

**18th CONFERENCE OF THE IHO HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION
ON ANTARCTICA (HCA)
XX May 2022**

Impact of Proposed Amended HCA Statutes on the General Regulations of the IHO

Submitted by:	HCA Chair and Vice-Chair, supported by the HCA Secretariat
Executive Summary:	Impact of the proposed amended HCA Statutes and proposal to Council to change Article 8.e of the General Regulations of the IHO.
Related Documents:	HCA 18-03C Paper for consideration by the HCA to amend the HCA Statutes. IHO General Regulations – Article 8.e IHO Strategic Plan for 2021-2026 IHO Resolution 2/1997 – Establishment of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) as amended. ATCM – Resolution 6 (2019)

1. Introduction / Background

- 1.1. This document is based on the outcome of HCA 18-03C. It serves as a draft proposal for submission to the Council.
- 1.2. Annex 4 outlines the proposal to modify the IHO General Regulations, Article 8.e.
- 1.3. HCA is recommended to determine the correct path needed to submit to C-6 for endorsement prior to forwarding to the Assembly 3 for approval.

2. Analysis/Discussion

- 2.1. Upon review of the HCA Statutes, Full Member status is specifically limited beyond the IHO and AT Member status. The current text reads:
 - 2.1.1. (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.”
- 2.2. The clause that requires “resources and/or data to IHO INT Chart coverage” does not align with the current IHO Strategic Plan for supporting a wider marine data community beyond the traditional paper chart users. The Chair and Vice-Chair recommend a minor change to the IHO GR Art. 8.e text to address this, and create an open environment where more IHO Member States can participate in a meaningful way.

3. Conclusions

- 3.1. Revisions will improve and more clearly define the mission of the HCA, it’s alignment with the Antarctic Treaty System, IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended, and with the new IHO Strategic Plan.
- 3.2. Changes to IHO General Regulations Art. 8.e are recommended.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1. Proposed change to Article 8.e of the General Regulations:

- 4.1.1. From: “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.”
- 4.1.2. To: “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 **to the provision of hydrographic data, products and services supporting marine safety of navigation within, and/or the wider marine geospatial information of the Antarctic region.**”

5. Justifications and Impacts

- 5.1. Approving the proposal to Council will broaden the participatory opportunities of the IHO Member States within the HCA.

6. Action Required of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica

- 6.1. Endorse proposed changes to Article 8.e of the General Regulations.
- 6.2. Request the Chair and Vice Chair to submit a proposal to Council 6 to modify the IHO General Regulations as agreed.