

**12<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
IHO-IRCC12  
VTC, 6-7 October 2020**

**SOUTHERN AFRICA AND ISLANDS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

**SAIHC report to IRCC12**

**1. Chair: Rear Admiral Peter Sparkes (UK)**

**Vice-Chair: Mr Joomun (Mauritius)**

**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: SAMSA (SEAIGNEP), IALA, IMO, RENC's and Industry representatives

**3. Previous meeting:**

16<sup>th</sup> SAIHC Conference, Cape Town, South Africa, 3 – 5 September 2019

Next meeting: The Chair also secured Mauritius to host the 17<sup>th</sup> SAIHC in 2020. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic this has been postponed and the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SAIHC will now be an online event; it is planned to take place week commencing 18 Jan 21.

**4. Current [RHC] Working Groups:**

SAIHC ICCWG  
SAIHC MSDI WG

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

No.	Action (Agenda Item)	Resp	Deadline	SAIHC Action
11/1	to confirm/update the representatives to the IHR Editorial Board	RHC Chairs	August 2019	Completed. Tim Lewis (UK) is the SAIHC representative to the IHR Editorial Board.
11/8	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	RHC Chairs	30 July 2019	Completed. The Chair confirmed that this had been covered during the Seminar, and discussions

	and Nautical Charting Worldwide – to ensure consistency for their national entries (7b)			on C-55, and the GMDSS Master Plan would be covered during the IMO agenda item.
11/12	to consider the tasks listed as duties for the Regional Seabed Coordinator/Mechanism (doc. IRCC11-0713) and to include Seabed 2030 in RHC work plans and reports to IRCC (7i)	RHC Chairs	IRCC12	Completed. Seabed 2030 coordination included under the SAIHC MSDIWG.
11/13	to provide reports to A-2 to the IHO Secretariat in accordance with the Action C2/53 (8a)	RHC Chairs	15 November 2019	A2 postponed the Chair will circulate draft report to Members prior to A-2.
11/16	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	24 June 2019	Completed. The Chair raised this at the last SAIHC meeting.

Note: Action list is available here [IRCC 11](#)

## 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
  - 2 nd Meeting of the IHO Council
  - IRCC - actions and guidance to RHCs
  - CBSC
  - IHO Secretariat Report
- SAIHC Activities in the light of IHO Work programme:
  - GEBCO and Seabed 2030
  - Crowdsourced Bathymetry
  - Worldwide ENC Database Working Group (WENDWG)
  - Marine Spatial Planning and National Oceans and Coastal Information Management
  - ICCWG - INT chart scheme for Region H.
  - Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG)
  - 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
- International Maritime Organisation (IMO)
- Southern and East African and Islands Regional Group for Safety of Navigation and Marine Environment Protection (SEAIGNEP)
- MSI - NAVAREA VII Self-Assessment.

- Feedback on Regional Projects
- Revision of SAIHC Statutes

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

Presentations were provided by the industry participants, Kongsberg Maritime presented on 'Bringing Clarity to the World Below'. AML Oceanographic presented on 'Dealing with Variable SV Structure' which reviewed the customer issue when experiencing variable SV structure stressing the need for more frequent profiling. Chartwise Training Limited presented on 'Chartwise Training and Consultancy' focusing on the need to carefully consider the way developing HO capability receives effective Capacity Building and stressing the importance of Training Needs Analysis. Unique Hydra presented on 'The process of knowledge transfer enabling the SA Navy to be at the forefront of Hydrography, Marine Cartography and Training in Africa' as part of ongoing project to rejuvenate the SANHO capability. Teledyne CARIS presented on 'The importance of compliance with international hydrographic standards and focus on automated data processing'. Underwater Surveys presented on 'the work they have been doing in the region and activities including Offshore surveys, Dam surveys and specialist support to the diamond mining industry. Navico presented on 'Industry – HO partnership serving all mariners' which focused on the recreational market and what Industry can do for Hydrographic Offices as we share the same common goal to provide all mariners with accurate and adequately updated nautical data for the intended voyage. iXblue presented on 'Hydrography Oceanography Geophysical from shallow water to full ocean depth'. Fugro presented on their main achievements which included contributions to GEBCO Seabed 2030 project and Capacity Building with hydrographic surveying training and recent developments with the new 'Rapid Action Multibeam Mapping System'. All 9 presentations proved useful to SAIHC Member States supporting the value of industry participation.

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 Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography that preceded plenary had high attendance and well received by delegates which also improved attendance for plenary. The focus of the seminar was on the benefit of risk modelling. 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:

- Capacity Building - IALA, IHO, and IMO - "Delivering as one" achieved at the Hydrographic Awareness Seminar

- Useful discussions on GEBCO Seabed 2030 and the incorporation of the coordination of this work added into revised TOR/ROP's under the MSDIWG
- ICCWG- Further progress has been made in ENC Scheming and several INT charts are in final process for publication
- MSP- South Africa presented on their Oceans and Coastal Information Management System
- MSDIWG managed to secure IHO MSDI training material for use by the region at SAIHC 16
- NAVAREA Coordinator (South Africa) provided an update on MSI capability within the region and demonstrated the MSI E-learning that South Africa have developed to support regional capacity building
- SEAIGNEP provided an overview of their functions, geographical area and databases
- Presentation of Maritime Disasters in Relation to IHO Guidelines by Mozambique citing lessons learnt from Cyclone Idai

The MSDIWG has now collated 6 questionnaires from the member states and has submitted an annual report on activity. This was presented at the conference call on 7 September 2020.

UK secured wider funding through the Southern African Marine Economies Programme. This enabled Angola, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Seychelles to attend a five-day "Hydrographic Governance Workshop", held in Pretoria, February 2020. A significant objective of this workshop was the development of a Hydrographic Governance Implementation Plan, of which MSDI forms a key part.

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. Non-attendance of Associate Members at Conferences has often resulted in no submission of national reports, and therefore no information to improve the SAIHC Capacity Building Programme. This has somewhat been offset through IHO Funded attendance with the Hydrographic Awareness Seminars.

## **9. Achievements and lessons learned:**

Achievements:

Attendance has continued to improve 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.

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

The SAIHC ICCWG has successfully maintained the INT Chart Catalogue for Region H and some 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.

The ICCWG and MSDIWG of SAIHC 17 were conducted virtually on 7 September and was attended by 33 participants. Useful discussions were held on the topics of ENC Schemes/ gridded ENC's and the future of the paper chart and a presentation by Jens Peter Hartmann IHO MSDI WG Chair gave a more detailed overview of MSDI to the region and provided useful resources.

Lessons learned:

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

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

Following recent disasters SAIHC are developing a Disaster Response Framework to aid future disasters with ease of communication/liaison between the Regional States to greatly enhance the response times to disaster.

#### **10. Actions required of IRCC:**

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. note the report.



Rear Admiral Peter Sparkes

Chair, Southern African Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC)