

THIS HCA LETTER REQUIRES YOU TO VOTE

HCA Letter No. 05/2022

**IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA)
Membership**

13 December 2022

To: IHO Member States, having the status of Consultative and non-Consultative Parties to the Antarctic Treaty, not HCA Members yet

Copy: [HCA Members](#)

References: A. [Summary Report of the 18th Conference of the HCA](#)
B. [HCA Statutes](#).

Dear Sir or Madam,

1. This HCA Letter is to inform you that new HCA Statutes are in force since May 2022 (Reference B). These Statutes offer the possibility for all IHO Member States to become HCA Member (or Associate Member) as long as they contribute "*to the provision of hydrographic data, products and services supporting marine safety of navigation within, and/or the wider use of marine geospatial information of the Antarctic region*".
2. At HCA-18 in May 2022 (See Reference A, Action HCA18/03), HCA decided to promote HCA Membership to those States who are IHO Member States and Parties to the Antarctica Treaty (i.e. Consultative or non-Consultative Parties recognized by the AT), namely: Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Finland, Malaysia, Monaco, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Türkiye, and Ukraine.
3. Therefore, this HCA Letter invites you to consider the possibility of bringing your experience, knowledge and contribution to the HCA, by becoming a full Member. This can be achieved by providing a copy of the HCA Statutes with the signature of your representative at your end. Please note that the representative of your country can be different from the National Hydrographer listed in the IHO Yearbook in the case marine research activities in Antarctica are under the responsibility of your National Polar Institute for instance.
4. I take this opportunity to inform you that two proposals related to Antarctica are to be submitted to the 3rd Session of the Assembly in May 2023. One relates to an amendment to the IHO General Regulations pertaining to the expanded scope of contributions expected from HCA Members under the renewed HCA Statutes. The second concerns the recognition of the Southern Ocean. Participating in HCA Conferences (at least once between two sessions of the Assembly) and activities gives your country the possibility to become much more aware and involved in the challenges in an area of crucial importance for the future of the Planet.

5. IHO Members (only those listed as recipients for action of this letter, see paragraph 2 as well), are kindly invited to reply to the questionnaire/voting form provided in Annex A at their earliest convenience and **no later than 31 March 2023** by email (cl-ic@iho.int) using the Voting Form, but preferably by using the IHO Online Form System available at the following link:

https://IHO.formstack.com/forms/hca_cl_05_22

I look forward to meeting most of you, as new HCA Members, at the next HCA-19 Conference which is planned in 2024 in Italy.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General
Chair, HCA

Enclosure: Annex A – Voting form

**CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP OF
THE IHO HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON ANTARCTICA**

Voting Form

*(to be returned to the IHO Secretariat **by 31 March 2023**)*

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:

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1) Do you want your country to become HCA Member? (*tick the appropriate box*)?

YES

NO

If yes, please send a signed copy of the HCA Statutes to the IHO Secretariat (last page only) and provide the contact details of your representative.

2) **Comments:**

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Signature:

Date:

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