

6. REPORT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEAS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (MBSHC)

1. Chair

J. Daniel GONZALEZ-ALLER LACALLE (Spain)

Vice-chair

Vacant

2. Membership:

Members: Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine.

Associate members: Israel, Palestinian Authority, UK, USA.

Observers: Albania, CIESM, Germany, Lebanon, IC-ENC, IOC, PRIMAR.

3. Meetings

20 th meeting:	Herceg Novi (Montenegro),	4 – 6 June 2017
21 th meeting:	Cádiz (Spain),	11 – 13 June 2019

4. Agenda Items

- MBSHC member states are active in participating to the IHO-EU network working group (IENWG). Greece is the MBSHC focal point for the IENWG and has provided an updated list of maritime related events, projects and tenders of interest for the MBSHC, as requested. Several MBSHC Member States took part in European Commission's flagship maritime projects EMODNET and are active in the revision of EU Directive on Re-use of public sector information.
- Italy, acting as Chair and ambassador of MBSHC at the MSDIWG, sent to MSs a questionnaire with the intention of conducting a study on the relative level of advancement of countries of the MBSHC in the development of their own MSDI.
- Turkey represents the MBSHC at the CB Sub-Committee and is in charge of updating the MBSHC 3 year CB work plan. CB activities since June 2018:
 - Port & Shallow Water Survey Course (Sept 2018): 6 participants;
 - MSI Training (Sept 2018): 8 participants;
 - Technical Visit to Georgia (Oct 2018).
 - Technical Visit to Lebanon (May 2019).

5. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed

- The main difficulties faced by the MBSHC are in the coordination of the INT chart schemes and ENC coverage. Despite a consolidated small scale INT scheme and a growing large scale coverage, midscale schemes development have been slowed down by several long-lasting issues.
- As for the Regional ENC coverage, a significant amount of overlapping still exists at different Usage Band (1, 2 and 3). Since last MBSHC-20 conference, some progresses have been made, most notable is the Cancellation of IT100360, and clipping of UK and Italian

cells for Tunisian data. Moreover, bilateral discussions between concerned MSs are ongoing in order to achieve tangible solutions.

- The MBSHC and the ICCWG of region F are playing a strong part in the setting up of an adequate INT scheme in order to meet the needs of international shipping, as well as in the promotion of INT standards, with most national maps produced in the region now conforming to the S-4 standard. Despite a consolidated small scale INT scheme and a growing large scale coverage, midscale schemes development have been slowed down by several long-lasting issues.
- With the issuing of the IHO Resolution 1/2018, for the elimination of overlapping ENC data in areas of demonstrable risk to the safety of navigation, this tool has started to be implemented in the Region.
- Discrepancies between new ENCs and existing INT charts are raising new difficulties regarding consistency of nautical information provided by different producers.
- Reduced resources have restricted members ability to participate in IHO meetings.
- Further the safety of navigation in the NAVAREA III area by means of improved capacity and coordination.

6. Achievements/outputs/conclusions:

- The enlargement of the MBSHC membership is beneficial. Albania has been asked to consider signing the MBSHC Statutes, to become an Associate Member States.
- MBSHC is developing liaison with States bordering the Caspian Sea.
- The coordinating role of IENWG to present several national HOs of Europe in a joint consortium body has proved successful for winning contracts.
- Bilateral discussion is a prerequisite for the solution of ENC overlapping issues and, very often, is the only pragmatic way forward.
- It would be beneficial to establish a common set of criteria on which an individual recognition scheme should be based on, to be applied to the whole.
- Mediterranean and Black Sea Region, “to monitor and assess individuals at regular intervals and to register them in a formal system so that an individual may gain professional certification or individual recognition at a defined level of competency which may include Category A and Category B” (Chapter 6 of the “Guidelines for the implementation of the standards of competence for hydrographic surveyors and nautical cartographers” - ed. March 2017). MBSHC CL 1/2018 (24/01/2018) has been issued in order to seek MS’s point of view on this regard. Only Cyprus, Malta and Tunisia replied.
- Italy, as Chair and ambassador of MBSHC at the MSDIWG, sent out a MBSHC CL 4/2018 (03/05/2018) in order to seek information from MBSHC MS about their MSDI implementation at a national level. The information provided will be used to extract and synthesize the MSDI implementation process at a regional level.
- Italy attended the MGIWG (UNGGIM) as required by A-1, C-1 and IRCC-9. The MBSHC Region has been represented in the highest world forum on Marine Geospatial matters.
- Capacity building plays a key role in the Region and the enlargement, not only of the MBSHC, but also of the number of IHO Member States is beneficial. Bulgaria has become an IHO Member State, and joined MBSHC in 2018. Albania has been asked to consider signing the MBSHC Statutes, to become an Associate Member State. Lebanon, having a strong support from Italy in establishing a National Hydrographic Service, is also considering the possibility to join the IHO.

- The MBSHC is developing liaison with States bordering the Caspian Sea: MBSHC Chair attended the BASWG14 meeting in Romania in May 2018.
- The coordinating role of IENWG to present several national European HOs in a joint consortium body has proved successful for winning contracts (e.g. EMODNET Bathymetry HRSM): Greece, as the MBSHC focal point for the IENWG, provided an updated list of maritime related events, projects and tenders of interest for the MBSHC (see MBSHC CL 06/2018).
- Since the June 2018, progress has been made in the Region F concerning the solution of some ENC overlaps. Effective tools for detecting these overlaps put in place by the RENCs and the implementation of the recent IHO resolution 1/2018 will help to raise awareness among ENC producers about these overlaps and MS in solving them.
- Italy attended the MGIWG (UN-GGIM) as required by A-1, C-1 and IRCC-9. The MBSHC Region has been represented in the highest world forum on Marine Geospatial matters.

7. Actions required by the Assembly:

- a) Note the report of the MBSHC.
- b) Take any other action considered appropriate.