**19th Conference of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA)**

**Venice, Italy (hybrid), 15 – 18 April 2024**

**DRAFT LIST OF DECISIONS and ACTIONS FROM HCA-19 including**

|  |  |
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| * **Appendix 1:** | **HCA-19 HPWG Peninsula Survey Plan** |
| * **Appendix 2:** | **HCA-19 Region M ICCWG Decisions and Action** |

**(as of 18 April 2024)**

| **Decision/Action** | **Agenda Item** | **Details** | **Target Date** | **Status**  **(April 2024)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1.** | **Opening – Welcome Address** |  |  |
| HCA19/01 |  | **HCA Chair** thanked **RAdm Massimiliano Nannini, Director of the IIM**, for his warm welcome address in presence of the representative of the City of Venice, and **Italy** for hosting HCA-19 in such a historical and inspiring venue.  He also welcomed the three new HCA Members (**NL**, **PL** and **TR**) as well as those Members present in-person in Venice and those attending by VTC. |  | Decision |
| HCA19/02 |  | In his opening address, the **HCA Chair** reminded HCA Members with those fundamental principles of the Antarctic Treaty (1959), fully reflected in the HCA Statutes, for the purpose of the conduct of hydrography in the *Southern Ocean.* The importance for HCA to get involved in the programmes and actions in relation to the impact of climate change in this specific region was also highlighted. |  |  |
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|  | **2.** | **Approval of Agenda and Timetable – HCA Chair Report** |  |  |
| HCA19/03 |  | The **HCA** approved the agenda and timetable as proposed. |  | Decision |
| HCA19/04 |  | The **HCA** noted the **HCA Chair** report on the IHO activities relevant for HCA since the last Conference.  The **HCA Chair** also thanked **Mr Lee Truscott (UKHO), HPWG Chair and Region M ICCWG Coordinator** for conducting a fruitful workshop the day before HCA-19 opening. |  | Decision |
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|  | **3.** | **HCA Membership Status and Statutes** |  |  |
| HCA19/05 |  | **HCA Members and Observers** to provide their updates on the HCA Membership List to the **HCA Sec.** as appropriate. | **Permanent** | Last update: 26 February 2024 |
| HCA19/06 | 03C | Following Decision A3/17, **HCA** noted that Art. 8(e) of the *General Regulations of the IHO* (IHO Publication M-1) had been amended accordingly. |  | Decision |
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|  | **5.** | **Review of Status of List of Actions resulting from HCA-18** |  |  |
| HCA19/07  (former HCA18/08, …, HCA15/07) | 05A | **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. | Reminder | Decision |
| HCA19/08 (former HCA18/09, …, HCA16/07b) |  | **HCA Members**, binded by the Antarctic Treaty[[1]](#footnote-1), are encouraged to ensure that bathymetric information contained in their surveys[[2]](#footnote-2) (survey coverage metadata as a minimum) is transmitted to the IHO DCDB (ATCM Resolution No 06/2019, as approved at ATCM XLII). | **Permanent** | Decision |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **6.** | **ATCM, COMNAP, SCAR, and IAATO** |  |  |
|  | **6.1** | **ATCM, SCAR, and IAATO** |  |  |
| HCA19/09 | 6.1A | **HCA** noted the highlights provided by the **HCA Secretariat** in the IHO report to ATCM XLV (2023): news areas free of ice, no adequate surveys for safe navigation, new S-100 Products and ENDS to come, and consideration for possible amendments to the IMO Polar Code, if appropriate (in liaison with ARHC).  **HCA Chair** to raise these issues at ARHC-14 and then invite **ARHC/HCA Members** to consider an action plan for submitting relevant updates to the IMO Polar Code if appropriate. | **Sept. 2024** |  |
| HCA19/10 | 6.1A | Regarding the ATCM Multi-Year Strategic Work Plan (See Section 9 in Annex of the ATCM XLV Final Report), **HCA Chair** to plan the preparation and insertion of a progress report in the IHO Report to ATCM XLVII.  **HCA Secretariat** (supported by **Chile**, yy, **UK**) to prepare the annexes of the IHO Report (geographic survey coverage, graphics of products and services, overlays, or link to HCA GIS?). | **ATCM XLVII (2025) in Italy? – 3 months** |  |
| HCA19/11 |  | **HCA** agreed to plan a short HCA VTC01 early 2025 in preparation of ATCM XLVII (survey coverage status and plans, progress made since ATCM Resolutions on hydrography). | **March 2025** |  |
| HCA19/12 | 6.1A | **HCA Chair** invited **HCA Members** who plan to participate in ATCM XLVI in Kochi, India, to network and promote HCA activities in social events and side-discussion meetings, and plenary sessions as appropriate.  **HCA Members** are invited in particular to liaise with their heads of delegations to confirm the intention of the IHO to provide an update on the ATCM Multi-Year Strategic Work Plan (Section 9) in 2025 at ATCM XLVII. | **ATCM XLVI**  **May 2024** |  |
| HCA19/13 (former HCA18/12, …, HCA16/11) | 6.1B, 6.1C | 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-20**, and as appropriate |  |
| HCA19/14 | 6.1B | **HCA** commended **Dr Chandrika Nath**, **SCAR** representative, for her very comprehensive report and noted the information for a better understanding of future sea level change in Antarctica as well as the announcement of the 5th International Polar Year 2032-2033 IPY).  **HCA** to consider this event as a possible input in the preparation of the IHO Strategic Plan 2027 – 2032 and associated 3-year Work Programmes. | **A-4 (- 6 months)** |  |
| HCA19/15 |  | By HCA invitation of HCA, **Chile**, as HCA Member, kindly agreed to represent the HCA at the forthcoming 11th SCAR Open Science Conference, planned in Pucón, Chile. | **26-28 August 2024** |  |
| HCA19/16 |  | **HCA** thanked **Dr Lisa Kelley, IAATO** representative for her continuous support to the IHO. |  |  |
| HCA19/17  (former HCA18/11, …, HCA15/11) | 6.1C | **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).  **Norway** (as **GGC Chair**) to engage with **IAATO** Director of Operations on this matter. | **HCA-20** |  |
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|  | **7.** | **HCA activities in relation to the IHO Work Programme** |  |  |
|  | **7.1** | **IHO-IOC GEBCO, IBCSO and Seabed 2030** |  |  |
| HCA19/18 | 7.1A | **HCA** noted the update on IBCSO version 2 (June 2022) provided by Dr Boris Dorschel (AWI) and the main outcome of the Fifth Arctic-Antarctic and North Pacific Mapping Meeting. |  |  |
| HCA19/19 (former HCA18/19) | 7.1B | Following up on ATCM Resolution 6 (2019), **HCA Chair** to invite **HCA** **Members** to report at HCA-20, as part of their national reports, how they engage with their national marine research institutes to improve their contribution to GEBCO / Seabed 2030. (survey data to be used for charts to be shared with GEBCO, no specific request for process data in charts due). | **HCA-20** |  |
| HCA19/20 | 7.1B | **HCA** noted the GEBCO update provided by the **GGC Chair,** highlighting the new GEBCO strategy and governance report, as well as the IHO DCDB data holdings in Antarctica.  The GGC Chair suggested that the HCA invites the National Hydrographic Offices represented in HCA to participate in the CSB workshop held in April 2024 ([IHO CL 14/2024](https://iho.int/uploads/user/circular_letters/eng_2024/CL14_2024_EN_v1.pdf) refers) | **To be considered for IHO Report to ATCM-47** |  |
| HCA19/21  (former HCA18/15) |  | **HCA** noted the Olex issue and invited Members to contribute to the relevant IHO bodies (CSBWG, DQWG) on this matter. | **HCA-20** |  |
| HCA19/22 |  | **HCA** agreed that the IHO (**GGC** in liaison with **IHO Secretariat**) should promote (tutorial?) the data flow at high level (ATCM, and others contributing parties, ) to stimulate the provision of data to the IHO DCDB and metadata survey coverage (planned and existing) and, in return, facilitate the pull-push mode to get a one stop-shop discovery access on an annual basis. | **HCA-20** |  |
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|  | **7.2A** | **National Reports** |  |  |
| HCA19/23 |  | **HCA** noted the national reports delivered or provided by **AR, AU, BR, CL, CN, CO, DE, , ES, FR, GB, IT, JP, KR, NL, NO, NZ, PE, PL, RU, TR, US, VE** and **ZA** and commended the HOs for the high quality of the information provided. |  | Decision |
| HCA19/24 |  | In accordance with the Antarctic Treaty and HCA Statutes, **HCA** requested **Russian Federation (DNO)** to provide the metadata of the survey in Bellingshausen Sea to the HCA Secretariat…  … … and to consider the provision of the data to GEBCO / Seabed 2030. | **Asap**  **Asap, March 2025 at the latest in preparation of ATCM-XLVII** |  |
| HCA19/25 |  |  |  |  |
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|  | **7.3A&B** | **HCA Hydrography Priorities Working Group** |  |  |
| HCA19/26 |  | Based on the inputs provided in national reports and several bilateral exchanges, the **HPWG Chair** reported on the survey activities in the region.  The **HCA** welcomed the offer made by the **HPWG Chair** for VTC meetings, as and when required. | **In preparation of HCA-20** |  |
| HCA19/27 |  | The **HCA** approved the new additional complementary survey requirements (outstanding requirements for the Peninsula MSRs) as proposed by the HPWG Chair and provided in **Appendix 1** to this List of Decisions and Actions (Doc. HCA19-07.3A refers, Peninsula Survey Plan, including amendments discussed and agreed at the workshop). |  |  |
| HCA19/28 |  | **HPWG Chair** to provide the HCA Secretariat with the new agreed Peninsula Survey Plan (as of HCA-19), for publication. | **Asap, no later than 30 April 2024** |  |
| HCA19/29  (former 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. | **September 2025**  **HCA-20** |  |
| HCA19/30 |  | **HCA Members** to supply survey metadata to HCA GIS, through or cc **HPWG chair**, using the online formstack submission process, keeping HPWG informed. | **Permanent** |  |
| HCA19/31  (former HCA18/28) |  | **HCA** thanked **IAATO** for the review of regional Aids to Navigation.  **HCA Members** to keep the current list available on the IHO HCA webpage up-to-date.  **HCA Secretariat** to liaise with **IALA** for them to consider providing their metadata (if any) to the **IHO Secretariat** for HCA GIS repository. | **HCA-20**  **HCA-20** | (Existing IALA risk assessment studies in Region M to be investigated) |
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|  | **7.4A** | **Region M ICCWG** |  |  |
| HCA19/32 |  | Based on the inputs provided in national reports and several bilateral exchanges, the **Region M ICCWG Chair** proposed options on the evolution of charting schemes (INT charts and ENCs) in the region.  The **HCA** welcomed the offer made by the **Region M ICCWG Chair** for VTC meetings, as and when required. | **In preparation of HCA-20** |  |
| HCA19/33 |  | Based on the outcome of the workshop, the **HCA** approved the proposed evolution of the charting schemes and the allocation of the production to **HCA Members** in general.  Subsequent decisions are reflected in the updated plan provided in **Appendix 2** to this List of Decisions and Actions (Doc. HCA19-07.4A refers, including amendments discussed and agreed at the workshop and in plenary). |  | Decision |
| HCA19/34 |  | **Region M ICCWG Chair** to provide the HCA Secretariat with the new agreed charting scheme (as of HCA-19), for publication.  Accordingly, **HCA Members** to submit these agreed charting plans through INToGIS iaw S-11 Part B (schemes). | **Asap, no later than 30 April 2024**  **May 2024** |  |
| HCA19/35 |  | **HCA** commended **Mr Lee Truscott and Ms Laura Caton (UKHO)** for their outstanding preparation work on the charting schemes, in the weeks preceding HCA-19. |  | Decision |
| HCA19/36  (former 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** |  |
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|  | **7.5A** | **IHO HCA GIS and INToGIS III** |  |  |
| HCA19/37 |  | **HCA** noted the report from the IHO Secretariat on HCA GIS and INToGIS III. |  |  |
| HCA19/38  (former 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-20** | Any MS volunteering for experimentation? |
| HCA19/39 |  | **HCA** welcomed the offer from X, Y, Z to experiment INToGIS III in Region M in particular, as planned in the development plan of this system. | **Mid-September 2024** |  |
|  | **7.6A** | **S-100 in Region M** |  |  |
| HCA19/40  (former HCA18/40) |  | Anticipating the outcome of IRCC-14 on the recommendations from the **WENDWG** regarding 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**: **DE** (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/DE** (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/DE** | **WENDWG-13/ HCA-19** | Reminder |
| HCA19/41 |  | **HCA** noted the new draft List of S-100 Coordinators under development (currently under S-11 Part B on the IHO website). | **HCA-20**  **(maintenance at every HCA Conference** |  |
| HCA19/42 |  | **HCA** invited the **Region M S-1xx Coordinators** (listed above in HCA18/41) to submit an preliminary work plan to **HCA Secretariat**. | **January 2025**  in preparation of the IHO Report to ATCM-47(and WENDWG-15)  …then **HCA-20** |  |
| HCA19/43 |  | The **HCA** noted the outcome of the WENDWG14 meeting and agreed on the global strategy for S-1xx coordination and production in Region M. | **WENDWG-15/HCA-20** |  |
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|  | **8.** | **Any other business – Preparation of IRCC-16 and C-8** |  |  |
|  | **8.1** | **Next IHO Strategic Plan for Antarctica (Climate Change, etc.) (Decision C7/37**  **refers)** |  |  |
| HCA19/44 |  | **HCA** agreed in general with all the proposed actions identified in the open discussion on the IHO Strategic Plan and Climate Change (Doc. HCA19-08.1A refers). |  | Decision |
| HCA19/45 |  | **HCA Vice-Chair in liaison with US and HCA Secretariat** (if agreed) to manage this specific HCA climate change action plan. | **HCA-20** |  |
| HCA19/46 |  | **HCA Chair** to include this proposed HCA Climate Change Action Plan in his report to IRCC-16 as well as the need to improve the relation between IHO activities (and HCA activities) and the UN Ocean Decade projects. | **IRCC-16** |  |
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|  | **9.** | **Election of Vice-Chair** |  |  |
| HCA19/47 |  | The **HCA** thanked **Mr Patrick Dorr (NGA, USA)** for his six years in service as active HCA Vice-Chairand elected **Chile** (**RAdm Arturo Oxley, Director of SHOA)** as new **Vice-Chair**.  **Chile** will serve until the end of the first HCA Conference after A-4 (2027). |  | Decision Art. 5.2 of HCA Statutes applies. |
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|  | **10.** | **Date and Venue of Next Conferences** |  |  |
| HCA19/48 |  | **HCA** agreed on the principles that the workshops of HPWG and Region M ICCWG should be arranged as in-person meetings only.  **HCA** also noted the comment from **Australia** on the value of hybrid meetings. |  | Decision |
| HCA19/49 |  | **HCA Members** welcomed the confirmation of the offer from **Chile** to host HCA-20 in Punta Arenas, from 2 to 6 December 2025. | **HCA-20** | Logistic information to be provided at least six months prior to the event |
| HCA19/50 |  | **HCA** welcomed the preliminary offer from **Türkiye** to consider hosting HCA-21 in April 2027 (dates and venue to be confirmed at the next Conference). | **HCA-20** | HCA Secretariat suggests no HCA Conference in 2026 due to A-4, VTC in 2026, if appropriate, or side discussion at A-4. |
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|  | **12.** | **Closure – End of Conference** |  |  |
| HCA19/51 |  | In conclusion, **Dr Mathias Jonas,** Secretary-General of the IHO and HCA Chair, thanked all participants for their valuable inputs to the Conference, the Chair of HPWG and Region M ICCWG Coordinator, and the out-going HCA Secretary. |  |  |

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. Even those motivated by charting upgrades. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)