

**14th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC14
Denpasar - Bali, Indonesia 6-8 June 2022**

ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (RSAHC)

RSAHC report to IRCC14

1. Chair

Chair:	Captain Khalid Al Jabri	Sultanate of Oman	Since Jun 2021
	Alireza Khojasteh	IR of Iran	Feb. 2019 – Jun 2021
	Captain Muhammad Khalid	Pakistan	Feb. 2017 - Feb 2019
Vice-Chair:	No Vice Chair	-	Since Jun 2021
	Hamdan Al Yahmdi	Sultanate of Oman	Feb. 2019 - Jun 2021
	Alireza Khojasteh	IR of Iran	Feb. 2017 - Feb 2019

2. Membership

Members: Bahrain, IR of Iran, Kuwait, Sultanate of Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates.

Associate member(s): France, Iraq, United Kingdom, United States of America.

Observers: Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), Middle East Navigation Service (MENAS), International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), Arabian Maritime and Navigation Aids Services LLC (AMNAS).

3. Meetings:

Following [RHC] meetings have taken place:

8 th RSAHC Meeting	Islamabad, Pakistan	18 - 20 Feb 2019
7 th RSAHC Meeting	Muscat, Oman	20 - 22 Feb 2017
6 th RSAHC Meeting	Abu Dhabi, UAE	09 - 11 Feb 2015

Next meeting:

9 th RSAHC Meeting	Muscat, Oman	15 - 17 Nov 2022 (TBC)
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4. Current [RHC] Working Groups:

RSA INT/ENC Chart Coordination working Group RSAICCWG, Coordinator IR of Iran.

5. Status of IRCC actions and recommendations to RHCs

a) Status of actions (relevant for the RSAHC):

IRCC13/5: IRCC members involved to develop measurements to the SPI allocated to them and report back to IRCC14. (Participated in the IRCC 2022 Workshop-Strategic)

IRCC13/6: RHCs and WGs to include the measurement of the SPI attributed by IRCC in their annual Work Plans (Permanent). (Work in progress)

b) Status of Recommendations to RHCs:

- a. IRCC13/1: RHC to encourage Member States to focus on ENC Schemes, but still follow applicable IHO Resolutions and Standards for any continuing INT chart production. (Will be discussed in next RSAHC 9th meeting)
- b. IRCC13/ 4: RHC to identify regional coordinators to act as a point of contact for CSB/Seabed 2030 and to raise the profile of data gathering and provision within their respective Region. (CSB/Seabed 2030 coordinator will be nominated in next RSAHC 9th meeting)
- c. IRCC13/ 8: RHCs to try to plan at least one face-to-face meeting between the 2nd and the 3rd Session of the IHO Assembly. (Meeting planned to be in Muscat-Oman Nov 2022)

6. Agenda Items:

Main activities of RSAHC are the progress in developing the INT chart schemes, ENC production, MSI, Maritime Spatial Data Infrastructures (MSDI), General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO), and contributing to develop measurements of Strategic Performance Indicator (SPI).

The main agenda of next meeting (RSAHC 9) will include:

1. Selection of Vice-chair.
2. INT Chart / ENC schemes coordinator report.
3. Revision and updates of RSAHC Statutes.
4. Capacity-building requirements.
5. Developing measurements of Strategic Performance Indicator (SPI).
6. Selection of CSB/Seabed2030 coordinator.
7. Invite Member State (Iraq) to become full member in RSAHC.

7. [RSAHC] cooperation with stakeholders (organizations, industry, etc.):

The commission meetings are always enriched by the attendance and participation of industry, such encourages healthy debate and develops collaborative opportunities.

8. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed:

- a. Due to the pandemic of COVID-19 since the end of 2019, in general the hydrographic activities were severely affected within the region and no meetings were conducted.
- b. There are still numerous problems in lack of communication between Member States to allow better cooperation within the region. As IHO has been informed, it has been observed in the past few years that Member States of RSAHC have limited participation in regional hydrographic activities.
- c. Following the introduction of MSDI and new standards such as S-100 series and their implementation in the near future, all the Member States in the region will need proper training to prepare accordingly.
- d. Most member states within the region have limited hydrographic and cartographic capabilities.

9. Achievements and lessons learned/ Conclusions:

- a. Due to the pandemic of COVID-19 there was no meeting conducted since the end of 2019, so the hydrographic activities affected within the region and no major achievements.

- b. We are looking forward to the coming meeting to discuss all IRCC recommendations and actions required.
- c. The RSAHC remains maintaining and strengthening the cooperation among the hydrographic offices in the region.
- d. Importance of VTC workshops, courses and meetings during pandemics such as Covid19.
- e. Lack of communication and enthusiasm of member states obstructs the development of the region hydrographically.

10. Actions required of IRCC:

- a. Note this report.
- b. Continue to conduct VTC training.

Captin Khalid Al-Jabri

RSAHC Chair