



Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission

Report to IRCC15

Tokyo, Japan
12 – 14 June 2023

on behalf of Vinka Kolić, MBSHC Chair



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Background

- **Chair: Croatia**, from April 2022
- **Vice Chair: Romania**, from September 2022.
- **23 Member States** - Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine.
- **Associate Member(s):** Israel, Palestinian Authority, United Kingdom, United States of America.
- **Observers:** Albania, CIESM, Germany, IALA, IOC, IC-ENC and PRIMAR

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IHO Key Achievements

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➤ **S-100 implementation:**

- **MBSHC S-1XX WG was established** to coordinate activities related to S-100 roadmap implementation which is in line with the IHO Strategic Plan.
- **the Region F International Charting Coordination Working Group (Region F ICCWG)** - extended mandate to include coordination of S-101 in the F region.
- **The new MBSHC Statutes** was adopted during the MBSHC23 and is in the force from the 01st April 2022.
- **New Member States** – enlargement of the MBSHC membership is beneficial:
 - Albania became a new member of the IHO in May 2022 and is currently in the process of signing the MBSHC Statutes.
- **Disaster Response Framework** for the MBSHC region was approved at the MBSHC23
- **MSDI** (Italy – MBSHC Ambassador) is recognized to be relevant due to marine spatial data integration and new standard S-100.
 - There is a constant need to cooperate with MS, to encourage training, awareness of the importance of the integrated geospatial information framework and involvement of the MS in the MSDI initiatives.
- **Capacity building** (Turkey – CB Coordinator) is core strategic issue and plays a key role in the region.
 - 2022: 2 workshops – MSDI and Cartographic Data Management (Istanbul - Turkey- 12/2022)

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Important Findings (RHC top 3 challenges)

- *The **main challenge** in the MBSHC region is **the implementation of S-100 products and services**, and for that reason additional effort, capacity building activities, education, trainings, and cooperation among MS in the region is required.*
- *MBSHC is a region with the largest number of countries and **improving cartographic coordination** between them is important and permanent ongoing task. Progress has been made in the Region F concerning the solution of some ENC overlaps, INT and ENC charting schemes.*
- *To get **more active participation** from most MBSHC MS in the Committee/Working Groups of the MBSHC and IHO .*
- *The challenge faced in terms of the **CB activities** is mainly related with the **limited funds** available. S-100 is the priority related to CB activities. IHO should find ways to **increase alternate sources of funding** and partnerships for capacity building, as the demand far outweighs IHO CB funds.*
- *To **motivate MBSHC MS** to improve knowledge of the seafloor by promoting the sharing of data with the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB) – according to their national law policies and regulations.*
- ***Motivating** and sustaining member engagement in **Seabed 2030***

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Lessons Learned

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- **Bilateral discussion** is the only way for the solution of ENC overlapping issues and the only way for the step forward.
- The coordination role of the IHO-EU network working group - IENWG is a **great example of the cooperation between European HOs in large EU funded projects**, especially in the MBSHC region.
 - MBSHC MS are active contributors to the European Marine Observation and Data Network - EMODNet Bathymetry portal - The EMODNet bathymetry data is used in the IHO-IOC GEBCO global grid.
 - active participation from the MBSHC MS in the EU initiatives – Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and EU Directive on Public Sector Information (PSI).
- **Collaboration across RHC** and exchange of knowledge and experiences among the MS – especially on the **implementation of the S-100** (trainings, support to less developed MS, study visits etc.) is **important and good way forward** if we want to be in line with the S-100 roadmap.
- **Awareness raising among MS** – it is necessary to create an environment where many stakeholders such as maritime administrations, industry and other professional organizations can be involved and cooperate to facilitate widest possible implementation of S-100.

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Proposals

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- Note the MBSHC report.
- Take note of the importance of CB activities in the MBSHC region and the need for additional funds to IHO CB funds
- Take any action consider appropriate.