

Agenda Item 7

Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica

Report to IRCC15

Tokyo, Japan

12- 14 June 2022

By Dr. Mathias Jonas (IHO)

HCA Chair



IHO

International
Hydrographic
Organization

Key activities since IRCC14

- No HCA meeting since IRCC14
- Proposal to amend Art. 8.e of the General Regulations of the IHO approved by A3 (Decision 17 refers)
- Proposal of an IHO Resolution addressing the recognition of the Southern Ocean approved by A3 (Decision 19 refers).
- Report on HCA activities at ATCM XLV (Helsinki, Finland, June 2023) introducing the new S-100 data services (incl. S-411, S-412) under development for the region. Highlighted the importance for voyage planning since safety of navigation is an important part of the Polar Code.



Key Achievements

- Agreement that, as a matter of principle, the current producer nations in Antarctica should be encouraged to consider the future production and distribution of S-100 based products for Antarctica, in their areas of charting responsibility.
- Anticipating the outcome of IRCC-14 on the recommendations from the WENDWG with regard to the S-100 Implementation Roadmap per region, HCA agreed to establish an HCA S-100 Implementation Working Group.
- Following up on Action WENDWG12/33 (IGIF pathway matrix per S-1xx product, per RHC), **HCA** agreed on some guiding initial principles and leaders to fill the HCA S-100-IGIF Matrix for S-101, S-102, S-104, S-111, S-122, S-124, S-128, S-411.



Important Findings (HCA top 3 challenges)

- **HCA** tasked the Region M ICCWG to monitor the ARHC (Region N) developments on ENC gridded schemes possible solutions in Polar regions.
- **HCA Members** to inform as part of their national reports, how they engage with their national marine research institutes to improve their contribution to GEBCO / Seabed 2030.
- **HCA** noted the existence of some national Polar Strategic Plans (2021-2030) and invited **HCA Members** to consider the role that the HCA could and should play for a coordinated implementation if appropriate in application of the new amended HCA Statutes and the IHO Strategic Plan 2021-2026.



IHO

International
Hydrographic
Organization

Lessons Learned (1)

- **HCA** approved the amendments to the Peninsula MSRs as proposed by the **HPWG Chair**.
- **HPWG Chair** to reformat the supporting plan and continue monitoring adequacy against AIS data in preparation of HCA-19
- **HPWG Chair** to keep **IAATO** (and **COMNAP** eventually) informed of the MSR changes.
- Beyond the Peninsula, **HCA Members** active in these regions are invited to collate relevant data and provide MSR information if any to the **HPWG Chair** for subsequent analysis against AIS data



IHO

International
Hydrographic
Organization

Lessons Learned (2)

The **HCA** reminded the **Region M ICCWG** recommendations on the general WEND principles/guidelines for the establishment of ENC Schemes in the region:

- where not ENC first, the INT chart and ENC scheme is aligned;
- where producing ENC only, proposal must be circulated to Region M Coordinator in advance for being considered than submitted to HCA for formal approval.
- iaw standards in force, all proposals must be designed to avoid overlaps.
- Several HCA members reported hughe future investment in new Polar Research Vessels



Proposals

Start a debate if and how the HCA/IHO be involved in climate change related activities.

What is the message we should give to other partners when they questioned the IHO on involvement in this domain?

- Global repository of Marine Protected Areas?
- Global monitoring of water level?
- Global turbidity layer?
- survey of new ice-free areas?

...



IHO

International
Hydrographic
Organization

Conclusions

IRCC15 is invited to:

- Take note of the report
- Consider the extended activities in the implementation of the S-100 Roadmap for the region.
- Consider to open the debate on IHOs/RHCs future engagement in climate change related activities in reference to strategic goal 3.
- Decide on any other guidance to HCA as deemed appropriate.



IHO

International
Hydrographic
Organization