**18th Conference of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA)**

**Berlin, Germany (hybrid), 24 – 26 May 2022**

**Status of LIST OF DECISIONS and ACTIONS FROM HCA-18**

**(as of 22 November 2023)**

| **Decision/Action** | **Agenda Item** | **Details** | **Target Date** | **Status**  **(Nov. 2023)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1.** | **Opening – Welcome Address** |  |  |
| HCA18/01 |  | **HCA** agreed on the objectives of the conference presented by **HCA Chair**. |  | Decision |
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|  | **2.** | **Approval of Agenda and Timetable** |  |  |
| HCA18/02 |  | **HCA Members** approved the agenda and timetable. |  | Decision |
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|  | **3.** | **HCA Membership Status and Statutes** |  |  |
| HCA18/03 |  | **HCA** invited the **HCA Secretariat** to promote HCA Membership to those States who are IHO Member States and Parties to the Antarctica Treaty (Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Netherlands, Poland, Ukraine, …).  **HCA Secretariat** to contact these IHO Member States by HCA CL. | **HCA-19**  **End of 2022** | Complete. Three new Members (**NL, PL, TR**) signed Statutes at A-3. |
| HCA18/04 |  | **HCA Members and Observers** to provide their updates on the HCA Membership List to the HCA Sec. as appropriate. | **Permanent** |  |
| HCA18/05 |  | **HCA** commended the **HCA Vice-Chair** for his active contribution in the development of the adopted amendments to the HCA Statutes.  The new Statutes entered into force on 24 May 2022. |  | Decision HCA Letter 02/2022 refers. |
| HCA18/06 |  | Following the adoption of the new HCA Statutes, **HCA** endorsed the proposed amendments to Art. 8.e of the General Regulations of the IHO.  **HCA Secretariat** to submit these proposed amendments for Council’s endorsement, then to A-3 for approval. | **18** **July** (for C-6), **20 December** (for A-3) | Decision  Complete. Decision A3/17 refers |
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|  | **4.** | **Election of Vice-Chair** |  |  |
| HCA18/07 |  | **Mr Patrick Dorr** (NGA, USA)was re-elected as **HCA Vice-Chair** and will serve until the end of HCA-19 (2024). |  | Decision Art. 5.2 of HCA Statutes applies. |
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|  | **5.** | **Review of Status of List of Actions resulting from HCA-17** |  |  |
| HCA18/08  (former HCA17/05, HCA16/06, HCA15/07) |  | **HCA** agreed that, as a matter of principle, the current producer nations in Antarctica should be encouraged to consider the future production and distribution of S-100 based products for Antarctica, in their areas of charting responsibility. |  | Decision |
| HCA18/09 (former HCA17/07, HCA16/07b) |  | **HCA Members**, binded by the Antarctic Treaty[[1]](#footnote-1), are encouraged to ensure that bathymetric information contained in their surveys (survey coverage metadata as a minimum) is transmitted to the IHO DCDB (ATCM Resolution No 06/2019, as approved at ATCM XLII). | **Permanent** | Decision |
| HCA18/10  (former HCA17/11) |  | Noting the benefits that can be made from CATZOC values in HCA ENCs for risk assessment purposes, **HCA** agreed to keep the C-55 geographic segmentation in Antarctica as it is, for the time being. | **Permanent** | Decision |
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|  | **6.** | **IHO and ATCM** |  |  |
|  | **6.1** | **IHO Liaison with ATCM, SCAR, IAATO** |  |  |
| HCA18/11  (former HCA17/08, HCA16/08, HCA15/11) |  | **IAATO** to check if the new approved guidance on crowd-sourced bathymetry (B-12) can be implemented technically – possibly by exporting from Voyage Data Recorder recordings (experimentation in progress).  **NO** (as GGC Chair) to engage with **IAATO** Director of Operations on this matter. | **HCA-19** |  |
| HCA18/12 (former HCA17/14, HCA16/11) |  | Noting that pro-active actions are necessary to have “IHO activities” in their agenda meetings, **HCA Chair** (ideally represented by **HCA Member** according to the host country/region) to consider the possibility of participating regularly in ATCM, COMNAP, SCAR and IAATO meetings. | **HCA-19**, and as appropriate |  |
| HCA18/13 |  | **HCA** noted that **HCA Chair** had some contacts with partners and met the Executive Secretary of the Antarctic Treaty at ATCM XLIV. |  | Participation of HCA Secretary at ATCM XLV |
| HCA18/14 |  | **HCA** to consider the report delivered by **SCAR** , in particular:   * Recommendations in the SCAR publication: *Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment: A decadal synopsis and recommendations for action*.   the Southern Ocean Action Plan in support for the UN Ocean Decade …and events:   * UN Oceans Conference 2022: *Polar Oceans: Engine to the Global Ocean* (26 June 2022). | **HCA-19** |  |
| HCA18/15 |  | **HCA** noted the Olex issue and invited Members to contribute to the relevant IHO bodies (CSBWG, DQWG) on this matter. |  | In progress (GB: No significant progress since HCA18, largely due to the priority of processing and acquiring historical BAS data) |
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|  | **7.** | **HCA activities in relation to the IHO Work Programme** |  |  |
|  | **7.1** | **Interaction with IHO-IOC GEBCO and IBCSO** |  |  |
| HCA18/16 |  | **HCA** noted the progress report on the development of IBCSO 2.0 by the GEBCO representative (Doc. HCA18-07.1A refers). |  |  |
| HCA18/17 (former HCA17/18, HCA16/15) |  | **HCA** to assess/monitor the effectiveness of the data flow processes between Seabed 2030 Data Centres (AWI) and the IHO DCDB. | **HCA-19** | **US** (J. Lowell to check with IHO DCDB Director whether this action is still needed). |
| HCA18/18 |  | **HCA** noted the update on GEBCO provided by the Chair of the GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC) and welcomed the establishment of their new GEBCO Strategy Drafting Working Group. |  |  |
| HCA18/19 |  | Following up on ATCM Resolution 6 (2019), **HCA Chair** to invite **HCA** **Members** to report at HCA-19, as part of their national reports, how they engage with their national marine research institutes to improve their contribution to GEBCO / Seabed 2030. | **HCA-19** |  |
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|  | **7.2A** | **National Reports** |  |  |
| HCA18/20 |  | **HCA** noted the national reports delivered or provided by **AU, BR, CL, CO, EC, ES, FR, GB, GE, IT, JP, KR, NO, NZ, PE, US, UY** and **ZA** and commended the HOs for the high quality of the information provided. |  | Decision |
| HCA18/21 |  | **HCA** noted the existence of some national Polar Strategic Plans (2021-2030) and invited **HCA Members** to consider the role that the HCA could and should play for a coordinated implementation if appropriate in application of the new amended HCA Statutes and the IHO Strategic Plan 2021-2026.  Proposals to be considered at the next Conference. | **HCA-19** |  |
| HCA18/22 |  | **HCA Members** to consider participating in the OGC-IHO FMSDI[[2]](#footnote-2) Pilot Project. | **HCA-19** |  |
| HCA18/23 |  | **HCA** tasked the Region M ICCWG to monitor the ARHC (Region N) developments on ENC gridded schemes possible solutions in Polar regions. | **HCA-19** | In progress |
| HCA18/24 |  | **HCA** noted the information provided by the US (NGA) about the conversion process of their national DNCs into ENCs.  **HCA** invited the US (NGA) first to report at the next WENDWG meeting on this matter (impact on existing ENC schemes and coverage, …). | **WENDWG-13 / HCA-19** |  |
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|  | **7.3A&B** | **HCA Hydrography Priorities Working Group** |  |  |
| HCA18/25 |  | **HCA** approved the amendments to the Peninsula MSRs as proposed by the **HPWG Chair**.  **HPWG Chair** to reformat the supporting plan and continue monitoring adequacy against AIS data in preparation of HCA-19  **HPWG Chair** to keep **IAATO** (and **COMNAP** eventually) informed of the MSR changes. | **HCA-19**  **Permanent** | Complete (HPWG e-CL 02/2023 refers) |
| HCA18/26 |  | Beyond the Peninsula, **HCA Members** active in these regions are invited to collate relevant data and provide MSR information if any to the **HPWG Chair** for subsequent analysis against AIS data in preparation of the next Conference. | **May 2023**  **HCA-19** | Nothing supplied from HCA Members. Looking for support from **AU/NZ** on this one to maintain their own MSR diagram and priority. |
| HCA18/27 |  | **HCA Members** to supply survey metadata to HCA GIS, through or cc HPWG chair, using the formstack online submission process. | **Permanent** | Metadata provided by **KR**, **TR** and **ES** (now in HCA GIS). Request sent to **CL** and **US**. |
| HCA18/28 |  | **HCA** approved the recommendation to seek **IAATO** review of regional Aids to Navigation.  **HCA Members** to keep the current list available on the IHO HCA webpage up-to-date. | **HCA-19** |  |
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|  | **7.4A** | **Region M ICCWG** |  |  |
| HCA18/29 |  | **HCA** noted the recommended options offered by **GB** (as Region M Chart Coordinator)(Doc. HCA18-07.4A refers) to address the Deception Island charting issues and allocate INT charts and ENCs production responsibilities in this area.  **AR, CL** and **ES** to consider the proposed options and report to the HCA Secretariat and Region M Coordinator with either their agreement on the way forward or submission of alternative options.  Final decision to be reported by the **HCA Chair** by correspondence and to be implemented in INToGIS (INT and ENCs schemes). | **End of September 2022**  **December 2022** | Slow progress |
| HCA18/30  (former HCA17/22, HCA16/21 |  | Meanwhile, and during this case study phase (see Action HCA18/.. above), **HCA** urges the different producers of charts covering Deception Island (**AR, CL, ES, GB**) to establish a robust technical procedure iaw S-4 and S-11, to exchange data that are relevant for safe navigation in this area, and report to the HCA Chair/Secretary on the progress made in the development of this procedure (Doc. HCA18-07.4A refers). | **HCA-19** | Slow progress |
| HCA18/31 |  | **HCA** agreed that there is no need to keep INT 9136 in the Region M Charting Scheme. |  | Decision |
| HCA18/32 |  | **HCA** tasked the **Region M Coordinator** to reconsider the need for INT 9110 in liaison with **CL**. | **HCA-19** |  |
| HCA18/33 |  | In liaison with the RENCs, **FR / NZ** to resolve the overlap between NZ11490E and FR275910 as appropriate and keep the **Region M Coordinator** informed. | **HCA-19** | Unsolved |
| HCA18/34 |  | **CL** in liaison with **Region M Coordinator** to consider options for improved coverage of Artigas regarding existing INT scheme. | **HCA-19** |  |
| HCA18/35 |  | If planned, **UY** to submit any larger scale ENC covering Artigas to the Region M Coordinator for approval process by HCA. | **End of June 2022** |  |
| HCA18/36 |  | **CL, BR & PE** in liaison with **Region M Coordinator** to resolve potential ENC overlap regarding Mackellar Inlet. |  | No progress despite significant time invested by Coordinator |
| HCA18/37 |  | **UY** to submit any larger scale ENC proposal. |  |  |
| HCA18/38 |  | The **HCA** approved:   * the Region M ICCWG recommendations to change the INT scheme for INT9113 Lydstad Bay and Sally Cove. * proposal for Biscoe Wharf/ Rothera ENC first (possibly ENC only) similar to coverage INT 9113 coverage. |  |  |
| HCA18/39 |  | The **HCA** reminded the **Region M ICCWG** recommendations on the general WEND principles/guidelines for the establishment of ENC Schemes in the region:   * where not ENC first, the INT chart and ENC scheme is aligned; * where producing ENC only, proposal must be circulated to Region M Coordinator in advance for being considered than submitted to HCA for formal approval. * iaw standards in force, all proposals must be designed to avoid overlaps. | **Permanent** |  |
| HCA18/40 |  | Anticipating the outcome of IRCC-14 on the recommendations from the **WENDWG** with regard to the S-100 Implementation Roadmap per region, **HCA** agreed to establish an HCA S-100 Implementation Working Group (**HCA Secretariat** leads). |  | Decision |
| HCA18/41 |  | Following up onAction WENDWG12/33 (IGIF pathway matrix per S-1xx product, per RHC), **HCA** agreed on some guiding initial principles and leaders to fill the HCA S-100-IGIF Matrix:   * **S-101**: **GB** (as Region M Charting Coordinator, continuity by S-57 conversion) * **S-102**: **GE** (in liaison with **AWI**, as Seabed 2030 Data Centre/IBCSO) * **S-104**: **US** (in its global capacity in ocean modelling) * **S-111**: **US/FR** (in its global capacity in ocean modelling) * **S-122: EC/GE** (making benefits of experience gained in Ecuador and BSHC) * **S-124**: **AR, AU, CL, ZA, NZ** (as NAV Cooordinators) * **S-128**: **NO/GB** (as Operators of PRIMAR/IC-ENC) * **S-411** *– Ice information***: AR/CL/GE** | **WENDWG-13/ HCA-19** |  |
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|  | **7.5A** | **IHO HCA GIS** |  |  |
| HCA18/42 |  | **HCA** agreed to launch the HCA online formstack for data submission. | **HCA-19** | Decision |
| HCA18/43 |  | **All HCA Members** to submit data and survey coverage metadata to IHO Secretariat using HCA submission formstack…  … and **HCA Secretariat** to consider also harversting-type solutions when these data are already available on national portals.. | **All, Periodic** (once a year, **June**)  **HCA-19** | Reminder to be sent |
| HCA18/44 |  | **HCA** noted that the **WENDWG** endorsed the strategy, way forward and timelines proposed by KHOA for the subsequent development of INToGIS III (incl. catalogue of S-1xx products/services S-128 compliant), as presented at the meeting) (Decision WENDWG12/23) and since the approval of Ed.1.0.0 of S-128 at HSSC-14 to monitor S-128. | **HCA-19** |  |
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|  | **8.** | **Any other business – Preparation of IRCC-14 and C-6** |  |  |
| HCA17/25 |  | **HCA Chair** informed the participants that the recent publication of an article[[3]](#footnote-3) in *National Geographic* recognizing the naming Southern Ocean was noted by the IHO Secretariat. Related requests by media were responded with explanations on how this name has been discussed in the course of the historic reviewing of S-23. 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 “Southern Ocean” to the area. |  | Background information only Discussed at HCA18, under agenda item 8.1. |
| HCA18/45 |  | Noting the Status of S-23 Ed. 3, 1953 (Decision A2/24 refers), **HCA** agreed to submit a proposed IHO Resolution to A-3 for IHO Member States’ approval, by which “*The IHO recognizes the Southern Ocean as the maritime area surrounding the Antarctic [with the Northern limit being*…]” (wording still to be defined)*.* | **20 December 2022** (deadline for submission to A-2) | Complete. Decision A3/19 refers |
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|  | **9.** | **Date and Venue of Next Conferences** |  |  |
| HCA18/46 |  | **HCA Members** welcomed the offer from **Italy** to host HCA-19, from 27- 29 March 2024 (*dates to be confirmed*).  **HCA Chair** to invite **Chile** to consider the possibility of hosting HCA-20 in Nov.-Dec. 2025 in Punta Arenas (dates and venue to be confirmed). | **End of December 2022** | In progress |
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|  | **10.** | **Closure – End of Conference** |  |  |
| HCA18/47 |  | In conclusion, **Dr Mathias Jonas,** Secretary-General of the IHO and HCA Chair, on behalf of HCA Members, commended **Mr Lee Truscott** (UKHO), Chair of HPWG and Region M ICCWG Coordinator, for his exceptional investment and devotion in the preparation of HCA-18 and for the outstanding quality of his reports and recommendations. |  | A-3 informed |

1. Antarctic Treaty, Article II 1.(c) states “*scientific observations and results from Antarctica shall be exchanged and made freely available.*” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Federated Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (FMSDI) Pilot. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/theres-a-new-ocean-now-can-you-name-all-five-southern-ocean [↑](#footnote-ref-3)