



IRCC Chair Report

Report to IRCC16

Santa Cruz Island - Galapagos, Ecuador
10 – 12 June 2024

By Thomas Dehling

IRCC Chair



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Activities since IRCC 14

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- Report at Council 7 in October 2023
 - First Council after Assembly 3, Chair Pia Dahl
- Successful, most proposals of IRCC via Council adopted/approved
- New tasks for IRCC
- IRCC December Letter as usual
- IRCC Workshop on CSB very successfully held in April 2024
- HSSC 16 meeting two weeks ago in Helsinki. Report given by DE.



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IRCC Introduction

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The Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) is the steering committee of the IHO for inter-regional coordination and support.

Chair: Mr Thomas DEHLING (Germany)

Vice-Chair: Jennifer Jencks (USA)

Members:

Chairs of the 15 RHCs and of HCA

Chairs of 9 subordinate bodies

(WWNWS, CBSC, WENDWG, MSDIWG, IENWG, CSBWG, IBSC, DCDB, GGC)

PT on Fund Generation

Excellent cooperation between IRCC and HSCC



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Decisions of C-7 related to IRCC

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Project Team on Fund Generation of IHO' Project Initiatives

Following up on Decision A3/20b

- At IRCC-15 we installed a scoping team under the lead of the then Vice-Chair John Nyberg to investigate potential additional sources of funding and the Project Team's objectives. Results presented at Council 7.
- C-7 noted the outcome of the scoping team and endorsed IRCC's recommendations to establish a PT under the IRCC.
- CL16/2024 confirmed the nominations for the PT
- PT met for the first time remotely on 4th of April 2024
 - Chair – Tom Richardson, UK
 - Vice Chair - Christina Fandel, USA (NOAA)
 - Secretary - Hendrik Stang, Denmark



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Proposal for a new Programme for Gender Balance in Hydrography

The programme is deemed as a follow-up to the successful Empowering Women in Hydrography Project

C-7 agreed on the way forward in three steps, as suggested by the Secretary-General:

- C-7 tasked IRCC to first define, through the CBSC, the regulatory framework (M-3) for a continued activity on this social theme through a proposal for an IHO Resolution;
- C-7 agreed to continue with the EWH project, led by the CBSC, supported by remaining funds and future financial and/or in-kind support;
- C-7, supported by IRCC, will develop a proposal on the future framework for an IHO social programme (incl. Gender Balance in Hydrography) to be submitted to A-4.



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IRCC Workshops

- C-7 welcomed the proposal from the IRCC to plan two workshops
- CrowdSourced Bathymetry (CSBWG), on the benefit of crowdsourced bathymetry and how to encourage and expand data contribution.
 - Very successfully held on 26th of April 2024
- Standards of Competence (IBSC) matters, to provide clarifications for the institutions on the preparation of submissions to the Board;
 - Still to be planned and executed
 - Several workshops are ongoing regarding revision of Standards S-5 and S-8



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Strategic Plan revision

- Council acknowledged the current structure of the Strategic Plan (SP) 2021-2026 and agreed the objective for the next SP 2027-2032 should be limited to a revision of the current SP.
- Council tasked HSSC and IRCC to provide their inputs on the possible axis of evolution of the existing SP in preparation of the revision phase (2024-2025) of the current SP.
- This will be a topic at IRCC-16.
- Initial ideas received from NSHC and USCHC.
- General revision pathway in report of IHO Secretariat.



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Strategic Plan revision

- IRCC should already provide input at C-8
- We will have a brainstorming session under Agenda Item 8 on this topic
 - Each IRCC member will provide aspects seen important to be included in the process of the SP review
 - Followed by an open discussion
- IRCC chair to forward this input to SP Review WG via C-8



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MSDI Issues

- C-7 tasked the IHO Secretariat to establish liaison with relevant data providers of MPAs and tasked the IRCC, through the MSDIWG, to establish a pilot project for the High Sea and MPAs adopted by IMO, to demonstrate the benefits of S-122 for non-navigation purposes.
- I asked MSDI to take this task accordingly and report to IRCC-16.
- In accordance with Decision A3/8c, the Council noted that IRCC tasked the MSDIWG to not invest in another portal, but to focus on global thematic layers by means of the existing IHO GIS infrastructure (like those already available on the INTToGIS).



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Ex Abyssis ad Alta Award in Hydrography

- C-7 agreed on the way forward for the Award
- HSSC and IRCC Chairs, supported by DTech John Nyberg, prepared a proposed IHO Resolution for the Hydrography Award
- approval of IHO Member States on the IHO Resolution
- First selection for the annual Award accomplished



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Strategic Performance Indicator (SPI)

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9 SPI are allocated to IRCC, IRCC developed them with the following aspects:

- keep it simple, figures measuring the success,
- comparable, simple, digital means,
- find worldwide indicators that doesn't leave any MS behind.

Figures annually processed for IHO Publication P7 (Annual Report)

See A-3 Decision 8 point d), “Status Report on Performance Monitoring related to the Strategic Plan 2021-2026”, via the approved SPI.

Please suggest amendments or changes for the revised Strategic Plan if appropriate



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Preliminary important issues of IRCC16

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Thank you all of you for providing your reports;

Timely provision will allow IRCC members to read the reports in advance.

Please be short and on the point when delivering your oral reports and proposals to the Committee

- Please limit oral report to issues important on IRCC level and for other bodies of IRCC.
- Short report concentrated on the important issues have a much higher chance to be considered and recognized by IRCC members at the meeting
- Details can be read in the written reports
- Allocate sufficient time for discussion and decisions

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Looking forward to a successful meeting



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The IRCC is invited to note the report

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