



ARHC Letter 01/2022

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Suspension of all ARHC-Related Activities with the Russian Federation

IHO Resolution 2/1997¹ encourages the establishment of regional hydrographic commissions (RHCs) by IHO Member States who have common regional interests in data collecting or nautical charting in a particular region. A key objective of RHCs is to promote technical cooperation in the domain of hydrographic surveying, marine cartography, and nautical information in support of safety of navigation and all other marine purposes. RHCs operate independently of the IHO and are governed by their own Statutes.

The ARHC developed its Statutes using Res. 2/1997 as a foundation. The Statutes are predicated on a spirit of cooperation and collaboration, and the ARHC conducts its work with respect for the sovereign rights of Member States under international law. The governments of ARHC full Members Canada, Denmark, Norway, the United States of America have determined that this technical collaboration with the Russian Federation is no longer possible within ARHC given the Russian Federation's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

In order for the work of the Commission to continue, all ARHC-related activities with the Russian Federation are suspended effective immediately. Promoting safe navigation and the protection of the environment in the Arctic remains a priority for the ARHC. The Commission will continue to carefully monitor the situation and will reassess when cooperation with the Russian Federation within ARHC can resume. It is hoped that this measure will be of a short duration and that full cooperation can resume in the near future.

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1. ¹ IHO Resolution 2/1997 (as amended) Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions

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