

**14<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
IHO-IRCC14  
Denpasar - Bali, Indonesia + VTC (Hybrid Meeting)**

**SOUTH WEST ATLANTIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

**SWAtHC Report to IRCC14**

**1. Chair:**

Commodore Valentin Alejandro SANZ RODRIGUEZ, Argentina, from October 2020  
Captain Jose DOMINGUEZ, Uruguay, from since 01 April 2020 until October 2020

**Vice-Chair:**

Vice Admiral Renato ARRUDA, Brazil, from December 2021  
Vice Admiral Edgar BARBOSA, Brazil, from October 2020 until December 2021  
Commodore Valentin Alejandro SANZ RODRIGUEZ, Argentina, from March 2017 until October 2020.

**2. Membership**

**Members:** Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay

**Associate Member:** Paraguay

**Observer:** Bolivia

**3. Meetings:**

Following SWAtHC meetings have taken place:

13th SWAtHC Conference	Buenos Aires, Argentina	25-26 April 2019
14th SWAtHC Conference	Niteroi, Brazil	9-10 March 2020
15th SWAtHC Conference	VTC Buenos Aires, Argentina	31 August - 1 September 2021
Next Meeting: 16th SWAtHC Conference	Montevideo, Uruguay	will take place on 30 and 31 August 2022

The next SWAtHC meeting will be held in Montevideo (Uruguay). It will have a dual format via face-to-face and VTC, in order to ensure the participation of a larger number of people.

**4. Current SWAtHC Working Groups:**

\* Planning Committee

**5. Status of IRCC actions and recommendations to RHCs**

**a) Status of actions (relevant for the SWAtHC):**

<b>N.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
5	IRCC members involved to develop measurements to the SPI allocated to them and report back to IRCC14	2 <sup>nd</sup> IRCC Workshop on the Strategic Plan contributed to this development, when SWAtHC made a presentation on their development of the measurements of the SPIs allocated to the RHCs. Ongoing.
6	RHCs and WGs to include the measurement of the SPI attributed by IRCC in their annual Work Plans (Permanent)	Ongoing.

**b) Status of recommendations:**

<b>N.</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Status</b>
1	Upon the recommendations based on the proposals made by the NCWG on the Future of the Nautical Paper Chart, RHC to encourage Member States to focus on ENC Schemes, but still follow applicable IHO Resolutions and Standards for any continuing INT chart production.	Attended.
2	RHCs to recommend Member States to Note the information on ECDIS anomalies and support the implementation of the recommendations given by the ENCWG.	Attended.
3	RHC and MS to advise the IHO Secretariat of any update/change to their position in relation with the CSB questionnaire (IHO CL 21/2020).	Attended.
4	RHC to identify regional coordinators to act as a point of contact for CSB/Seabed 2030 and to raise the profile of data gather and provision within their respective Region.	Attended.
5	RHC to encourage MS to participate in the Empowering Women in Hydrography project.	Attended.
6	RHC to encourage MS to submit Articles and Notes for publication in the IHR.	Attended.
7	RHCs to consider extend the role of Charting Regional Coordinators for the implementation of the S-100 Implementation Roadmap.	Ongoing.
8	RHCs to try to plan at least one face-to-face meeting between the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Session of the IHO Assembly.	SWAtHC held one Conference already and will hold another this year. Attended.
9	RHCs to coordinate the efforts on the implementation of S-100 and promote the cooperation and exchange of experiences.	Ongoing.
10	RHCs to apply Resolution 1/2005 in case of disasters occurred to support the affected States in their regions.	Attended.
11	RHCs to invite relevant Member States to report to the IMO Secretariat and the Chair of the EGC Coordinating Panel on the progress and status of implementation of newly recognized mobile satellite services by MSI providers.	Dependent on IMO decision about the implementation of newly recognized mobile satellite services by MSI providers.

12	Member States and submitting institutions are encouraged to engage with the IHO Secretariat early in the process of them preparing submissions for programme recognition.	Attended.
13	Member States and submitting institutions are encouraged to consult the Guidelines, the FAQs and the White Paper early in the process of preparing submissions for programme recognition.	Attended.
14	RHCs to encourage all Member States to actively contribute with new data to GEBCO and to discuss how MS can share existing data.	SWAtHC Action Attended.
15	Encourage RHCs and relevant Bodies to contribute to the recommendations provided by Shell to increase the cooperation between HO's and Natural source Regulators and reduce permitting requirements for transits through countries EEZ's.	Attended.

## 6. Agenda Items:

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, which has affected the countries of the region and the world, the SWAtHC15 Conference, that would have been prior to the IRCC13 Meeting, was postponed as mentioned before. Therefore, the permanent agenda presented at IRCC12, after the SWAtHC14 was held, remained in force with the addition of a few matters.

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. Report of the IHO Secretariat;
- ii. Report of the C-4 meeting;
- iii. Report of the IRCC13 meeting;
- iv. Progress on the CBSC;
- v. Progress on the WWNWS-SC;
- vi. Progress on the IEHG;
- vii. Presentation of National Reports;
- viii. Status of the Seabed 2030 Project in the SWAtHC Region;
- ix. Progress on Crowdsourced Bathymetry;
- x. Progress on S-100;
- xi. Report of the Planning Committee.

## Capacity Building

### 2020

- Hydrographic Awareness Seminar (10-11, March) – Brazil (DHN).

### 2021

- Webinar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography – with the coordination of Uruguay (SOHMA). The Webinar had approximately 48 participants, and the feedback was so good.

Five lectures were held:

- IMO (SOLAS Convention and Navigational Warning Service)
- IALA (with emphasis on aids to navigation - inland waters)

- IHO's Capacity Building Program
- Water level in estuaries and rivers
- Inland ENC's - cartographic production process

The CBSC approved these SWAtHC events to 2021, but did not execute it because pandemic situation:

- Technical Visit to Bolivia – SWAtHC/IHO).
- Seminar (in person) on Raising Awareness of Hydrography – Uruguay (SOHMA); y
- Port and Shallow Water Survey Course – Brazil (DHN).

## 2022

The CBSC approved the following events, that were not held in 2021 and were automatically moved to 2022:

- Technical Visit to Bolivia – SWAtHC/IHO.
- Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography – Uruguay (SOHMA); y
- Port and Shallow Water Survey Course – Brazil (DHN).

## 2023

The SWAtHC submitted to CBSC the following course proposals:

- MBES Data Processing Course (5 days) – Argentina (SHN) - priority 1
- Data management for ENC S-100 production (5 days) – Uruguay (SOHMA) - priority 2
- Tides and water level workshop (5 days) – Brazil (DHN) - priority 3

## 2024

- Seminar in Hydrographic Awareness – Brazil (DHN) - priority 1
- MBES Data Processing Course (5 days) – Uruguay (SOHMA) - priority 2
- Basic ENC production (S-100) (5 days) – Argentina (SHN) - priority 3
- MSDI and Data Assessment (5 days) – Brazil (DHN) - priority 4

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

SWAtHC has been in touch with Industry partners regarding hydrographic surveying and nautical cartography production, and for future development of S-100 based products.

## 8. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed

### a) Difficulties:

1) The main difficulty that has arisen is the scarce resources allocated for the projects by the Capacity Building, for which the SWAtHC Region has not had approved events for 2022.

The activities must be face-to-face and practical, but they have been affected and limited by the pandemic. The continuity of the SWAtHC Capacity Building Plan is a strategic issue of vital importance for all Members.

2) Members lack sufficient staff resources to address all the proposed work lines.

3) It is difficult for Members to stay ahead of the technology, which is constantly improving, making it difficult to adapt to the changes proposed by the different committees.

### b) Challenges:

- The main challenge yet to be addressed is the implementation of S-100 based products for the SWAtHC Region.
- Another change to consider is the costs involved in NAVAREAs notifications in the event that the Iridium Safety Cast becomes mandatory.

## 9. Achievements and lessons learned:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the SWAtHC held the annual meetings, which allowed the continuity of the hydrographic activity in the Region.

As a result, the next SWAtHC meeting will be held in a hybrid format (face-to-face and VTC), in order to expand the number of participants.

A Contingency Plan for the transmission of navigational warnings in the Region is in effect. In 2016, during SWAtHC10, the mutual support agreement between SHN (Argentina) and DHN (Brazil) was signed, in order to ensure the transmission and monitoring of navigational warnings in their areas of responsibility, in case of interruption of system operation. The exercises are carried out annually, with six successful exercises being carried out since 2016.

In order to improve MSI services, a web system is being developed by some Members, to record and control the dissemination of maritime safety information.

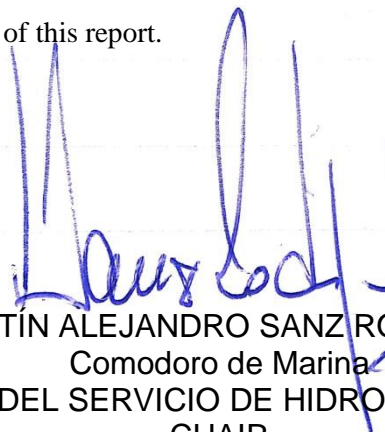
C-55 was updated until March 2022 by the Members.

## 10. Conclusions:

- a) The associate and observer countries of the SWAtHC region that are not yet members of the IHO, Bolivia and Paraguay, continue without submitting their instruments of accession, and attempts to obtain their accession continue.
- b) Within the report of the WNWNS-SC, there has been a worldwide reduction in NAVAREA notifications, a situation that was not reflected in Brazil or Argentina. Brazil and Argentina have not yet signed NAVAREA's adherence to Iridium's new ISM provider, NAVAREAs V and VI.
- c) Brazil provided a bathymetric grid of 1 km resolution covering NAVAREA V to contribute to the Seabed 2030 Project in March 2021.
- d) The Seabed 2030 Project has three strategies to achieve its objective, Crowdsourced Bathymetry, border mapping and technical innovation. Brazil has recently produced a georeferenced map with bathymetric gaps in the CHAtSO Region, to be disseminated among the other Members.
- e) The Statute of the SWAtHC was modified. The most important modification was the northern limit of the CHAtSO Region, moving from 0° (equator) to 01° South.
- f) SWAtHC remains committed to the guiding principles of the IHO, as well as supporting the accession of Bolivia and Paraguay as IHO Member States.

## 11. Actions required of IRCC:

The IRCC is invited to take note of this report.



VALENTÍN ALEJANDRO SANZ RODRÍGUEZ  
Comodoro de Marina  
DIRECTOR DEL SERVICIO DE HIDROGRAFÍA NAVAL  
CHAIR