutes and circulate them to all Members, Associate Members and Observers.	10.2 Members of the HCA may propose amendments to the Statutes. The Chair shall submit the proposal(s) to all Members for decision at conference, or voting via CL. Two-thirds (2/3) of Full Members of the HCA is required for approval. If an amendment is approved, the Chair will update the Statutes and circulate them to all Full Members, Associate Members and Observers.	<i>Authors: adjusted for BR comment</i>	Similar issue as 8.2. Need to establish and align with Convention.		10.2 Members of the HCA may propose amendments to the Statutes. The Chair shall submit the proposal(s) to all Members for decision at conference, or voting via CL. Two-thirds (2/3) of Full Members of the HCA is required for approval. If an amendment is approved, the Chair will update the Statutes and circulate them to all Full Members, Associate Members and Observers.	
						10.2 BR Comment: The Statutes are the most important document of the HCA and the RHCs. The Convention of the IHO to be modified must have the approval of at least two-thirds of the IHO Member States. Therefore, for the alteration of the Statutes of the HCA, a number greater than the simple majority of votes of the Full Members should be foreseen. We cannot ignore a considerable number of Full Members who are signatories of the Statutes. Nowadays, the approval process by correspondence is already in the domain of the IHO Member States, if there are Full Members who have not participated in a conference that has analyzed any amendments to the Statutes. There is no problem in submitting proposed amendments to these Full Members by correspondence. Thus, it is suggested to increase the minimum number of Full Members to approve amendments to the Statutes to two-thirds (2/3).	
10.3	10.3 Updated versions of the IHO and ATCM resolutions will be added to the Statutes, as appropriate, by the Chair without the approval of the Members of the HCA. The changes would not constitute formal amendments to the Statutes.	10.3 Updated versions of the IHO and ATCM resolutions will be added to the Statutes, as appropriate, by the Chair without the approval of the Members of the HCA. The changes would not constitute formal amendments to the Statutes.					
Article 11: LANGUAGE OF THE HCA	11.1 The working language of the HCA shall be English.	11.1 The working language of the HCA shall be English.					
Miscellaneous comments		Approved by the Commission at the IHB, Monaco, September 2003. Amendments approved at the HCA-7, Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 2007. Amendments approved at the HCA-12 Montevideo, Uruguay, October 2012 Amendments approved at the HCA-13 Cádiz, Spain, December 2013 Amendments approved at the HCA-14 Tromsø, Norway, June 2016 Amendments approved by correspondence, following HCA-17, VTC, 14 June, 2021 Annex: Signature Pages	<i>Authors: HCA to decide following prescribed decision criteria in 10.2</i>		France does not see the need to re-sign the Statutes following the envisaged modifications but will not oppose to it, if so decided by the HCA Secretariat.	Approved by the Commission at the IHB, Monaco, September 2003. Amendments approved at the HCA-7, Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 2007. Amendments approved at the HCA-12 Montevideo, Uruguay, October 2012 Amendments approved at the HCA-13 Cádiz, Spain, December 2013 Amendments approved at the HCA-14 Tromsø, Norway, June 2016 Amendments approved by correspondence, following HCA-17, VTC, 14 June, 2021 Annex: Signature Pages	

<p>Miscellaneous comments (continued)</p>		<p>Appendices: A. IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended B. Geographic Limits of IHO INT Charting Scheme Region M C. Resolutions 5 of the 31st Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting 2008, 5 of the 37th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting 2014 and 6 of the 43rd Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting 2019</p>	<p><i>Authors: recommend the history of the HCA Statutes be attached to the document as an Appendix.</i></p>			<p>Appendices: A. IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended B. Geographic Limits of IHO INT Charting Scheme Region M C. Resolutions 5 of the 31st Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting 2008, 5 of the 37th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting 2014 and 6 of the 43rd Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting 2019</p>	
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