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IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA)

HCA Letter 02/2021

17th Conference (HCA-17), Video teleconference (VTC), 14 June 2021

References:

- A. HCA-16 Summary Report and Decision HCA16/30.
- B. Advanced Notice: HCA-17 and Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) XLIII, 2021 – Email from HCA Secretariat dated 14 January 2021.
- C. ATCM XLIII, Secretariat Note No. 5 dated 15 April 2022 - *Decision on whether to hold the meeting by videoconference* (Doc. HCA17-06.1B refers).
- D. e-HCA Letter 01/2021 dated 23 February 2021 - *Data request for the compilation of the 2nd version of IBCSO*.

Dear HCA Members, colleagues and observers,

1. As indicated in References A and B, HCA-17 was planned to be held in Paris in conjunction of ATCM XLIII, thanks to the kind offer made by Shom, France, to host our Conference at the same dates.
2. Following the evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Secretariat of ATCM XLIII announced recently that the ATCM XLIII meeting will be virtual only (See Reference C). After careful considerations and in liaison with Shom, France, it is therefore considered that the most effective option is that HCA-17 should be virtual as well, shortened, but held at the same dates in order to keep some momentum in our activities and progress with some important topics.

17th Conference of the HCA

3. HCA-17 will be held as a virtual event on Monday 14 June, from 13:00 to 16:00 (UTC+2, CEST) using the *gotomeeting* platform. The link will be provided on the HCA-17 webpage (<https://iho.int/en/hca17-2021>) in due course. A couple of test sessions can be arranged on request to be sent the HCA Secretary (yves.quillam@iho.int).
4. Those who intend to participate in HCA-17 are requested to register online (<https://iho.int/en/online-registration>) **no later than 14 June 2021**.

Agenda

5. Due to the VTC mode, the agenda is planned be limited to:
 - a. A review of decisions and actions from HCA-16;
 - b. A review of a proposal to amend the HCA Statutes (Action HCA16/04 refers);
 - c. A status report on the development of the GEBCO IBCSO 2.0 (Reference D);

- d. A status report from the Hydrographic Priorities Working Group;
- e. A presentation of the IHO/HCA Secretariat report to ATCM, and the expected participation in the forthcoming virtual ATCM XLIII meeting.

6. National reports on activities in Antarctica are not requested for HCA-17. It is planned to postpone this item to HCA-18.

7. The corresponding provisional agenda and timetable will be uploaded on the HCA-17 webpage in due course.

Initial plan for HCA-18

8. Due to the limited scope of HCA-17, it is proposed to plan HCA-18 in 2022 so the items not covered in 2021 can be addressed in a year. Noting that it is likely that ATCM XLIV will be held in Berlin, Germany (still to be confirmed), the HCA Secretariat suggests to keep the option in mind of having HCA-18 in conjunction with ATCM XLIV again, as a face-to-face event this time, in Germany at the same dates of ATCM XLIV. The HCA Secretariat will liaise with BSH, Germany, to investigate the possibilities once the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat confirms that Germany has been retained for 2022.

9. HCA Members are invited to provide their comments and inputs to the HCA Secretariat on this proposed bespoke plan and scenario for HCA-17/HCA-18, **no later than 15 May 2021**.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General and HCA Chair

Distribution: HCA Members, GEBCO IBCSO, Observers, HCA Vice-Chair.