

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

HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON ANTARCTICA

HCA report to IRCC11

1. Chair

Chair: Dr Mathias JONAS (IHO Secretariat) from September 2017

Vice-Chair: Mr Patrick DORR (United States) from June 2018

2. Membership

Members:

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Uruguay, United Kingdom, USA, Venezuela.

Observer Organizations:

Antarctic Treaty Secretariat (ATS), Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes (COMNAP), International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO), Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), International Maritime Organization (IMO), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO), International Bathymetric Chart of the Southern Ocean (IBCSO).

3. Meetings:

Following HCA meetings have taken place:

15th HCA Conference 26 - 28 June 2018 (Niterói, Brazil)

Next meeting: 16th HCA Conference 3 – 5 July 2019 (Prague, CZ) in conjunction with ATCM XLII Conference

4. Current HCA Working Groups:

a) Hydrographic Priorities Working Group (HPWG)

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

IRCC10/6: HCA awaits IRCC11 endorsement of the amendments of the IHO Resolution 2/1997 to prepare editorials amendments to the Statutes and circulate a red-line version to HCA Members.

Note: Action list is available from:

www.iho.int/ircc > IRCC10

6. Agenda Items:

Check and update GMDSS Master Plan

HCA Members, in liaison with their NAVAREA Coordinators, to check national entries in the Annexes of the GMDSS Master Plan for the Antarctic region

Check and monitor ENC overlap

HCA agreed that the Region M Coordinator, in liaison with HCA Secretariat and the RENCs, has the responsibility to check and monitor ENC overlaps within the Antarctic region.

Extraction of bathymetric information for IHO DCDB

HCA agreed on the principles following up Action C1/34, that HCA Members should be encouraged to ensure that bathymetric information contained in their HCA ENCs should be extracted and transmitted to the IHO DCDB.

S-100 product based services for Antarctic waters

HCA agreed that, as a matter of principles, the current primary charting authorities in Antarctica should be encouraged to consider the future production and distribution of S-100 based products for Antarctica, in their areas of charting responsibilities

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

The main item of cooperation to improve DCDB coverage in Antarctic waters is the implementation of a crowd-sourced bathymetry practice and the acquisition of professional multibeam data contributions from research vessels operating in the area. In support of the first, IAATO agreed to check if the new guidance on crowd-sourced bathymetry (B-12) can be implemented technically – possibly by export from Voyage Data Recorder recordings. COMNAP invited to bring the matter of collecting hydrographic data (single beam crowd-sourced bathymetry and professional multibeam) as a matter of routine to the attention of the COMNAP membership and for COMNAP to report progress to HCA Conferences. The HCA Chair is currently undertaking every effort with industry/science and research partners to encourage them to join demonstrator projects in crowd-sourcing bathymetry and support Seabed 2030 in its regional structure of data centres, in particular the one hosted at the Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI), Germany.

The ATCM Secretariat accepted to embed a Seminar about hydrography in Antarctic waters into the Agenda of their 42nd Conference in July 2019 in Prague, CZ. The Seminar will include specific contributions of the National hydrographers of Chile and UK. HCA is also doing efforts to get prepared to be questioned, at the HCA 2019 Seminar on the theme “*anthropogenic underwater noise reduction*”.

8. Conclusions:

Participation of HCA Members and stakeholders in IHO HCA Conferences is somewhat unpredictable. Achieving the quorum of one third of the HCA Members has sometimes been difficult.

Practical liaison and the regular, systematic exchange of information and experience between HCA (IHO) national representatives and other in-country national representatives involved in Antarctic operations and in representation in other bodies at the international level continue to be limited and suboptimal.

9. Achievements and lessons learned:

ENC coverage is gradually growing but still far from completion. The availability of reliable survey data remains the major problem. The crowd source approach in combination with the activities of the SeaBed 2030 project offers a new chance to acquire substantial bathymetric information of this remote area and provide it for a multitude of uses under the open data policy of the DCDB.

The back to back meeting of HCA with ATCM XLII and the contribution of HCA members at this important event by means of a half day Seminar offers an excellent opportunity to highlight the importance of hydrography and bathymetry for Antarctica as a whole.

10. Actions required of IRCC:

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. note this report

Dr Mathias Jonas

HCA Chair