



Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission

Report to IRCC16

Santa Cruz Island - Galapagos, Ecuador

10 – 12 June 2024

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EAtHC Chair

IRCC16

Santa Cruz island, Galapagos, Ecuador, 10 – 12 June 2024

IRCC16-06.1G



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The 18th EAtHC conference

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- 01-03 May 2024 – Casablanca - Morocco
- Under the Chairpersonship of France (Shom), in-person meeting
- Preceded by a 2-day Capacity building Seminar “20 years of Capacity Building in EAtHC”
- Participation : all Members but one, all Associated Members, most several Observers → Total 81%
- At the end, Morocco took the Chairpersonship and Spain became Vice Chair
- EAtHC19: TBC in 2026

EAtHC IHO Membership : 26 Coastal States but only 10 Members (2 new Members: Cabo Verde and Angola)

In person meetings still important to strengthen regional cooperation. CB seminar enabled more attendance to the following EAtHC 18



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Key achievements

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- During EAtHC18 Conference

- **S-100 Implementation**: approval of extension of the EAtHC ICCWG ToRs and RoPs scope to regional S-100 coordination
- **Seabed2030 and CSB**: EAtHC coastal States encouraged to share data in the framework of GEBCO and project Seabed2030 and to develop the CSB initiatives in their waters
- **MSI / NAVAREA II**: review of the situation and reminder of good practices to coastal States
- **MSDIWG**: actions approved to support development of MSDI in the EAtHC region
- **Disaster response**: presentation of the EAtHC disaster plan response framework

- Since IRCC15 Meeting

- **ICCWG**: regular maintenance of the Region G INT chart scheme
- **CB**: 3 IHO technical visits carried out: Democratic Republic of Congo (led by Shom, 25 Jan-08 Feb. 2024), Guinea Bissau (led by Portugal, 19-23 Feb. 2024), and Guinea (led by Shom, 18-22 Mar 2024)
+ 2-day seminar (29-30 Apr 2024)

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Important findings (RHC top 3 challenges)

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- Increase **involvement** of coastal States into EAtHC (in particular IHO membership)
- Regional **S-100** implementation : more resources needed to increase coastal States' capacities. Set up of a regional S-100 coordination framework, need to define the priorities
- **Capacity Building** : training, on-job training, equipment funding are most necessary. The decrease in IHO CB funds do not allow meet the needs. Alternative funds to be found (need good knowledge of local stakeholders and time). Special interest for training in French language for this region (52% of French speaking coastal states in EAtHC).



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Lessons learned

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- Strengthen the cooperation and collaboration in the region, notably by meeting in face-to-face regularly and by the creation of excellency centers in Africa for hydrography
- Coastal States must put a high priority on the development of their hydrographic services in order to meet their SOLAS obligations
- Capacity-building funds are not sufficient for the needs of the region
- Technical visits/seminars are essential but have limited impacts if not completed by training, expertise missions, bilateral and multilateral cooperation;
- Member States should foster on-job training to share their education and training programs (ex: onboard hydrographic survey training, in-office chart production training, etc.)



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Proposals

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- IRCC is invited to :
 1. Take note of the EAtHC Report
 2. Take note of the importance of CB activities in this region and the need for complementary funds to IHO CB funds
 3. Consider any appropriate action