

**THIS HCA LETTER REQUIRES YOU TO VOTE****HCA Letter No. 01/2022****IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA)
18th Conference Berlin, Germany, 24 – 26 May 2022****21 February 2022****To:** [HCA Members, Observers](#)Reference: [Minutes of the 17th IHO HCA Conference](#), dated 1 September 2021.

Dear Sir or Madam,

1. 18th Conference of the HCA

As indicated at the 17th Conference of the HCA in June 2021 (See Reference, paragraph 18), the 18th Conference of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA-18) will take place in Berlin, Germany, from 24 to 26 May 2022, in conjunction with ATCM XLIV. The Secretariat of the IHO is in charge of the organisation of the event. The HCA Secretariat looks forward to the physical presence of at least a third of HCA Members, but HCA-18 will also be run as a hybrid event supporting remote participation. HCA Members participating remotely will be obviously counted for the quorum (HCA Statutes, Art. 4.5 refers).

1.1 Agenda and Draft Programme

A preliminary agenda and timetable for the Conference is proposed in Annex A. You are kindly requested to review this draft agenda and timetable and to provide your inputs, comments and suggestions for changes or improvements **not later than 31 March 2022** (by derogation to HCA Statutes, Art. 6.2). A provisional agenda will then be made available **by 24 April 2022** (by derogation to HCA Statutes, Art. 6.3).

The draft general programme of the HCA event is as follows.

Date	Time (UTC+2, CEST)	Action	Comments / Lead
23 May	15:00 – 18:00	Internal IT tests, bandwidth, video camera, meeting room arrangements	HCA Secretariat
23 May	18:00	Antarctic Ice-breaker (<i>to be confirmed</i>)	In-person participants
24 May	09:00 – 09:30	Welcome, IT Test Session with VTC participants	HCA Secretariat
24 May	09:30 – 12:30	HPWG Meeting	Chair HPWG ¹
24 May	13:30 – 17:00	Region M ICCWG Meeting	Chair Region M Coord ¹
<i>Lobbying, networking at ATCM by HCA Members, Heads of Delegation, HCA Chair, as appropriate</i>			

¹ Mr Lee Truscott (UKHO).

25 May	09:00 – 12:30	HCA-18 – Session 1	
25 May	13:30 – 17:00	HCA-18 – Session 2	
<i>Lobbying, networking at ATCM by HCA Members, Heads of Delegation, HCA Chair, as appropriate</i>			
26 May	09:00 – 12:30	HCA-18 – Session 3	
26 May	13:30 – 17:00	HCA-18 – Session 4	End of HCA-18

1.2 Venue and Accommodation

The HCA-18 will take place at the NH Collection Berlin Hotel², Friedrichstraße 96, 10117 Berlin. General and logistics information will be posted on the HCA-18 webpage (<https://iho.int/en/hca18-2022>), as soon as the contract with the hotel is signed. The HCA Secretariat is currently negotiating accommodation package rates and cancellation policies for HCA-18 attendees at the NH Collection Berlin Hotel. Further logistic information will follow shortly and will be uploaded on the HCA-18 webpage as and when it becomes available. You are kindly invited to monitor the updates on the HCA-18 webpage periodically.

1.3 Registration

Those who intend to participate in HCA-18 are requested to register [online](#)³, **no later than 31 March 2022**, for participants who intend to be physically present, **no later than 30 April 2022** for those unable to travel and who will participate by VTC.

Based on previous attendance of HCA Conferences, and due to meeting room limitations, the venue has been booked for a maximum of 25 delegates. HCA Members are therefore invited to consider sending no more than one representative per delegation unless a Member bears a specific HCA office duty⁴. As a consequence, those HCA Members who will not be able to participate are more than welcome to provide their written comments to the various agenda items if they so wish.

2. **Actions from HCA-17**

The minutes of the 17th HCA Conference are available from the IHO website. An updated version of the Actions List from HCA-17 providing the current status of the actions will be made available on the HCA18 webpage.

3. **National Reports to HCA-18**

3.1 HCA Members are reminded that they should provide the HCA Secretary with their national reports at least one month in advance of HCA conferences. This means that national reports should reach the IHO Secretariat **not later than 24 April 2022**.

3.2 **Format and content for national reports.** As the experimentation made at HCA-14 was successful, and in order to encourage an efficient meeting and at the same time reduce the preparation workload for participants, no written national reports are required. Instead, all Member States (whether attending the meeting or not) are invited to provide their national reports as Microsoft PowerPoint presentations using the template which will be available as Doc. HCA18-07.2A on the IHO website (<https://iho.int/en/hca18-2022>).

3.3 The template is intended to cover all the key points that should be of mutual interest to all participants at the Conference.

² <https://www.nh-collection.com/en/hotel/nh-collection-berlin-mitte-friedrichstrasse>.

³ Select: "face-to-face" or "VTC".

⁴ UK (Chair of HPWG, Region N Coordinator) and USA (HCA Vice-Chair) for instance.

3.4 National representatives are furthermore requested to ensure that they are appropriately briefed on all relevant aspects of their respective national Antarctic programmes in order to contribute actively to the HCA Hydrographic Priorities Working Group that will meet and provide recommendations as part of the Conference.

4. Networking opportunities at ATCM XLIV

There is no specific Seminar on Hydrography planned at the ATCM XLIV this time. However, in response to their invitation, the HCA Chair is consulting the Secretariat of the Antarctica Treaty at the moment, as well as the host of ATCM XLIV. Opportunities for HCA Members to meet ATCM participants and get involved in ATCM events will be reported to HCA Members, as appropriate.

Meanwhile, in-person participants in HCA-18 are strongly invited to register in ATCM XLIV through their national representative as in 2019. ATCM XLIV Secretariat's Notes are uploaded on the HCA-18 webpage to facilitate the process and for your consideration.

5. Call for the approval of amendments to the HCA Statutes

Following the intersessional work of the HCA Vice-Chair and the HCA Secretariat on the HCA Statutes (Reference, Action HCA17/03), the outcome is available as Doc. HCA18-03C on the HCA-18 webpage (<https://iho.int/en/hca18-2022>), Members are invited to consider approval of the amendments of the HCA Statutes by providing their reply at their earliest convenience and **no later than 30 March 2022** by email (cl-ic@iho.int) using the Voting Form provided in Annex B or, but preferably, using the IHO Online Form System available at the following link:

https://IHO.formstack.com/forms/hca01_22

The objective of this vote by correspondence under the current Statutes in force (Art. 10.2 refers), prior to HCA-18, is pragmatic: it is expected that the HCA Statutes as amended are in force at the beginning of the event.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General
Chair, HCA

Enclosures: Annex A – Draft Agenda / Timetable for HCA-18
Annex B – Voting form

**IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA)
18th Conference Berlin, Germany, 24 – 26 May 2022**

DRAFT AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

Note: all time in UTC+2, CEST.

Monday 23 May	HCA-18
1800	Antarctic Ice-Breaker <i>(to be confirmed)</i>
Tuesday 24 May	HCA-18 – Hydrographic Priorities Working Group (HPWG)
	Join the meeting: <i>to be completed</i>
0900-0930	Welcome, IT testing session for VTC participants
0930	HPWG Working Session
1030-1050	Coffee Break
1050	HPWG Working Session
1230-1330	Lunch Break
1350	Region M ICCWG Working Session
1500-1520	Coffee Break
1520	Region M ICCWG Working Session
1700	End of HPWG and Region M ICCWG Working Sessions
Wednesday 25 May	HCA-18 – Hydrographic Priorities Working Group (HPWG) Session 1
0900	1. Opening – Welcome Address <i>Docs: HCA18-01A List of Documents HCA18-01B List of Participants HCA18-01C HCA Chair Introduction</i>
0920	2.- Approval of Agenda and Timetable <i>Docs: HCA18-02A Agenda & Timetable</i>

0925	4.- Election of Vice-Chair <i>Docs: HCA18-04A Election of Vice-Chair</i>
0930	3.- HCA Membership Status <i>Docs: HCA18-03A HCA Membership and Observers List HCA18-03B HCA Statutes in force (until 23 May 2022) HCA18-03C New Edition of the HCA Statutes (approved? – to be confirmed) – Proposal to amend General Regulations of the IHO (Annex 4).</i>
0950	5.- Review of Status of List of Actions resulting from HCA-17 <i>Docs: HCA18-05A Status of Actions List from the 16th HCA Conference HCA18-05B Minutes of the 16th HCA Conference</i>
1000	7.- HCA activities in relation to the IHO Work Programme 7.1 Interaction with IOC GEBCO /IBCSO/Seabed 2030 <i>Docs: HCA18-07.1A GEBCO/IBCSO 2.0/Seabed 2030 Project Report</i>
1030-1050	Coffee Break
1050	7.2 HCA National Reports <i>Docs: HCA18-07.2A National Summary Reports (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, ...)</i>
1230-1330	End Session 1 - Lunch Break – Session 2
1350	7.3 HCA Hydrography Priorities Working Group <i>Docs: HCA17-07.3A HPWG Report</i>
1500-1520	Coffee Break
1520	7.2 HCA National Reports (cont.) <i>Docs: HCA18-07.2A National Summary Reports (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, ...)</i>
1700	End of Session 2
Thursday 26 May	HCA-18 – Hydrographic Priorities Working Group (HPWG) Session 3
0900	6.- ATCM, COMNAP, SCAR, and IAATO <i>Docs: HCA18-06.1A IHO Report to ATCM XLIV or review of existing ATCM Resolutions HCA18-06.1B SCAR activities affecting the IHO HCA18-06.1C IAATO activities affecting the IHO HCA18-06.1D HCA Members participation/attendance in ATCM XLIV (to be discussed)</i>

0930	7.5 IHO HCA GIS Docs: HCA18-07.5A <i>Update on the IHO HCA GIS – INToGIS III in Polar Regions</i>
0950	7.2 HCA National Reports (cont.) Docs: HCA18-07.2A <i>National Summary Reports (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, ...)</i>
1030-1050	Coffee Break
1050	7.4 Region M ICCWG Docs: HCA18-07.4A <i>Region M ICCWG Report – Implementation of S-100 services in Region M</i>
1200	8.- Any Other Business – Preparation of IRCC-14 and C-6 Docs: HCA18-08.1A <i>Open Discussion on the limits and naming of the [Southern Ocean] – Way forward</i> HCA18-08.1B <i>Proposal from Chile (to be confirmed) on the naming Southern Ocean</i>
1230-1330	End Session 3 - Lunch Break – Session 4
1350	8.- Any Other Business – Preparation of IRCC-14 and C-6 (cont.) Docs: HCA18-08.1A <i>Open Discussion on the limits and naming of the [Southern Ocean] – Way forward</i> HCA18-08.1B <i>Proposal from Chile (to be confirmed) on the naming Southern Ocean</i>
1430	9.- Date and Venue of Next Conferences <i>HCA-19, in 2024 (dates and venue to be discussed)</i>
1440	10.- Review of the Decisions and Actions List
1530	11.- Closure – End of Conference
	End of Session 4 – End of HCA-18

**CALL FOR APPROVAL
OF AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES OF THE
IHO HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON ANTARCTICA**

Voting Form

(to be returned to the IHO Secretariat by 30 March 2022)

E-mail: cl-lc@iho.int - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)

Note: The boxes will expand as you type your answers.

Member State:

Contact:

E-mail:

- 1) Do you approve the amendments as presented in Doc. HCA18-03C and therefore the new Edition of the Statutes to enter into force on 24 May 2022? *(tick the appropriate box)?*

YES

NO

2) Comments:

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Signature:

Date:
