

Agenda Item 6

Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica

Report to IRCC16

10 - 12 June 2024

Santa Cruz Island - Galapagos, Ecuador

By Luigi Sinapi on behalf of Mathias Jonas (IHO)

HCA Chair



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Key achievements (1)

The HCA Chair reported on various outcomes since the last HCA Conference in 2022 and highlighted those decisions and actions from the 3rd Assembly and the 7th Council meeting having an impact on HCA activities, such as:

- -the approval of the amendments to S-100 Implementation Roadmap
- the Assembly decision to establish a S-100 Infrastructure Centre.



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Key achievements (2)

- An update was given on the development of the Seabed 2030 aspirations for the Southern Ocean and the IBSCO as the relevant GEBCO regional entity. The Member States were invited to engage with their national marine research institutes to improve their contribution to GEBCO / Seabed 2030.
- The HCA noted the information by the Scientific Commission for Antarctic Research (SCAR) for a better understanding of future sea level change in Antarctica as well as the announcement of the 5th International Polar Year 2032-2033, to be considered as a possible input to the Revised IHO Strategic Plan.



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Key achievements (3)

- Two entities of HCA, the **Hydrography Priorities Working Group (HPWG)** and the **Region M International Charting Coordination Working Group (ICCWG)** assisted coordination of survey activities in the region and proposed various options on the evolution of charting schemes (INT charts and ENCs) in the region, aiming to meet user requirements, to avoid duplication between producers and inconsistencies across different products.



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Important findings (HCA top 3 challenges)

- HCA Members active in these regions were invited to collate relevant data and provide MSR information, if any, for subsequent analysis against AIS data in preparation of the next Conference. The members were also requested to supply survey metadata to HCA GIS, Maritime Shipping Routes.
- HCA Secretariat agreed to liaise with IALA to consider providing their aids to navigations (buoys and beacons) metadata (if any) to the IHO Secretariat for HCA GIS repository.
- Discussion on how HCA should handle the coordination of S-100 in Region M and how to consider a new distribution model (including cybersecurity), making easy access for end-users to obtain all S-100 Phase I products and ENDS.



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Lessons learned

Future HCA activities needs to be focused on the impact of climate change including a set of proposals (simulation of new ice-free areas which will require surveys, mean-sea level rise, etc. and a possible contribution to the SCAR research project INSTANT).

HCA agreed to recommend IRCC that the HCA establishes and manages a specific HCA action plan on the subject.

As part of this action plan, the HCA Chair invited HCA Members to consider in particular the development of a digital twin of the navigable waters of the *Southern Ocean*, free of charge as far as possible, in the true spirit of the Antarctic Treaty.



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Proposals

IRCC16 is invited to:

- Take note of the report
- Consider HCA's recommendation to establish and manage a specific HCA action plan focused on the impact of climate change on the Southern Ocean.
- Decide on any other guidance to HCA as deemed appropriate.



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