

## 13. REPORT OF THE SOUTH WEST ATLANTIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (SWAtHC)

### 1. Chair

Captain Gustavo MUSSO: Uruguay, since March 2017 until January 2018

Captain Pablo TABÁREZ: Uruguay, since January 2018 until 01 April 2020

Captain José DOMÍNGUEZ: Uruguay, since 01 April 2020

### Vice Chair

Commodore Valentin Alejandro SANZ RODRIGUEZ: Argentina, since March 2017

### 2. Membership

**Members:** Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay

**Associate Members:** Paraguay

**Observers:** Bolivia

### 3. Meetings

12th SWAtHC Conference	Montevideo, Uruguay	5 - 6 April 2018
13th SWAtHC Conference	Buenos Aires, Argentina	25 - 26 April 2019
14th SWAtHC Conference	Niteroi, Brazil	9 - 10 March 2020

### 4. Agenda Items

a) The SWAtHC Conferences tend to work with a permanent agenda with amendments for the new issues as they arise. The main topics in the agenda, transacted during the before-mentioned meetings, are:

- i. NAVAREA V and VI Contingency Plan is signed between the Argentine and the Brazilian Hydrographic Services
- ii. Revision and update of SWAtHC Statute.
- iii. Creation and progress of the Regional IC-ENC Coordinating Centre.
- iv. Current situation of Chart INT2010: pending approval.
- v. Commission Representation at the IHO Council.
- vi. Presentation of national and IHO Secretariat reports.
- vii. Submission of reports drafted by Working Groups and Committees:
  - Planning Committee.
  - CBSC – WENDWG - IEGH – IRCC – S100WG.
  - GEBCO / Seabed 2030 Progress.
- viii. Update of IHO C-55 and P-5 Publications.
- ix. Signature and ratification of the membership application to the Commission submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

## x. SWAtHC Capacity Building Coordination, Trainings and workshops:

• **2017**

a. Bathymetry workshop using RTK technology (DHN) – P 16. The course provided the opportunity to the regional hydrographic community to learn issues related to bathymetry using RTK and RTG positioning technology, contributing to improve the consistency and quality of ENC and paper nautical chart.

b. Digital Photogrammetry with satellite images (SHN) – P 22. , which addressed the advantages of the innumerable free options of images processing software which are offered worldwide for images treatment and improving interpretation in coastal areas.

c. Data Management Workshop, administration of digital data obtained during the different campaigns (SOHMA) - P-27. Also in 2017, in order to provide the opportunity to the regional hydrographic community to discuss issues like data acquisition and qualifying, metadata profile, data and metadata storage/database, and database uses/queries, giving the participants an understanding of spatial data infrastructures (SDI) for the provision of basic geospatial data.

• **2018**

a. Workshop on Maritime Safety Information - MSI (DHN), and conducted by instructors from US National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) with the participation of 18 representatives from Brazil (6), Argentina (2), Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Guyana, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Liberia. The course provided the opportunity for representatives of regional hydrographic communities to gain insight into the importance of the MSI and how to act to report certain events preventing a significant impact on the safety of navigation in coastal region.

b. Practical workshop on surveys carrying out at ports and at shallow waters (SHN), and was performed by specialized personnel from Teledyne CARIS and attended by 31 representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Venezuela

c. International Workshop on Methodology for Bathymetric surveys with LIDAR sensors in Shallow Waters, held in the city of Guayaquil, Ecuador at the invitation of SEPRHC, attended by two Officials, one from DHN and another from SOHMA.

d. Multibeam Processing Workshop, in the city of Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, at the invitation of MACHC, attended by one Official from the SHN.

• **2019**

a. Workshop on Multibeam Processing using Caris Hips & Sips, held in the Brazilian Hydrographic Office (DHN) and conducted by the representatives from Brazil that attended the Practical Workshop on Surveys carrying out at Ports and at Shallow Waters in 2018 in Argentina, in order to spread out the knowledge to hydrographic surveyors of the Brazilian survey vessels.

b. One representative from the Bolivian Navy attended the Cat “A” Advanced Course in Hydrography (CAHO) offered by the Brazilian Hydrographic Office (DHN) and granted free of charge.

- **2020**

a. One representative from Senegal is taking the Basic Course in Hydrography offered by the Brazilian Hydrographic Office (DHN) and granted free of charge.

b. Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography - right after 14th SWAtHC meeting, a seminar was arranged with the dual objective of raising awareness of the importance of hydrography for the Associate Member and Observer of SWAtHC, as well as to give to their representatives the opportunity to participate in this RHC meeting, exposing them the benefits of being proactive members of the Commission and encouraging eventual membership of IHO. In order to present the importance and economic advantages of an adequate Hydrographic Governance, the speakers addressed the visions of topics related to IHO, IMO, IALA, SOLAS Convention (Chapter V), the Capacity Building Strategy and the structure of a National Hydrographic Office.

c. Technical Visit to Bolivia - due to the pandemic situation of COVID-19 in South America and in agreement with the Head of the Bolivian Hydrographic Office (Servicio Nacional de Hidrografía Naval - SNHN), the IHO CBSC authorized the postponement of the event to 2021.

- **2021**

a. The following events submitted by SWAtHC were approved by IHO CBSC:

- 1 - Technical Visit to Bolivia (deferred from 2020);
- 2 - Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography (back to back with SWAtHC meeting);
- 3 - Port and Shallow Water Survey Course.

b. Tidal Workshop for Spanish Speakers - to be organized by MACHC in conjunction with SWAtHC and SEPRHC, should have taken place in 2020, but due to the pandemic situation of COVID-19 in these regions, it was postponed and it is expected to happen in 2021.

## **5. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed**

### **a) Difficulties:**

- i. The main difficulty encountered is the lack of qualified personnel available versus the increase of workload.
- ii. Shortage of Spanish speaking trainers.

### **b) Challenges:**

- i. The main challenge yet to be addressed is the implementation of S-100.
- ii. In order to be more eligible to receive support from IHO Capacity Building Funds, SWAtHC will propose training courses in conjunction with the neighboring RHCs.
- iii. Carrying out and broadening of trainings and workshops within or beyond the scope of the CBSC.

## **6. Achievements/Outputs/Conclusions**

a) SWAtHC is committed to carrying forward hydrographic and cartographic activities and cooperate in capacity building in straight alignment with IHO objectives and goals and to coordinate charts and ENC's production, harmonize boundaries and data and stimulate participation of all regional countries. The high level of harmonization, quantity of training performed and inexistence of overlaps in ENC's is a good indicator of the success of SWAtHC member's efforts.

b) The full members has approved the request of "The Servicio Nacional de Hidrografía Naval" from Bolivia, and start the procedure of adhesion to become as an Associate Member of SWAtHC. That Service should address this to its national authorities

## **7. Actions required of the Assembly**

a) The Assembly is invited to note the report of the SWAtHC.