

16. REPORT OF THE IHO HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON ANTARCTICA (HCA)

1. Chair:

Dr Mathias JONAS, Secretary-General of the IHO

Vice-Chair:

Mr John HAUMANN, United States, until May 2018

Mr Patrick DORR, United States, since June 2018

Secretary:

Mr Yves GUILLAM, IHO Secretariat

2. Membership:

Members: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela

Observer Organizations: Antarctic Treaty Secretariat (ATS), Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes (COMNAP), IALA, International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO), Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), International Maritime Organization (IMO), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO), International Bathymetric Chart of the Southern Ocean (IBCSO)

3. Meetings:

HCA Extraordinary Meeting	Monaco	25 April 2017 (side event at A-1)
HCA15	Niteroi, Brazil	26–28 June 2018
HCA16	Prague, Czech Republic	3-5 July 2019

4. Agenda Items:

The following notable topics have been discussed at the meetings:

- a. Data collection, crowd-sourced bathymetry, data recovery, support to Seabed 2030, anthropogenic noise reduction.
- b. Survey priorities, monitoring of new maritime shipping routes, ENC and INT chart scheming, improvement of data exchange procedures for chart maintenance.
- c. Outreach: engagement with ATCM, COMNAP, SCAR, co-operation with IAATO, IBCSO.
- d. IHO HCA GIS for Antarctica and other Antarctica geospatial portals (Quantarctica).
- e. New Polar vessels.

5. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed:

Nothing significant to report except in some cases a lack of communication within nations to engage and even raise the awareness of IHO activities that go much beyond surveys for nautical charting.

6. Achievements/outputs/conclusions:

a. Thanks to the work of the Hydrographic Priorities Working Group (Chaired by Andy Willett, UK, until July 2019, by Mr Lee Truscott, UK, since July 2019, Region M Charting Coordinator as well), chart schemes are well maintained and meet user requirements.

b. Since A-1, much better exchange of information and awareness of the activities and research campaigns between HCA Members. Peru, Colombia have made offers to participate in their campaigns.

c. HCA has now a partnership with Quantarctica. HCA GIS datasets have got the status of Quantarctica Friendly Datasets, thanks to the involvement of Mr Naohiko Nagasaka (Seconded Project Officer, Japan) improving the visibility of IHO data and fields of responsibility to a much wider audience.

d. At the XLII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, the IHO was invited to present a seminar on the status and impact of hydrography in Antarctic waters. The Secretary-General of the IHO and the National Hydrographers of Chile and the United Kingdom presented papers on international collaboration, safety of navigation and crowd sourced bathymetry. They were strongly supported by some delegations. A new ATCM Resolution² initially proposed by Norway and co-sponsored by Italy, New Zealand and the United States, was adopted and is to be added to the Statutes of the HCA. Another positive outcome of this seminar was the revitalisation of liaison between HCA Secretariat and COMNAP, IAATO, SCAR and the Executive Secretary of the Antarctic Treaty.

7. Actions required of the Assembly:

a) note the report of the HCA.

b) commend the Member States (Argentina, Australia, Chile, Colombia, France, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Spain, Russian Federation, UK and US) the delegations of whom provided strong support at the Seminar during ATCM XLII, which led to the adoption of a new strategic ATCM Resolution¹ on hydrography.

c) encourage Member States to share data collected in Antarctic Waters with the IHO DCDB in application of this ATCM Resolution.

² ATCM Resolution 6 (2019) - *Hydrographic Mapping of Antarctic Waters*