



Ministerio de Defensa
Servicio de Hidrografía Naval

BUENOS AIRES, September 15th, 2020.

Distinguished colleagues from HCA

First, I hope that this horrible pandemic is treating you well and that you, your staff and your families are in good health. Here, the infection curve is still rising, and we are forced to take many precautions, including social isolation.

As you all know, Argentina has the responsibility and ratifies the strong commitment of editing and maintaining INT 9120 Deception Island, whose situation is widely known and has been debated during the last meetings of the commission, originating actions 14/17, 15/15 and 16/20, which until now have not had significant progress.

As long as we manage to accomplish those actions, and ratifying cooperation willingness and teamwork spirit into the frame of HCA, we have to consider that our most important goal is nautical safety and delivery of the best data available to navigators. Next austral summer season is approaching and it is essential to provide safety of navigation in such an important place as is Deception Island, since it is not only a hot spot for different national Antarctic programmes but also for touristic activities.

Meanwhile, and conscious of the importance of the availability of a NE of this chart, I have allocated human and technical resources to produce the NE of INT 9120. After verifying with the chair of the HPWG that no other recent surveys than the contained in those charts are available, I ordered to do it using the most recent information from each of the charts in the area: Argentina, Chile, Spain and the United Kingdom.

This NE is now under production and “*full ahead*”, with the intention to release it close to the beginning of the austral summer. So, kindly request the collaboration of the distinguished members of the HCA through the contribution of any recent survey available.

By this way, IHO would be offering the best tool to the entire international nautical community that will sail in those waters next summer.

My very best regards,

Commodore VALENTÍN SANZ RODRÍGUEZ
Director of Servicio de Hidrografía Naval

HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION OF ANTARCTICA
CHAIR AND MEMBERS