

**The status we could add is that both the US and Canada have fully implemented all recognized mobile satellite services (Inmarsat and Iridium).16th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC16
10-12 June 2024**

UNITED STATES-CANADA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

USCHC report to IRCC16

Draft as of May 28, 2024
Pending Review and Discussion at USCHC47 (May 30-31, 2024)

1. Chair

Chair: *RDML Benjamin K. Evans (USA) from June 2024 (projected)*
Ms. Manon Larocque (Canada) from September 2023 to May 31, 2024
Dr. Geneviève Béchar, (Canada) from March 17, 2023 to September 2023

Vice-Chair: Ms. Manon Larocque (Canada) from June 2024
RDML Benjamin K. Evans (USA) from March 17, 2023-May 31, 2024

2. Membership

Members: Canada, United States

Associate member(s): none

Permanent Observers: IHO Secretariat

3. Meetings:

Following USCHC meetings have taken place since IRCC15 (June 2023):

- USCHC47 May 30-31, 2024 (St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador Canada)
- Regional video conference call on Great Lakes coordination: monthly

4. Current [RHC] Working Groups and coordinators:

- a) HydroGeoSpatial Products and Services Committee (HGSPC): Christie Ence (USA) and Mina Foroutan (CA)
- b) WEND Representative: Jeremy Nicholson (CA)
- c) S-100 Coordinator:¹ Christie Ence (until May 2024) Sean Legeer (from May 2024) (USA) and Laura Colombe (until May 2024) and _____ (from May 2024) (CA)
- d) Seabed 2030/CSB Coordinator: Andy Armstrong (USA)
- e) MSDI Coordinator: Catilin Johnson (USA) (until USCHC46 March 2023)
Successor to be confirmed at USCHC47 (May 2024)
- f) CBSC Coordinator: Jonathan Justi (USA)

5. Status of IRCC15 actions and recommendations to RHCs

¹ This topic will be discussed and confirmed at USCHC47 (May 30-31, 2024) and is expected to be updated or otherwise clarified before IRCC.

Recommendation 1: RHCs are encouraged to review the ROP and TOR based on Decision 9b of the Assembly on gender-inclusive language. **STATUS: COMPLETED**

The [Statutes of the USCHC](#) were signed April 2017. There are no references to “man” or “woman.” The chair and vice chair are referred to as “chair” and “vice chair.”

Recommendation 2: RHCs to start producing S-101 and other s-100 Products by focusing on a specific part of the region. **STATUS: ONGOING**

Discussions at USCHC47 will examine a collaborative project focusing on Great Lake and St. Lawrence to Kingston or further southwest.

Recommendation 2: RHC to discuss how HO’s can assume a geo-coordinating role to help ensure provision of data on a regional level. **STATUS: ONGOING**

Recommendation 4: RHCs and Subordinate Bodies to consider to open the debate on future engagement in climate change (sic) related activities in reference to strategic goal 3. **STATUS: ONGOING**

Recommendation 5: RHC to encourage 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. **STATUS: Both the US and Canada have fully implemented all recognized mobile satellite services (Inmarsat and Iridium). Action is complete.**

Recommendation 6: RHCs to ensure representation of their region in the CBSC and encourage other IHO Member States to join in the work of the CBSC. **STATUS: ONGOING**

Recommendation 7: RHCs to prioritize their participation in the WENDWG through the RHC Chart Coordinator or S-100 Coordinator. **STATUS: Jeremy Nicholson (CHS) attends WEND meeting on behalf of USCHC.**

Decision 24: To note the results of the WEND-100 IGIF Matrix, as of February 2023 and encourage the WENDWG to use it as a tool for monitoring the S-100 implementation, for each S-100-based top priority product, per RHC. **STATUS: COMPLETED** WEND-100 IGIF Matrix for USCHC was initially completed in 2023 and is available on the IHO USCHC Meeting [Basic Commission Documents](#) page. It was also discussed at WEND14 (2024).

Recommendation 8: RHCs, if not done already, establish the S-100 Coordinator role or assign S-100 Coordinator duties as appropriate. **STATUS: to be COMPLETED at USCHC47. CHS (CA) has S-100 “leads” as opposed to “coordinators”**

Recommendation 9: RHC S-100 Coordinators to update their WEND-100 IGIF Matrix submissions every year and share their schedule and roadmap to meeting the 2026 IMO target (S-100 ECDIS) at every WENDWG meeting. **STATUS: Pending Guidance from WEND WG regarding annual update.**

Recommendation 10: RHC Chart Coordinators/S-100 Coordinators report their planned S-101 chart schemes, usage bands 1 – 4, by 30 September. Request that submissions use INTogIS III when commissioned. **STATUS:**

Recommendation 11: RHCs to appoint MSDI ambassadors and inform the MSDIWG with contact details **STATUS: USCHC MSDI ambassador is to be confirmed at USCHC47 (May 2024). Prior USCHC MSDI ambassador was Caitlin Johnson (USA-NGA) who has assumed Chair role of MSDIWG.**

Recommendation 12: RHC to encourage Member States to have more CSBWG participation
STATUS: Active participation from both Canada and the U.S.

Recommendation 13: RHC to encourage Member States to support the CSB initiative with positive actions, such as requiring all research vessels to collect bathymetric data for late uploading, when on passage or when it does not interfere with other research activities. **STATUS:** Hydrographic offices and research institutes within CA and the U.S. are active promoting the collection and use of CSB data and are collaborating together on the development of tools to expand the acceptance of CSB both locally and globally.

Recommendation 14: RHCs to encourage Member State and stakeholder bathymetric data contributions to the DCDB, regardless of origin. **STATUS:** ONGOING The U.S Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IWG-OCM) facilitates the coordination and contribution of ocean and coastal mapping activities and data. These activities have been amplified as a result of the ongoing U.S. national mapping efforts (NOMECS).

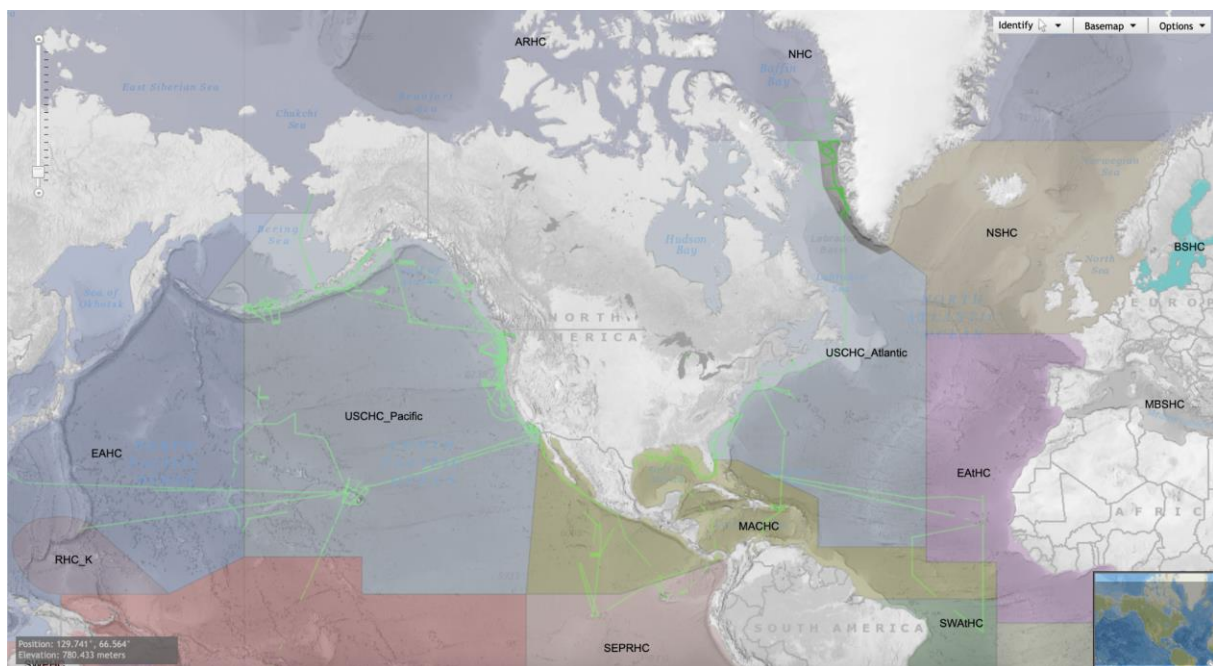
Recommendation 15: RHCs to collaborate with the DCDB on developing and highlighting annual regional breakdowns of data holdings as part of SPI reporting. **STATUS:** ONGOING

Recommendation 16: To encourage RHCs to actively contribute with new data to GEBCO **STATUS:** ONGOING

Multibeam, singlebeam and crowdsourced bathymetry collected within the USCHC continue to be contributed to the IHO DCDB. These data are regularly harvested for ingestion into the annual GEBCO grid.

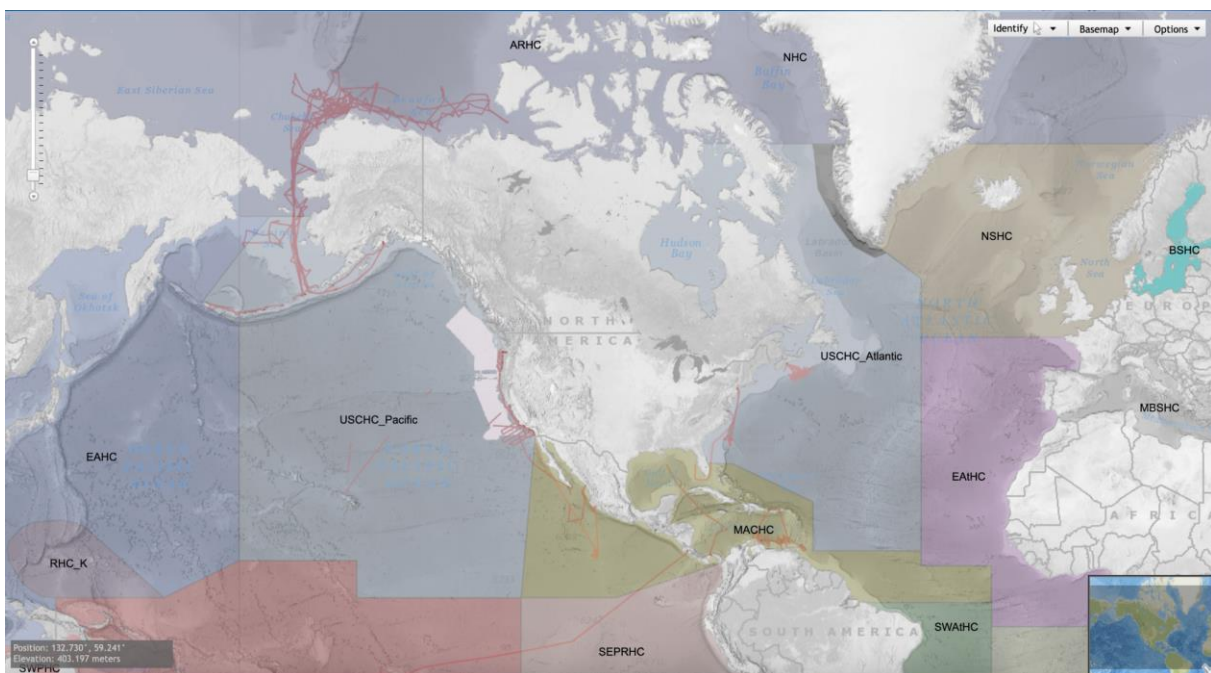
1) Multibeam bathymetry data added to the IHO DCDB database between June 2023-present

Over 65 multibeam bathymetry surveys from the USCHC region were added to the DCDB database since June 2023.



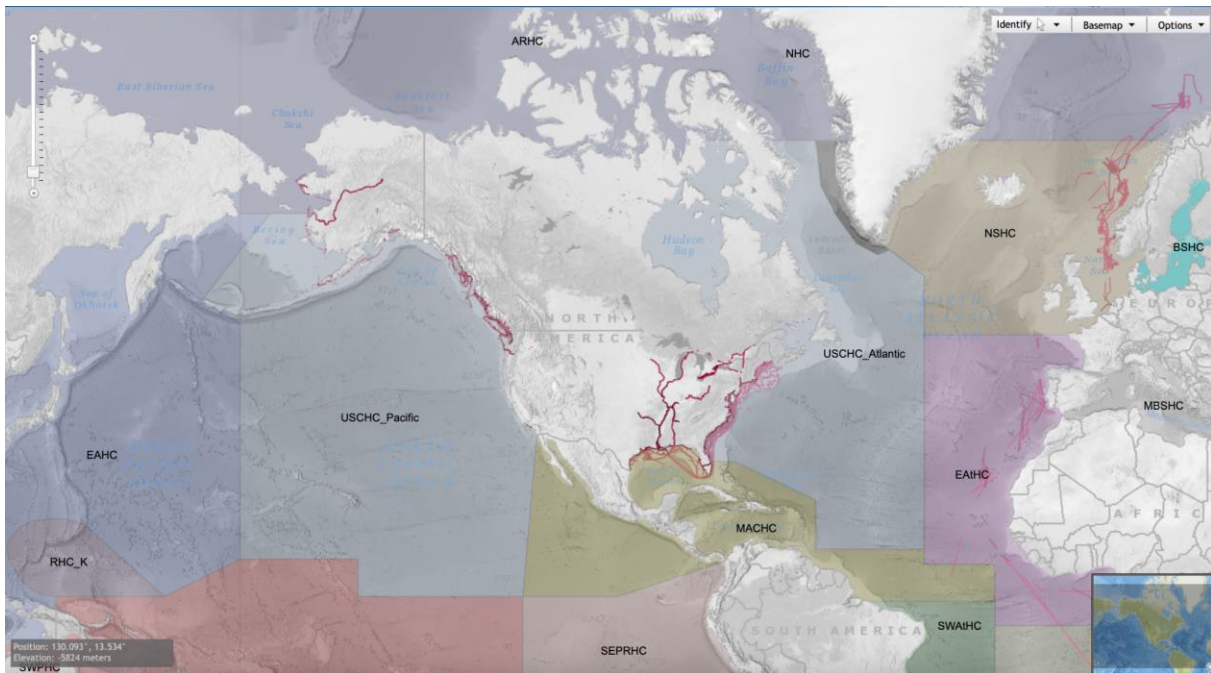
2) Singlebeam bathymetry data added to the IHO DCDB database between June 2023-present

35 singlebeam bathymetry surveys from the USCHC region were added to the DCDB database since June 2023. Eight of these surveys were collected on the USCGS Healy (2010-2011), 16 from the U.S. Academic Fleet (2015-2017), and eleven were collected aboard the USCGS ship Pioneer (OSS-31) and one cruise from the USS Rehoboth (AGS-50) in deep water off the west coast of the United States and southern British Columbia in 1955 and 1956. The marine magnetic data (and depth data) from these cruises were recovered by the U.S. Geological Survey from backup tapes that archived the work of Skaer and Hey in the late 1980s (Skaer, 1989).



3) Crowdsourced bathymetry data added to the IHO DCDB database between June 2023-present

In the last year, CSB data collected within the USCHC area were contributed by Rosepoint, Seabed 2030, Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS), AquaMap, COMIT, FarSounder, and Orange Force Marine.



Recommendation 17: To invite RHCs to assign the INT paper chart scheme appropriateness check and possible amendment of the scheme. **STATUS:**

Decision 43: To agree to discuss RHC requirements regarding the future of all paper products (charts and publications) at IRCC 16. **STATUS:**

Recommendation 18: To encourage RHCs to invite Member States to consider the provision of paper chart updating procedures depending on the findings of NCWG. **STATUS:**

Recommendation 19: To encourage RHCs to invite Member States to consider the requirements (including regulations) for non-ECDIS mandated vessels (e.g. small commercial, fishing, leisure, etc) within national, regional and global discussions on this topic (HSSC15 decision 7 regarding Electronic Chart Systems PT refers). **STATUS: ONGOING**

6. Agenda Items:

Key agenda items at USCHC47 (2024) were the following:

- S-100 Implementation (regional implementation, S-128, demonstration project, WEND, overlaps and MSDI)
- Strategic Plan reporting and observations
- C-55
- Uncrewed vessels and remote sensing

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

The USCHC generally meets the same week as US Hydrographic Conference and the Canada Hydrographic Conference which provides participants extensive opportunities to meet and dialogue with colleagues from industry, academia and other organizations. For more information on Canadian

Hydrographic Conference (May 27-30, 2024), including participants and agendas, please visit:
<https://chc2024.org/en>.

The U.S. will host the US Hydrographic Conference in March 2025 in Wilmington, North Carolina in March 2025.

8. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed

None of special note.

9. Achievements and lessons learned:

“[USCHC Transboundary Web App](#)” Coordination of hydrographic survey activities in transboundary areas.

Creation of web based [S-100 product coverage viewer](#) (nowCoast) (US NOAA)

Local, regional CHS-OCS hydrographic networking in transboundary areas (Pacific, Atlantic, Great Lakes)

10. Conclusions:

The USCHC is a collegial and dynamic group. Based on collaboration and technical exchange, the USCHC addresses challenges across INT region A, and works on improving collection and dissemination of hydrographic knowledge for the benefit of mariners and other stakeholders.

11. Actions required of IRCC:

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. Note the report of the US-Canada Hydrographic Commission
- b. Take any action considered appropriate.

Manon Larocque (to May 31, 2024)

and

RDML Benjamin K Evans (from June 1, 2024)

USCHC Chair