

**13th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC13
VTC, 23-25 June 2021**

SOUTHERN AFRICA AND ISLANDS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

SAIHC report to IRCC13

1. Chair: Rear Admiral Peter Sparkes (UK)

Vice-Chair: Mr Mohummad Shamad Ayoob Saab (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, PMAESA, Map Action, USA, and Industry representatives

3. Previous meeting:

17th SAIHC Conference, online VTC 3 – 4 February 2021

Next meeting: Mozambique offered to host the 18th SAIHC in 2021. Due to the pandemic the usual September date has been pushed back to December hoping for a face to face event.

4. Current [RHC] Working Groups:

SAIHC ICC WG
SAIHC MSDI WG

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

No.	Action (Agenda Item)	Responsible	Deadline	SAIHC Action
12/1	RHC to Instruct MS in the promotion and distribution of publication of S-67 Mariners' Guide to Accuracy of Depth Information in Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC) to the Marine Institutions and Education Schools.	RHC Chairs	IRCC13	Complete The Chair raised this at the SAIHC17 meeting
12/2	Member States to review the paper on the Future of paper Charts and provide feedback on it.	RHC Chairs	IRCC13	Complete The Chair raised this at the SAIHC17 meeting

12/3	Member States strongly encouraged to continue updating C-55.	RHC Chairs	IRCC13	Complete The Chair raised this at the SAIHC17 meeting
12/4	RHC to implement the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended by A-2.	RHC Chairs	IRCC13	In progress, will be completed by IRCC13. Revision of statutes to conform with IHO Resolution 2/1997
12/6	Invite the Member States who have experience in developing and providing eLearning contents to share their resources and experiences to the e-Learning PT.	RHC Chairs	IRCC13	Complete The Chair raised this at the SAIHC17 meeting
12/11	Promote the discussion of any item with relevance to SDI/MSDI/MSP and to take appropriate actions.	RHC Chairs	IRCC13	Complete This was raised in the MSDIWG meeting
12/12	Consider CSB and Seabed 2030 initiatives be permanently added as an agenda item at future RHC meetings.	RHC Chairs	IRCC13	Complete
12/13	Encourage Member States to support the CSB initiative with positive actions, such as requiring all research vessels to collect bathymetric data for later uploading, when on passage or when it does not interfere with other research activities	RHC Chairs	IRCC13	Complete The CSB/Seabed Coordinator raised this at the Seabed2030 meeting
12/14	Support the modification of the current "RHC Seabed 2030 Coordinator" to a joint "RHC CSB/Seabed 2030 Coordinator" and provide the identification of the Coordinators	RHC Chairs	IRCC13	Complete South Africa, Cdr Christoff Theunissen is the SAIHC CSB/Seabed2030 Coordinator
12/16	Encourage MS to release datasets or subsets into the public domain via the IHO DCDB.	RHC Chairs	IRCC13	Complete The Chair raised this at the SAIHC17 meeting
12/17	Encourage Member States to promote the vital need to map the entire seabed	RHC Chairs	Continuous	Complete The CSB/Seabed Coordinator raised this at the

				Seabed2030 meeting
12/19	Encourage all Member States to make existing seabed mapping data available for use by Seabed 2030 in the GEBCO Grid.	RHC Chairs	Continuous	Complete The CSB/Seabed Coordinator raised this at the Seabed2030 meeting
12/20	RHC to participate at Regional level in those actions of the UN Ocean Decade matching with IHO's new strategic targets (IRCC12-08C).	RHC Chairs	IRCC13	Complete The CSB/Seabed Coordinator raised this at the Seabed2030 meeting

Note: Action list is available here [IRCC 12](#)

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
 - 2nd Meeting of the IHO Assembly
 - 4th Meeting of the IHO Council
 - IRCC12 Report - actions and guidance to RHCs
 - HSSC12 Report
 - CBSC
 - IHO Secretariat Report
- SAIHC Activities supporting the 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 CBSC Technical Visits and Regional Projects
 - Bilateral and Regional Cooperation Agreements, Projects, and Regional Capacity Building Management Plan.
 - 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 (SEAGNEP)
 - MSI - NAVAREA VII Self-Assessment.

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

Presentations were provided by the industry participants, Fugro presented on activities in the region and contribution to Seabed 2030. Chartwise Training Limited presented on SAIHC HO self-sufficiency a new approach for CB phase 3 funding. AML Oceanographic presented on taking a simple step forward with ocean sensing solutions. All 3 presentations proved useful to SAIHC Member States supporting the value of industry participation.

Active participation of IALA, GEBCO, PMAESA and Map Action in SAIHC Conferences have added real value to discussions and contributed positively to capacity building and collaboration efforts within the region.

8. Conclusions:

The MSDIWG CSB/Seabed2030 session that preceded plenary was well attended and was briefed subsequently to the SAIHC community. Dr Vicki Ferrini (Regional Data Centre Atlantic and Indian Ocean) gave a presentation explaining Seabed 2030 aims and objectives, focused on the regional data coverage available so far. It highlighted the significant work still to be done to achieve the project's ambitious goals. The session provoked a useful debate and raised questions around the need for coverage, prioritisation, meta data requirements and challenges accessing National and Primary Charting Authority data.

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.

Notable highlights were:

- IALA gave an update on their transformation from a Non-Governmental Association to an Inter-Governmental Organisation. Highlighting opportunities for online training courses, technical webinars and offering an overview of technical missions to countries in the region.
- UK raised a proposal to set up a Great Lakes Working Group to help identify challenges and opportunities, promote knowledge sharing and prioritise identified work items.
- PMAESA attended their first SAIHC meeting and provided a helpful overview of their aims to promote and nurture best practices among member ports, by creating an enabling environment for exchange of information and capacity building to contribute to the economic development of the region. Collaboration opportunities were discussed to benefit activities in the region.
- South Africa gave an overview of the SAIHC disaster response plan and encouraged MS to feedback and complete contact details.
- Map Action gave an overview of the invaluable work they do as a non-governmental organisation, specialising in providing mapping for humanitarian emergencies. SAIHC to provide access to contact details so that they can provide effective disaster response in the region.
- SAIHC CB Coordinator gave an overview of CB activities funded for 2021, including technical visits, raising hydrographic awareness seminar and MSI course and provided the SAIHC CB Workplan 2021-2023 for endorsement.
- Mauritius gave an overview of their Ocean observatory E-platform and delivered an update on MSP covering governance, technology, and people.
- ICCWG - An ENC Scheming paper was tabled, and several INT charts are in final process for publication.

- 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.
- IC-ENC gave a general update and overview of what IC-ENC does and reflected on S-100 developments.
- UK gave an overview of their S-100 strategy covering standards development, collaboration, and UKHO capability.
- SEAIGNEP provided an overview of their functions, geographical area, and databases.

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. These requirements are communicated constantly.

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 have yet to achieve Phase 1 of Hydrographic Development.

The key challenge remains the active participation of Associate Members of SAIHC. Non-attendance of Associate Members at Conferences has often resulted in no submission of national reports. There is therefore limited available information to improve the SAIHC Capacity Building Programmes.

9. Achievements and lessons learned:

Achievements:

SAIHC has convened 3 successful virtual meetings for the ICCWG & MSDIWG, Seabed2030 session and plenary. This was well attended and ensured a continuation of hydrographic, charting, MSDI and seabed2030 activities in the region despite the pandemic.

The Chair reached out to PMAESA and Map Action to enhance the International organisations represented at SAIHC to enhance collaboration and partnership opportunities in the region.

The importance of IHO membership was highlighted and Associate Members reported their progress with regards to in-country processes. Kenya are currently in process of application for membership to the IHO.

UK delivered an online 2-day MSDI Awareness Course January 2021 to SAIHC members (8 Countries attended with 21 delegates) plus additional members from NIOHC and RSAHC.

Lessons learned:

The outcomes of National Hydrographic and Oceanographic Committees, where such committees exist, is to be 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 have developed a draft Disaster Response Framework to aid future disasters with ease of communication/liaison between the Regional States to greatly

enhance the response times to disaster. This was shared at plenary and an action is for MS to review and provide contact details.

Virtual meetings have been successfully convened during the pandemic and enabled the SAIHC community to collaborate and progress activities in the region, particularly the working groups. However, technological difficulties and the lack of opportunity for engagement in the margins have somewhat impaired outcomes. This was discussed when tabling the next meeting which is due to be held face to face in Maputo, December 2021.

10. Actions required of IRCC:

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. Note the report.
- b. Reiterate to MS that RHC's are technical meetings and should not be used as a vehicle for geo-political statements.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Sparkes". Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Rear Admiral Peter Sparkes
Chair, Southern African Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC)