

**11th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC11
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Status of the International Hydrographic Review (IHR)

Submitted by:	IHO Secretariat
Executive Summary:	This paper presents the status of the International Hydrographic Review (IHR).
Related Documents:	IHO Resolution 6/2009 - International Hydrographic Review IHO CL 51/2018 - Outcome of the 2 nd meeting of the IHO Council IHO CL 24/2019 - New IHO Branding Materials
Related Projects:	xxx

1. Introduction / Background

The International Hydrographic Review (IHR) is an international journal publishing peer-reviewed papers on all aspects of hydrography and associated subjects, ranging from the latest technical developments to history. It was first published in 1923 and since then has been published regularly with two or three issues per year. It also provides a medium for discussions in the form of shorter articles and notes.

The IHR is governed by the IHO Resolution 6/2009 and is currently structure in four parts: Editorial, Articles, Notes and General Information. It is driven by the IHR Editor and supported by the IHR Editorial Board.

The IHR Editorial Board is expected to help the IHR Editor in keeping a good standard of the Review. The Editorial Board will be comprised of representatives of all Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC), who are expected to encourage the following activities at a regional level:

- a) Motivate Member States in his/her region to submit Articles, Notes and General Information suitable for the IHR;
- b) Contribute with relevant Notes after holding RHC's Meetings or other IHO-related events;
- c) Search and identify suitable and available experts in their region who could volunteer to peer-review the Articles, to ensure the peer-review process; and
- d) Provide the Editor with key information to be highlighted in the Editorial of the IHR.

2. Developments and plans

The International Hydrographic Review (IHR) went through a major project to make the entire collection available online. All the editions from 1923 are now available from the Centre for Digital Scholarship Journals of the University of New Brunswick (Canada), at:

<https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/ihr>

The last meeting of the IHO Council agreed on the following decisions related to the IHR:

- a) Decision C2/C46: The Council endorsed the allocation of additional budget from the Special Projects Fund to cover the costs for the digital IHR revamp.
- b) Decision and Action C2/47: Secretary-General to make some investigations and a cost-benefit analysis for classifying the IHR in the "Scientific Journal Ranking".

3. Status of the IHR

The IHR Editor has reported little participation from the Editorial Board and the number of articles and notes in the last 10 editions are as follows:

Edition	Number of Articles	Number of Notes	General Information
May 2019	1	1	0

November 2018	1	3	1
May 2018	3	2	3
November 2017	2	3	0
May 2017	4	2	0
November 2016	2	1	3
May 2016	3	1	0
November 2015	4	1	0
May 2015	3	1	1
November 2014 (*)	4	8	0

(*) Special edition of the BSHC

4. Analysis/Discussion

There is current a good level of efforts in the IHO Secretariat to improve the outreach of the IHO activities which includes the IHR. The Decisions of C-2 presented under item 2 will likely take the IHR to a new level in line with the needs of the IHO.

A challenge is to attract good articles, notes and information that justifies the existence of the IHR and that maximizes its impact. The statistics presented in item 3 indicates that the relevance of the IHR may be decreasing.

5. Conclusions

The IHR Editor and the Editorial Board are the key elements to link the Review with authors in order to fulfill the roles of this important publication in line with the objectives of the IHO. In order to fulfill these roles, the Editorial Board Members need to actively engage with their RHCs to promote the Review and to identify peer-reviewers, contributors and opportunities for outreach.

6. Recommendations

RHC Chairs are the drivers to have a proficient composition of the IHR Editorial Board to fulfill its roles.

7. Action Required of IRCC

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. note the report,
- b. invite the RHC Chairs to ensure a qualified IHR Editorial Board Member represents the RHC,
- c. invite the RHC Chairs to include an agenda for their meetings to consider the support to the IHR Editorial Board, and
- c. take any action considered appropriate.