

**12th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC11
VTC Meeting, 6-8 October 2020**



REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES – CANADA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (USCHC)

1. Chair:

Rear Admiral Shepard M. Smith (USA) from 24 February 2020 to present

Dr. Geneviève Béchard (Canada) from 18 March 2019 to 24 February 2020

Vice-Chair:

Dr. Geneviève Béchard (Canada) from 24 February 2020 to present

Rear Admiral Shepard M. Smith (USA) from 18 March 2019 to 24 February 2020

2. Membership:

United States of America

-Office of Coast Survey, NOAA

-National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA)

-United States Navy (USN)

Canada

-Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS)

-Royal Canadian Navy (RCN)

Observers:

-International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)

-United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) USCHC41, 42, and 43

3. Meetings:

43rd Meeting (USCHC43) – Québec City, Québec, Canada, 24 February 2020

(In conjunction with the Canadian Hydrographic Conference (CHC2020))

4. Current USCHC Working Groups:

i. Hydrographic Geospatial Products and Services Committee (HGPSC)

The HGPSC is delegated the tasks related to resolving the technical issues related to product and service creation and provision in areas of mutual interest, i.e. trans-boundary areas.

5. Status of IRCC Actions relevant to USCHC

N.	Action (Agenda item)	Responsible	Status
1.	to confirm/update the representatives to the IHR Editorial Board	RHC Chairs	DONE USCHC IHR Editorial Board Member (USCHC): Denis Hains (CA) And IHR Editor-in-Chief: Brian Connon (US)
8.	to request MSI National Coordinators to review the contents of the relevant Annexes of the GMDSS Master Plan and of section C (MSI) of IHO Publication C-55 – Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide – to ensure consistency for their national entries (7b)	RHC Chairs	DONE
12.	to consider the tasks listed as duties for the Regional Seabed Coordinator/Mechanism (doc. IRCC11-07I3) and to include Seabed 2030 in RHC work plans and reports to IRCC (7i)	RHC Chairs	ONGOING Considered at USCHC43 Agenda Item 10. Capt. Andy Armstrong, NOAA (ret) the point of contact for Seabed 2030 gap analysis. No separate report for IRCC12 on Seabed 2030.
13.	to provide reports to A-2 to the IHO Secretariat in accordance with the Action C2/53 (8a)	RHC Chairs	DONE USCHC Report provided to IHO Secretariat by CHS in Dec 2019
16.	to invite Members to make comments and suggestions to the Secretary of the S-100 services roadmap drafting group (Council Chair, RAdm Smith, shep.smith@noaa.gov) (8f)	RHC Chairs	DONE And addressed in Council Chair report & USCHC-43 agenda item

6. Agenda Items:

- i. Strategic directions of the individual hydrographic offices (HOs). E.g. the transformation to a data-centric model for the HOs.
- ii. Trans-boundary ENC overlap resolutions, single-agency charting, and planning for the implementation of grid-based ENC coverage, that is, what will the new scheme(s) for the region look like and who are the clients.
- iii. Marine spatial data infrastructure (MSDI).
- iv. The IHO strategic plan review.
- v. Personnel exchange.
- vi. Crowd-sourced bathymetry (CSB).
- vii. Satellite-derived bathymetry (SDB).
- viii. GEBCO Seabed 2030 and ways the USCHC can contribute to it.
- ix. Paper charts derived automatically from an ENC (aka Paper Chart 2.0)
- x. S-102, S-104, and S-111 products and services developments.
- xi. New survey technologies and methods, e.g. autonomous surveying vehicles (ASVs).
- xii. The role of the hydrographic offices regarding data provision and support of IMO in the context of marine autonomous surface shipping (MASS).

7. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed:

- i. The implementation of new ENC grid-based schemes is ongoing.
- ii. The seamless delivery of S-100 products and services in the transboundary areas needs more work. In part this will be a test of the WENS principles.
- iii. The USCHC is still determining the best way to contribute to the GEBCO Seabed 2030 project.

8. Achievements/outputs/conclusions:

- i. Staff exchanges. Three CHS employees were deployed on NOAA surveys in 2019. Reciprocal deployments are planned for the future.
- ii. Information and experiences with autonomous survey vehicles was shared.
- iii. The re-establishment of a committee (now called the Hydrographic Geospatial Products and Services Committee (HGpsc)) to address trans-boundary issues such as the implementation of a new ENC grid-based scheme.
- iv. Under the USCHC, arrangements for surveying within the territorial waters of the other nation were made and executed. The data was also shared.
- v. New shipping routes for the Great Lakes were cooperatively identified and the affected ENCs updated.
- vi. Overlaps in ENC coverage have been resolved. Ongoing collaboration keeps this problem to a minimum.
- vii. Work towards an adequate paper chart from an ENC has made significant progress.
- viii. A summary of the history of USCHC was drafted, approved, and submitted to the IHO for the USCHC website.
- ix. The UNGGIM Shared Guiding Principles were adopted.
- x. Updates to C-55 and P-5 have been delivered.
- xi. USA and Canada have remained active on IHO committees and working groups.

The US and CA are moving in the same direction in many areas and there continues to be excellent opportunities for cooperation and collaboration.

9. Actions required of the IRCC12:

- a) note the report of the
- b) take any other action considered appropriate.

REFERENCES

- USCHC41 Victoria, British Columbia http://iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/USCHC/USCHC41/USCHC41_Docs.htm
 USCHC42 Biloxi, Mississippi http://iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/USCHC/USCHC42/USCHC42_Docs.htm
 USCHC43 Québec City, Québec http://iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/USCHC/USCHC43/USCHC43_Docs.htm