

**18th CONFERENCE OF THE IHO HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION
ON ANTARCTICA (HCA)
24 – 27 May 2022**

**Paper for Consideration by the HCA
Proposal to amend Statutes of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica
(Action HCA 17/03 refers)**

Submitted by:	HCA Chair and Vice-Chair, supported by the HCA Secretariat
Executive Summary:	This paper proposes amendments to the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica Statutes as per revised Resolution 2/1997 and per HCA17/03.
Related Documents:	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

1. Introduction / Background

- 1.1. In 2020 IHO Member States approved the new Resolution 2/1997. HCA 17/03 assigned the task to the HCA Chair, supported by the Vice-Chair, to consider discussions at HCA17, and submit draft proposed amendments to the HCA Statutes to the MS for comments.

2. Analysis/Discussion

- 2.1. Upon review of the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) and Resolution 2/1997, these proposed amendments will bring HCA Statutes into alignment with referenced documents.
- 2.1.1. Draft Statutes were commented by several nations and the consolidated draft has been created considering comments received.
- 2.1.2. Annex 1 – Matrix of Statute consolidated comments by section, and considerations of the Chair and Vice-Chair.
- 2.1.3. Annex 2 – Redline version of the Statutes adjusted based on the consolidated comments.
- 2.1.4. Annex 3 – Clean version of the proposed Statutes.
- 2.2. Upon consideration of the proposed changes to the Statutes, and the need to bring into alignment with the IHO Strategic Plan, the Chair and Vice-Chair recommend the current wording of the IHO General Regulations, Art. 8.e be revised slightly. The IHO SP has recognized the broader user community of the data, products and services beyond our traditional Safety of Navigation customers. The current wording of Art. 8.e limits Full Member State status to nations who contribute to the IHO INT Chart coverage specifically. With the changing data and user environment, and the shift from paper to digital services, including ENCs and other future S-xxx products, this limitation should be modified to allow participation by IHO Member States more broadly. No change to IHO Convention or Antarctic Treaty signatory requirement is recommended.
- 2.2.1. Annex 4 – Impact of the Proposed Amended HCA Statutes on the General Regulations of the IHO.

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 goals and objectives.
- 3.2. Changes to IHO General Regulations Art. 8.e are recommended.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1. Review and endorse consolidated draft Statutes.
- 4.2. See Annex 4 for specific wording change to IHO General Regulations Art. 8.e.

5. Justifications and Impacts

- 5.1. Bring into alignment the Statutes of the HCA with the new IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended by Decision IHO-A2/09, the IHO General Regulations and the IHO Strategic Plan.
- 5.2. Approving the updated Statutes will improve the HCA relationship with ATCM and ATS broadly.
- 5.3. Endorsing changes to the IHO GR Art 8.e will allow wider participation by IHO Member States.

6. Action Required of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica

- 6.1. Approve the proposed relevant amendments to the HCA Statutes. (See Annexes 1, 2 and 3).
- 6.2. Endorse the proposed changes to the IHO General Regulation, Art. 8.e as per Annex 4.
- 6.3. Task the Chair and Vice Chair to forward the Annex 4 proposal, adjusted based on HCA comments received, to the Council for consideration and endorsement as required.
- 6.4. Take any other action considered appropriate.