

MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**IHO-IRCC15****Tokyo, Japan, 12-14 June 2023****REPORT OF THE
IHO HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION ON ANTARCTICA**

1. **Chair:** Dr. Mathias Jonas, IHO Secretariat
Vice-Chair: Patrick Dorr, USA
Secretary: Yves Guillam, IHO Secretariat
Region M ENC/INT Chart Coordinator: Lee Truscott, UK
2. **Membership of full Members:**

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA, Venezuela
3. **Meetings:**

HCA18 (reported to IRCC14 already):
Hybrid event, 24 - 26 May 2022, Berlin, Germany, in conjunction with the XLIV Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM).
HCA-19: Planned in Italy, 27-29 March 2024.
4. **Agenda Items of HCA18:**
 - a) Revision of HCA Statutes
 - b) Assessment of the adequacy of INT Chart and ENC coverage on the Maritime Shipping Routes around the Antarctic Peninsula
 - c) Presentation of respective National Polar Strategic Plans
 - d) Bathymetric data sharing
 - e) S-100 Implementation Roadmap for the region
 - f) Recognition of the Southern Ocean
 - g) Contribution to the management of effects of climate change in the region
5. **Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed:**
 - a) Set up of regular data service provisions for the Priority 1 S1xx data products to meet the timelines of the S-100 Implementation Roadmap (PRO 1.1 refers) and the introduction of S-100 Dual Fuel ECDIS based on IMO requirements (PRO 2.1 refers).
 - b) Involvement of the IHO in general, and HCA in particular, on scientific matters in relation to climate change.
 - c) Practical and coordinated implementation of the good will and statements collected in ATCM Resolutions focused on hydrography.

6. Achievements/outputs/conclusions:

- a) HCA Statutes are now fully aligned with the IHO Resolution 2/1997 - Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC), the Antarctic Treaty System¹, the last ATCM Resolutions and the IHO Strategic Plan 2021-2026.
- b) Proposed change of Art. 8.e of the General Regulations of the IHO approved by 3rd IHO Assembly (A3 Decision 17 refers).**
- c) Establishment an HCA S-100 Implementation Working Group. Distribution of work among HCA member on the governance and production strategies for the top priority S-100 based products (S-101, S-102, S-104, S-111, S-122, S-124, S-128, and S-411).
- d) New straightforward procedure to submit survey coverage metadata for being displayed in HCA GIS maintained by the IHO Secretariat.
- e) Proposal of an IHO Resolution addressing the recognition of the Southern Ocean approved by 3rd IHO Assembly (A3 Decision 19 refers).**
- f) Analysis of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) **Recommendations for Action** available in their recent report: *Antarctic Climate and the Environment: A Decadal Synopsis and Recommendations for Action*.
- g) Call towards to all remaining IHO Member States, who are Parties to the Antarctic Treaty (Consultative or Non-Consultative Status) to join the HCA (in progress at the date of this report).
- h) Significant increase of new assets (Polar research vessels) for collecting data in Antarctica.
- i) Close relationship with the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat (in charge of ATCM meetings).

7. **Actions required of the IRCC:**

- a) **Note** the referenced A3 decisions related to the activities of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica;
- b) **take any other action** considered appropriate.

¹ Antarctic Treaty, Article II 1.(c) states that “*scientific observations and results from Antarctica shall be exchanged and made freely available*”.