

11th Meeting of the
Arctic Regional
Hydrographic Commission

*Summary of ARHC Statutes
Revision*



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Process

- An action (ARHC9-01) from the 9th Meeting of the ARHC in Murmansk called for a revision of the Statutes.
 - Statutes were updated in 2016 and 2017 when the *Protocol of Amendments* came into force.
 - However, after 10 years of experience and growth in the ARHC relationships, this review was deemed necessary.
 - A drafting team (CA-Brunt, US-Justi) was established to coordinate this effort.
- After VTCs, many correspondences, and several iterations, the full Members endorsed Edition 3.0 of the ARHC Statutes as distributed on 1 Oct 2021.
 - Some text edits were noted and addressed.
 - The 'clean' version of Ed. 3.0 is posted on the ARHC11 page.



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Objectives

- Define the terms used in the document and standardize their use;
- Update and modernize the elements of the text to account for changes within the IHO and the hydrographic community, in general;
- Enable the business of Commission to be conducted more fluidly and flexibly by facilitating the ability of the Commission to meet and make decisions intersessionally, that is, between annual regular meetings;
- Clearly articulate the decision-making mechanisms and processes;
- Recognize the reality and utility of telephone, video teleconference meeting, and ‘hybrid’ meetings; and,
- Clarify the process of becoming and remaining an Associate Member of the ARHC, to reflect the desire of the Commission to maintain its close-knit and collegial nature.



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Outcomes

- The review process achieved its objectives.
- It is important to note that these new Statutes have no immediate impact on the current ARHC Associate Member States.
 - It was agreed that the associate memberships of Finland, Iceland, and Italy will be extended in recognition that they have demonstrated a commitment to the objectives of the ARHC and have contributed considerably to the Commission.
- The new edition of the Statutes will come into effect when all parties signed the new document.
- The document will be then circulated electronically for signature, with a target date to have this exercise completed no later than 17 December 2021.



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