

**14th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
SOUTHERN AFRICA AND ISLANDS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (SAIHC)**

Maputo, Mozambique/hybrid meeting 10-12 May 2022

1. Chair:

Chair: Rear Admiral (Retired) Peter Sparkes (UK)

Vice-Chair: Mr Ferhan Khan Juhoor (Mauritius)

2. Membership

Full Members: Angola, France, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Norway, South Africa, Seychelles and United Kingdom.

Associate Members: Comoros, India, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Portugal and Tanzania.

Observers: SAMSA (SEAIGNEP), IALA, IMO, RENCs, PMAESA, Uganda, USA and Industry representatives.

3. Previous meeting:

18th SAIHC Conference Maputo, Mozambique/Hybrid 10-12 May 2022.

Next meeting: Mauritius offered to host the 19th SAIHC in late 2023, pending Ministerial approval. An intersessional meeting 6-9 February 2023 (VTC only) was agreed.

4. Current [RHC] Working Groups:

SAIHC ICCWG

SAIHC AGL&RSWG

SAIHC MSDIWG

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

No.	Action (Agenda Item)	Responsible	Deadline	Status
5	IRCC members involved to develop measurements to the SPI allocated to them and report back to IRCC14	IRCC Members	IRCC14	Complete SAIHC Chair coordinated responses for associated SPIs and reported figures to IRCC Chair. SAIHC Chair presented at 2 nd IRCC Workshop.
6	RHCs and WGs to include the measurement of the SPI attributed by IRCC in their annual Work Plans (Permanent).	RHC and WGs	IRCC14 (Permanent)	Ongoing

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
 - 5th Meeting of the IHO Council
 - IRCC13 Report
 - HSSC13 Report
 - CBSC
 - IHO Secretariat Report
- SAIHC Activities supporting the IHO Work Programme:
 - GEBCO and Seabed 2030
 - Crowdsourced Bathymetry
 - Worldwide ENC Database Working Group (WENDWG)
 - 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 (SEAIGNEP)
 - MSI - NAVAREA VII Self-Assessment.

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

Presentations provided by Kongsberg Maritime, GeoSystems, GeoSurvey, Teledyne Caris and Unique Group proved useful to SAIHC Member States; their co-operation at SAIHC18 demonstrated the important hydrography-related projects, trials, achievements and challenges taking place in region.

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

8. Conclusions:

The Hydrographic Awareness Seminar that preceded plenary was well attended and was briefed subsequently to the SAIHC community. IHO Director Abri Kampfer gave presentations introducing the background of the IHO and development of the Revised Strategic Plan 2021-2026. This led to in-depth discussions about the three goals and Strategic Performance Indicators relevant to RHCs, provoking useful conversation about the challenges of implementing them, the limitations of C-55 and the need for the metrics to be easy to understand and applicable to all.

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. The work of IALA World Wide Academy was shared and the opportunities for online training courses, technical webinars were highlighted. An overview of the benefits of technical missions delivered in collaboration with the IHO was given and those planned for the region shared.
- MSDIWG presented a summary of UKHO work to develop its IGIF-MSDI Maturity Framework and an update on activities including successful collaboration with the AGL&RSWG and amendments to the ToR.
- AGL&RSWG summarised the results of the Hydrography audit, with responses from Uganda and Malawi. Also presented were the World Bank funded surveys of Lake Victoria and UKHOs intention to create an ECS, as well as discussion into the requirement to unlock the flow of data / safety information in region.
- Norway gave an update on GEBCO/Seabed2030 project progress.
- South Africa presented on the current status of CSB in region and an update on their trial to deploy data loggers in collaboration with IMT.
- SAIHC CB Coordinator provided an overview of CB activities funded for 2022, including technical visits, raising hydrographic awareness seminar, ENC Training for Mozambique and MSI course. The SAIHC CB Workplan 2022-2024 was presented and the proposals for 2023 were shared for consideration.
- ICCWG presented a review of ENC overlaps, notably reduction of GB / IN overlaps in region. UKHO presented on Gridded ENC scheme and ENC Improvements and potential application to SAIHC region.
- NAVAREA Coordinator (South Africa) provided an update on MSI capability within the region and the challenges that are faced.
- IC-ENC gave a general update and overview of IC-ENC activities and reflected on S-100 developments and challenges ahead.
- France gave an overview of their S-100 implementation vision, innovation projects and the challenges of transition.
- SEAIGNEP provided an overview of their functions, geographical area, and databases.
- PMAESA provided an overview of their aims, membership, coordination with the Pan African Association for Port Cooperation (PAPC) and ongoing initiatives in the region.

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. Within the region Phase 1 Hydrographic Development is limited, impacting the Capacity Building options available. Increased engagement through the SAIHC Working Groups and the forthcoming MSI Course will seek to address these issues to improve regional capability.

A key challenge remains the active participation of Associate Members of SAIHC. Non-attendance of Associate Members at Conference 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 successfully convened a hybrid meeting following two years of low engagement owing to COVID-19. When VTC attendees are included in the total number of attendees at SAIHC18, it was the biggest gathering of SAIHC in 15 years. In the region of 75 delegates joined over the three days of plenary, with some Member States now able to bring larger-than-usual numbers of delegates to participate.

The importance of IHO membership was highlighted and Associate Members reported their progress with regards to in-country processes. Conference heard 13 nations present their key projects, achievements, and challenges since SAIHC17. SAIHC also welcomed Angola and Kenya as new members of the IHO.

The establishment of the African Great Lakes & Rivers Sub-Working Group at SAIHC17 is a success story in the region and has met three times virtual in the past year, holding its fourth meeting in-person, in Maputo. Attendance at the Working Group has been fantastic, with participation from 8 Member States and invitations for further regional organisations in progress. It has also managed to significantly improve data holdings of ports on Lake Victoria following collaboration with World Bank and Royal Haskoning.

A three-year Capacity Building Work Plan was approved, and the activities funded and arranged for 2022 for the benefit of the region and to build domestic capability were shared

SAIHC18 saw the return of PMAESA and SEAIGNEP to enhance the International organisations represented at SAIHC to enhance collaboration and partnership opportunities in the region.

Lessons learned:

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. SAIHC18 presented an opportunity to trial a hybrid option in region and it certainly had mixed success. A record number of delegates were able to attend, making for a far more inclusive meeting. There were, however, some technical difficulties at times which made it difficult for VTC attendees to see and hear those in the room and vice versa.

10. Actions required of IRCC:

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. Note the report.



Rear Admiral (Retired) Peter Sparkes

Chair, Southern African Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC)