

**13th Meeting of the
Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC)
Nuuk, Greenland, Denmark, 5 - 7 September 2023**

**IHO Secretariat's Report
on
recent developments of relevance for the
Arctic Region**

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Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission

Forthcoming 7th Council, October 2023

- New established Council for 2023 – 2026.
- Denmark will participate on the ARHC mandate.
- Pia Dahl Højgaard (DK) is elected as the new Council Chair and Dr Masayuki Fujita (JP) as the Vice-Chair.
- Council MS,
 - RHC Mandate: Angola, Brazil, **Canada**, Chile, Croatia, **Denmark**, Fiji, France, Germany, India, **Italy**, Jamaica, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, **Norway**, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Thailand
 - By Hydrographic Interest: China, Singapore, Malta, Indonesia, **UK**, Rep of Korea, Greece, Japan, **USA**, Cyprus
- All other MS are welcomed to participate as observers.



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7th Council Agenda highlights

- Proposal from HSSC to use additional funding (A3/20 and IRCC15 Decision 41) for sustainable technical and administrative S-100 infrastructure
- Future parallel production of S-57 and S-101
- Updates on the S-100 Roadmap
- Proposal from IRCC to change the EWH Project to a Programme
- IHO Strategic Plan 2026 – 2032
- Greater inclusion: IHO meetings face-to-face only/hybrid/streaming
- Proposal from the IHO Secretariat on a global MSDI layer for Marine Protected Areas



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Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica HCA (1)

HCA reported to A-3. Particular focus was given to HCA's approach for S-100 governance and production strategies adapted to the specifics of the polar region.

HCA has established an HCA S-100 Implementation Working Group. Some actions are planned to prepare the governance and production strategies for the top priority S-100 based products (S-101, S-102, S-104, S-111, S-122, S-124, S-128, and S-411).

Recommended comparable action for Arctic Region.

Following up on Action WENDWG12/33 (IGIF pathway matrix per S-1xx product, per RHC), **HCA** agreed on some guiding initial principles and leaders to fill the HCA S-100-IGIF Matrix:

- **S-101: GB** (as Region M Charting Coordinator, continuity by S-57 conversion)
- **S-102: GE** (in liaison with **AWI**, as Seabed 2030 Data Centre/IBCSO)
- **S-104: US** (in its global capacity in ocean modelling)
- **S-111: US/FR** (in its global capacity in ocean modelling)
- **S-122: EC/GE** (making benefits of experience gained in Ecuador and BSHC)
- **S-124: AR, AU, CL, ZA, NZ** (as NAV Coordinators)
- **S-128: NO/GB** (as Operators of PRIMAR/IC-ENC)
- **S-411 – Ice information: AR/CL/GE**



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Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica HCA (2)

- A-3 approved the proposed IHO Resolution on the recognition of the Southern Ocean and took note of the consequences on the limits of some global sea areas as a result of recognition of the Southern Ocean.
- A-3 endorsed the fact that this new Resolution is without prejudice to or limitation of the views of the IHO, any other international body or any IHO Member State regarding the subject matter addressed.
- Interrelated to the subjects of both ARHC and HCA, the Secretariat was reporting to ATCM45 in Helsinki, Finland in June 2023. A separate report on the outcome will be given under Agenda item E1.



UN GGIM - 13th Session of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) 2 - 4 August 2023

- The UN-GGIM Committee of Experts endorsed the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management UN-IGIF-Hydro (Part One & Two)
- The UN-IGIF-Hydro aims to ensure the inclusion of the marine domain in the larger geospatial information ecosystem and is intended to be used by both developing and established geospatial programs which wish to implement the UN-IGIF Strategic Pathways in the marine domain.
- It will play a key role in ensuring data on the marine environment is integrated, authoritative, and readily accessible and as such the framework has been endorsed as an action of the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.
- The UN-IGIF-Hydro framework recognizes hydrography and ocean mapping as important contributors to other geospatial domains.



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- Work has continued on the IHO Country Information system
 - The IHO Country Information system has been progressively upgraded to include administrative information and facilitate the maintenance of the IHO publications such as Yearbook (P-5) and Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide (C-55) posted on the IHO website.
 - ARHC Members are invited to review their entry in the publications on an annual basis and provide the IHO Secretariat with the appropriate updates through the IHO Online Form system.



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ARHC is invited
to take note of this briefing,
and to take action as considered
appropriate



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