



11th ARHC Conference

9-10 November 2021 (VTC event)

Report of the IHO-EU network working group (IENWG)

Background

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is established between the IHO and the European Commission (EC). The purpose is to provide a framework ensuring a continuing liaison between IHO and EU in the specific areas of common interest. The EU Commission's Directorate General (DG) for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) acts as the contact point on the EC side. From the IHO side the IHO-EU Network WG (IENWG) has been established as a working group under IRCC, which acts as the IHO contact point. The IENWG is chaired by France, Pierre-Yves Dupuy, and consists of representatives from all Regional Hydrographic Commissions concerned. Denmark represents the ARHC.

The following member states represent the RHCs concerned:

- Arctic HC (ARHC) – Denmark
- Baltic Sea HC (BSHC) – Sweden
- Eastern Atlantic HC (EAHC) – France
- Mediterranean and Black Seas HC (MBSHC) – Greece
- Nordic HC (NHC) – Norway
- North Sea HC (NSHC) – Germany
- The IHB is represented by Director Luigi Sinapi.

The meetings are always open for any IHO member state to participate in. Italy and Croatia has usually participated in the IENWG meetings.

IHO-EU Network meetings and representatives

The 11th meeting was arranged as a VTC meeting, 2 - 3 December 2020. The meeting was originally planned to be held in Dublin, Ireland, from 2 to 3 December 2020, back to back with "20 years of Seabed Mapping" led by Infomar.

Ingénieur en chef Pierre-Yves Dupuy (France), Acting Chair, was re-elected as Chair of the IENWG and was supported by Corine Lochet (France) as Executive Secretary for running the meeting.

22 delegates from 15 Member States (Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Sweden) were able to participate in the meeting. Director Luigi Sinapi and Assistant Director Yves Guillaum represented the IHO Secretariat.

Important topics from the meeting:

- European strategy for data including data availability, data sharing, data interoperability, data governance and data infrastructures and technologies. One of the key issues is if and when some S-57 data are included in the official list of the so-called "high value datasets".
- Horizon 2020 European Green Deal Call by which €1 billion is to be spent for research and innovation and the Digital Twin of the Ocean.

- “Ocean Observation –Sharing Responsibility”, a strategic consultation was launched on 20 November by DG Mare. A coordinated approach was recommended to reinforce the strength of the IHO contribution in general.
- Director Luigi Sinapi briefed the IENWG on the importance of marine observation programmes and the IHO initiatives and joint programmes such as Seabed 2030, which are currently underway and are aligned with the new IHO Strategic Plan 2021- 2026.
- The release of the full EMODnet Bathymetry Digital Terrain Model 2020 product and associated services which is to become a key foundation of the Digital Twin of the Ocean.
- Maritime Spatial Planning projects and calls for proposals;
- EU-funded projects; participants were invited to promote the IHO S-100 framework and select associated S-100 based products to ensure interoperability and the efficiency of production lines and data flow in Hydrographic Offices in the long term

Next meeting.

The 12th Meeting of the IHO-EU Network WG is scheduled to 8 - 9 December 2021 and is planned to be a hybrid meeting (VTC and/or Brest, France).

Recommendations

It is recommended that the ARHC continue to monitor the ongoing work within the EC through participation in the IHO-EU Network. Denmark is willing to continue to represent the ARHC.

Action required of ARHC11

The ARHC9 is invited to:

- a. Note the report;
- b. Take any other action as appropriate.