

8th April 2023

HCA Integrated Chart Coordination WG

Letter No. 1/2024

To: Members of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica

Subject: IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica 19. Region M ICCWG Workshop – Review of Schemed Charts

Dear Members,

As our scheduled pre-meeting workshop approaches, I wanted to emphasize the critical need for reflection and action regarding our Antarctic charting progress, particularly considering the upcoming S10X product phase between 2026 and 2029.

Having participated in several HCA meetings, I've observed a concerning trend regarding the delivery of legacy paper and first-generation electronic charts, including those conceived roughly 30 years ago with the establishment of the HCA PWGCA. It's evident, in my opinion, that as a commission, we have fallen short in fulfilling these charting commitments. This realization is further reinforced by the fact that over 90% of IATTO vessels operate on unofficial Olex data beyond our coverage areas, which is accepted by their insurance providers due to the lack of alternative options.

In preparation for our upcoming workshop, I've been reviewing the scheme alongside Laura Caton, who has been diligently creating mock-ups and concept charts of the outstanding charts required to complete the scheme. We've also been considering proposals for new coverage and revised areas.

In our workshop discussions, I intend to convey that the delay in production and promulgation of valuable information is primarily due to resource constraints and competing priorities. Therefore, I will advocate for setting a pressing target of completing the scheme by the 2024/25 season.

It's imperative that we collectively address these challenges head-on and commit to prioritizing Antarctic charting efforts. Our actions will not only ensure the safety of navigation in the region but also ensure we can be fully focused on the next generation of products and services.

Considering this, I kindly request that producer nations come prepared to discuss what is required to complete their production allocation for Antarctic nautical charting. This should involve a thorough review of current progress, identification of any challenges or bottlenecks, and exploration of potential solutions to expedite production, including the reallocation of production responsibilities.

At the same time, I encourage all other members to consider if they are able to assist in production efforts. Whether through additional resources, expertise, or collaboration, your contributions can significantly expedite the timely completion of our shared goals.

I look forward to our discussions and the opportunity to work together towards our common objectives. If you have any questions or require further information ahead of the workshop, please do not hesitate to reach out.

The concept charts can be downloaded via the following temporary link: <https://we.tl/t-p70E5WucxL>

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I eagerly anticipate our productive workshop.

Best regards,

Lee Truscott

IHO HCA Region M Coordinator