

11th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
IHO IRCC11 Genoa, Italy, 3-5 June 2019

SOUTHERN AFRICAN AND ISLANDS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

SAIHC report to IRCC11

1. Chair

Chair: Rear Admiral Tim Lowe CBE (UK)

Vice Chair: Captain Theo Stokes (South Africa)

2. Membership

Members: France, Mauritius, Mozambique, Norway, South Africa, Seychelles, and United Kingdom.

Associate

Members: Angola, Comoros, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Portugal, and Tanzania.

Observers: GEBCO, IALA, RENCs, and Industry representatives.

3. Previous meeting:

15th SAIHC Conference, Eden Island, Seychelles: 27 - 30 August 2018

Next meeting: 16th SAIHC Conference will take place, 2 - 5 September 2019, in Cape Town, pending national approval with South Africa.

With a number of Members kindly offering to host the 16th SAIHC, and in accordance with the SAIHC Statutes, priority went to Kenya for 2019, however this was subject to national approval which was not received. Consequently, South Africa has kindly offered to stand in as host. The Chair also secured Mauritius to host the 17th SAIHC in 2020 and Mozambique to host the 18th SAIHC in 2021, subject to national approval, in order to aid future planning.

4. Current SAIHC Working Groups:

SAIHC ICCWG

SAIHC MSDI Working Group (2018) - agreed at 15th SAIHC

5. Status of IRCC actions (relevant for the SAIHC): .

No	ACTION (AGENDA ITEM)	RESP.	DEADLINE	SAIHC Action
IRCC10/3	to submit draft IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended (Annex C) to the RHC Members for comments and report back to IRCC (6.2)	RHC Chairs	October 2018	Action completed (see comments below)

The SAIHC Chair sent out the following SAIHC Letters:

- No 6/2018 - IRCC-10 Action 2 - RHC Chairs to submit draft IHO Resolution 2/1997 to RHC Members for comments
- No 7/2018 - SAIHC Response to IRCC regarding IHO Resolution 2/1997

Action C2/20: Noting the work still in progress for more substantive changes, IRCC to submit the consolidated amendments to the IHO Resolution 2/1997 at C-3 for subsequent approval at A-2.

IRCC10 Report - Annex D, List of Actions (Updated as of 23 November 2018) shows this action as ongoing.

IRCC10 Recommendations to RHCs were interwoven into the agenda and discussed under the relevant agenda items. This included the IRCC10 recommendation on the “one-year clock” for resolving overlapping ENCs within the WENDWG Report and assigning an MSDI ambassador and taking forward MSDI under the MSDI agenda item. The Chair suggested that to set up a regional MSDI, may help nations to develop their own MSDI process and infrastructure. A SAIHC MSDI Working Group was established, SAIHC15 Actions 11 and 12.

6. Agenda Items:

The SAIHC Conferences operate a standing agenda with modifications for new issues of regional importance as they arise. The principal agenda items are:

- Feedback from other IHO Bodies affecting SAIHC
 - 1st Meeting of the IHO Council
 - IRCC - actions and guidance to RHCs
 - CBSC
 - IHO Secretariat Report
- SAIHC Activities in the light of IHO Work programme:
 - ICCWG - INT chart scheme for Region H.
 - MSI - NAVAREA VII Self-Assessment.
 - Capacity Building
 - Bilateral and Regional Cooperation Agreements, Projects and Regional Capacity Building Management Plan. CBSC Technical Visits and Regional Projects.
 - Presentation of National Reports: Hydrographic surveying, nautical charting, nautical publications and information status.
 - Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting (C-55)
 - Procedures in response to Marine Disasters
 - Blue Economy - presented by Seychelles
- Marine / Hydrographic Spatial Data Infrastructure
- Feedback on Regional Projects
- Revision of SAIHC Statutes

7. SAIHC cooperation with stakeholders (organizations, industry, etc.):

Presentations were provided by the industry participants. AML Oceanographic presented on the importance of Sound Velocity for Hydrographic Seabed Mapping and Kongsberg Marine presented on extra detections which could identify masts and similar thin structures. Both presentations proved useful to SAIHC Member States supporting the value of industry participation. IMarEST also presented and the CB Coordinator encouraged SAIHC participants to register for their e-learning as a great free resource.

Active participation of IALA and GEBCO in SAIHC Conferences have added value to discussions and contributed positively to capacity building efforts within the region.

8. Conclusions:

The session on how to improve attendance during SAIHC14 resulted in excellent contributions, providing some highly valuable feedback, and resulting in improved attendance at SAIHC15 with the Hydrographic Awareness Seminar. Each of the participating Member and Associate Member States represented at the Conference provided a briefing on the status of hydrography, charting priorities, and activities in their areas of responsibility.

The significant highlights were:

- IALA, IHO, and IMO - “Delivering as one” achieved at the Hydrographic Awareness Seminar.
- MSDI initiative.
- The good progress being made with the aspirations of nations to attain IHO Membership.
- Technical and High-Level Visits

With respect to supporting and cooperating with the IOC Tsunami Warning Programme, it is recognized that the financial constraints of the SAIHC region will often be a prohibiting factor in setting up sea-level and tide gauge networks, particularly with the maintenance thereof to ensure a continued supply of information as recommended.

The provision of survey data and reports of changes that may affect safety of navigation in national waters by coastal states to INT Chart producer nations remains problematic and these requirements are constantly communicated.

The effective exchange of information is difficult to achieve, and communication must improve to allow for better execution of the SAIHC Capacity Building Strategy. Limited Capacity Building options are available as the majority of coastal states must still achieve Phase 1 of Hydrographic development.

The key challenge remains the participation of Associate Members of SAIHC, which has been unpredictable, and non-attendance of Conferences has often resulted in no submission of national reports and therefore no information to improve the SAIHC Capacity Building programme.

One of the actions arising from the meeting for Member States to review the revised IHO Resolution 1/2005 - IHO Response to Disasters, was duly actioned and the SAIHC region supports the recommended changes.

9. Achievements and lessons learned:

Achievements:

Attendance had improved from last year with participant numbers increased by approximately 20%. This has been achieved through the generosity and support of the IHO Capacity Building fund to sponsor attendance at the Hydrographic Awareness Seminar, following on from a special agenda item on improving attendance during SAIHC14, which provided valuable discussion and feedback.

The outcomes of National Hydrographic and Oceanographic Committees, where such committees exist, is encouraged to enable more focused support at SAIHC.

The importance of IHO membership was highlighted and Associate Members reported their progress with regards to in-country processes. Key highlights included:

- Seychelles welcomed as a full Member of the SAIHC having become the 88th Member of the IHO.
- India welcomed as an Associate Member in recognition of their significant regional contribution, in particular undertaking Primary Charting Authority activity on behalf of Mauritius.

The Statutes of the Commission was signed by Seychelles as a full Member and updated to include the flag for India.

The SAIHC ICCWG has successfully maintained the INT Chart Catalogue for Region H and progress has been made to create a similar ENC Scheme. C-55 has been actively reviewed, which alongside the ENC Scheme, provides a good indicator of adequate surveys and chart coverage, highlighting resultant gaps together with helping to assist prioritisation. INT Chart production in the region shows good progress and several new charts are in final stages of production.

There has been some useful activity during this reporting period to advance hydrography, nautical cartography and capability within the SAIHC region. Areas of activity include improved hydrographic equipment capability, data collection, product generation, capacity building and future concepts.

Lessons learned:

The awareness and provision of survey data to INT Chart producer nations remains paramount.

The recent Mozambique disaster at Beira highlighted that the necessity of having a Regional Disaster Plan cannot be understated. The lessons learnt from this recent event will be discussed at the next meeting. Much emphasis should be placed on communication/liaison between the Regional States as this will greatly enhance the response times to disaster.

10. Actions required of IRCC:

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. note the report.
- b. consider updating the RHC report to IRCC template, to include “IRCC recommendations to RHCs”.



Rear Admiral Tim Lowe CBE

Chairman Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC)