

**16th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC16
Santa Cruz Island - Galapagos, Ecuador, 10-12 June 2024**

SOUTHWEST ATLANTIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

SWAtHC report to IRCC16

1. Chair

Chair: Vice Admiral Marco Antônio LINHARES Soares, Brazil, since April 2024.
Vice Admiral Carlos ANDRÉ Coronha MACEDO, Brazil, from April 2023 to April 2024.

Vice-Chair: Captain Alejandro CHUCARRO, Uruguay, since June 2023.
Captain José DOMÍNGUEZ, Uruguay, from April 2023 to June 2023.

2. Membership

Members: Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay

Associate member(s): Paraguay

Observers: Bolivia* and Spain

* Bolivia was not able to attend SWAtHC18.

3. Meetings:

Following SWAtHC meeting has taken place:

18th SWAtHC Meeting – Buenos Aires, Argentina (9-10 April 2024)

Next meeting: 19th SWAtHC Meeting will take place in March/April 2025 in Niterói, Brazil.

4. Current [RHC] Working Groups:

- a) Planning Committee
- b) Working Group for individual certification for hydrographers and nautical cartographers

5. Status of IRCC actions and recommendations to RHCs

a) Status of actions (relevant for the SWAtHC):

N.	Action	Status
1	IRCC invited WENDWG to liaise with HSSC on how to mirror the HSSC ISO Cell on S-101 with the following scope: RHC S-101 production/coordination/distribution in the near future	Noted.

b) Status of Recommendations to RHCs:

N.	Action	Status
1	RHCs are encouraged to review the ROP and TOR based on Decision 9b of the Assembly on gender-inclusive language.	Ongoing SWAtHC18 approved Action18 (Revise Statute and

		present results at SWAtHC19).
2	RHCs to start producing S-101 and other S-100 products by focusing on a specific part of the region.	Not started
3	RHC to discuss how HOs can assume a geocoordinating role to help ensure provision of data at a regional level.	Discussed during SWAtHC18.
4	RHC to ask the MS and potential contributors to consider the extended activities in the implementation of the S-100 Roadmap for HCA region.	SWAtHC Member States are also members of HCA where this recommendation was discussed.
5	RHCs and Subordinate Bodies to consider opening the debate on future engagement in climate change related activities in reference to Strategic Goal 3.	Not started.
6	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	Discussed during SWAtHC18 and approved Action 20 (Coordinate actions between Brazil and Argentina to evaluate MSI transmission by IRIDIUM SafetyCast.
7	RHCs to ensure representation of their region in the CBSC and encourage other IHO Member States to join in the work of the CBSC.	SWAtHC CB Coordinator is an active member of CBSC.
8	RHCs to prioritize their participation in the WENDWG through the RHC Chart Coordinator or S-100 Coordinator	SWAtHC representative attended WENDWG14.
9	RHCs, if not done already, establish the S-100 Coordinator role or assign S-100 Coordinator duties as appropriate.	Completed.
10	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.	Completed.
11	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.	Completed (S-101 chart scheme will be the same as S-57)
12	RHCs to appoint MSDI ambassadors and inform the MSDIWG with contact details.	Not started
13	RHC to encourage Member States to have more CSBWG participation	Noted
14	RHC to encourage Member States to support the CSB initiative with positive actions, such as requiring all research vessels to collect bathymetric data for subsequent uploading, when on passage or when it does not interfere with other research activities	Noted
15	RHCs to encourage Member State and stakeholder bathymetric data contributions to the DCDB, regardless of origin.	MS encouraged
16	RHCs to collaborate with the DCDB on developing and highlighting annual regional breakdowns of data holdings as part of SPI reporting	Noted
17	To encourage RHCs to actively contribute with new data to GEBCO	MS encouraged
18	To invite RHCs to assign the INT paper chart scheme appropriateness check and possible amendment of the scheme.	Noted

19	To encourage RHCs to invite Member States to consider the provision of paper chart updating procedures depending on the findings of NCWG	Noted
20	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)	Not started

6. Agenda Items:

The SWAtHC Meetings work with a permanent agenda that receives adjustments for the new issues as they arise. The main topics in the agenda addressed during these meetings are:

- *Report of the IHO Secretariat;*
- *Progress on the IHO Council activities;*
- *Progress on the IRCC activities;*
- *Progress on the CBSC activities;*
- *Progress on the WWNWS-SC activities;*
- *Progress on the IEHG activities;*
- *National Reports from Members and Observer Countries;*
- *Status of the Seabed 2030 Project in the SWAtHC Region;*
- *Progress on Crowdsourced Bathymetry;*
- *Progress on S-100; and*
- *Report of the Planning Committee.*

Maritime Safety Information (MSI) / World-Wide Navigational Warning Service (WWNWS)

SWAtHC Full Members issue navigational warnings in accordance with the IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information (MSI).

In order to improve MSI services, Brazil developed a web-based system to standardize, record and control the dissemination of MSI.

A Contingency Plan between the NAVAREA V Coordinator (“Diretoria de Hidrografia e Navegação”, Brazil) and NAVAREA IV Coordinator (“Servicio de Hidrografia Naval”, Argentina) for the transmission of navigational warnings in the SWAtHC Region is in effect since 2016.

This Contingency Plan ensures the transmission of navigational warnings and the monitoring of navigational warnings transmitted in the area of responsibility in the neighboring NAVAREA, in case of interruption of the operation of one of the NAVAREAs.

The exercises between both NAVAREAs are carried out annually, with eight successful exercises being carried out since the Contingency Plan was established.

Capacity Building

From May 01st to 05th 2023, one Officer from Argentina and another from Brazil attended the 3rd Session of the IHO Assembly as part of the Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH) project.

From July 5th to 10th 2023, one Officer from Argentina was able to get sea experience on board a US/NOAA hydrographic vessel as part of the Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH) project.

From October 2nd to 27th 2023, one Officer from Brazil was able to complete a secondment with IC-ENC based out of the UKHO as part of the Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH) project.

From October 25th to 27th 2023, one Officer from Argentina attended an alumni seminar sponsored by JCBP and GEOMAC/IHO-Nippon Foundation CHART Project.

From November 06th to 10th 2023, three Officers from Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay attended IHO-Singapore Lab Workshop on conversion of ENC from S-57 to S-101, this event was funded by IHO CB Fund.

From November 13th to 17th 2023, MACHC/IOC/IMO/NOAA organized a Workshop about Tides for Spanish Speakers in Puntarenas, Garabito, Costa Rica. Brazil supported this event sending an instructor

with travel expenses funded by IHO CB Fund. Funding from IHO CB fund was also granted to two participants from Argentina and Uruguay.

On the eve of the 18th SWAtHC Meeting, on April 8, 2024, the 4th Seminar on Raising Awareness in Hydrography was held, in hybrid format, with the coordination of the “Servicio de Hidrografía Naval” (SHN), Argentina. The participation was satisfactory with the attendance of 28 participants, representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay and from the companies Kongsberg Maritime, Xylem HYPACK and Teledyne Geospatial.

On April 11th, 2024, SWAtHC organized a Workshop sponsored by Teledyne Geospatial and SHN focused on Tools for S-100 production.

From May 6th to 10th 2024, DHN hosted a S-57 Validation Training sponsored by IC-ENC with 15 participants from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The Commission has sought to submit proposals jointly with neighboring Regional Hydrographic Commissions (MACHC and SEPRHC) in recent years and has benefited from this partnership.

Nautical Charts and Publications

Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay are committed to producing digital products in their inland waterways. The first already launched 20 ENCs in La Plata basin and the other two planned to release Inland ENCs in the Uruguay-Brazil Waterway. Brazil also plans to cover its non-SOLAS waterways with Inland ENCs. Brazilian Inland ENCs were already produced but still demand minor national regulatory changes to replace paper charts in inland waterways.

The SWAtHC Planning Committee is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the S-100 in the Region.

Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure

Argentina and Brazil established their Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures (MSDI) and Uruguay shares nautical information with the Uruguayan Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI).

MSDI portals are well established and have been maintained by HOs.

Geoportal SHN is the Argentinian MSDI accessed through <http://geoportal.ddns.net/#/geoportal> .

IDEM-DHN is the Brazilian MSDI accessed through <https://idem.dhn.mar.mil.br/> .

ideuy is the Uruguayan SDI accessed through https://visualizador.ide.uy/ideuy/core/load_public_project/ideuy/ .

The Nippon Foundation-GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project / Crowdsourced Bathymetry (CSB)

On April 26th SWAtHC members attended the IHO/IRCC CSB Workshop.

Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay have been contributing with bathymetric data to the IHO DCDB and to the Seabed 2030 Project. It was noted that data coverage in SWAtHC region increased 10% in the last 5 years, indicating that coastal states are engaged in GEBCO/SEABED 2030.

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

SWAtHC has had good relationship with Industry Partners involved in hydrographic surveying, charting production and the future development of S-100 based products.

The Commission will continue to search partnerships with neighboring South American Regional Hydrographic Commissions (MACHC and SEPRHC) to succeed with the CB submissions to CBSC.

8. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed

a) Difficulties:

1. The main difficulty found is the lack of qualified personnel available versus the increase in workload.
2. Shortage of Spanish-speaking trainers.

3. The continuity of the approval of CB events for the SWAtHC Region, given the scarce resources allocated by the Capacity Building Work Programme (CBWP). The execution of the SWAtHC Capacity Building Plan is considered a strategic issue of vital importance for all Members.

4. Absorption of new technologies in surveying and charting, demanding the availability and qualification of personnel.

b) Challenges:

1. The main challenge is the implementation of S-100 Roadmap for the Region.

2. Carrying out trainings and workshops beyond the scope of the CBWP.

3. Complete accession of Bolivia and Paraguay to IHO.

9. Achievements and lessons learned:

There are no issues between Nautical Charts of the Members in the Region. The few inconsistencies and overlaps in ENs found by IC-ENC during last year were immediately solved.

The Commission has sought to submit proposals jointly with neighboring Regional Hydrographic Commissions (MACHC and SEPRHC) in recent years and has benefited from this partnership.

Capacity building in the region is moving forward with successful events carried out since IRCC15 with participation of representatives from SWAtHC in several trainings and workshops.

MSDI portals are well established and have been maintained by HOs.

Data coverage in SWAtHC region increased 10% in the last 5 years, indicating that coastal states are engaged in GEBCO/SEABED 2030.

The invitation to “Instituto Hidrográfico de la Marina” of Spain to attend last three SWAtHC Meetings was very positive, as the Members were able to learn about the ongoing developments with S-100 implementation and MSDI.

10. Conclusions:

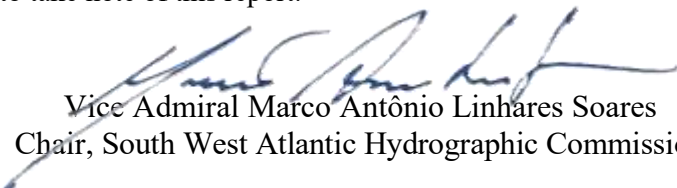
The countries of the SWAtHC Region that are not yet IHO Member States, Bolivia, and Paraguay, continue without submitting their instruments of accession. The Commission will continue to support their accession.

The Commission is engaged in sharing experiences regarding S-100 tests and is committed to S-100 services implementation in the region, starting from capacity building.

Full Member States are engaged in following S-100 Roadmap however it is still a great challenge to reach full coverage of services in the region in the timeline.

11. Actions required of IRCC:

The IRCC is invited to take note of this report.



Vice Admiral Marco Antônio Linhares Soares
Chair, South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission