

Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (EAthC) Special Video Teleconference (VTC) Meetings, 28-29 September

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| Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2020 | |
| Task 3.2.1.4 | Prepare for and report meeting of the EAthC |

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 16th Conference of the Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (EAthC16), initially scheduled in Lisbon, Portugal, from 30 September to 2 October, was postponed to April 2021. In order to minimize the constitutional effects of this postponement and keep the momentum in the region, Members agreed to arrange VTC meetings instead, virtually “hosted” by Portugal, for a Charting Region G Technical Meeting on 28 September and a Special Plenary EAthC Session on 29 September. These events were chaired by RAdm CE Okafor, Hydrographer of the Nigerian Navy (NNHO) with the support of France, as chart coordinator, for the technical meeting. About twenty delegates from six Member States (France, Ghana, Morocco, Nigeria, Portugal and Spain) and four Observers (Gambia, Gabon, United Kingdom and the United States of America) participated. Unfortunately, no Associate Members of the EAthC were present in these VTC events. Director Abri Kampfer and Assistant Director Yves Guillam represented the IHO Secretariat.



Participants of EAthC VTC 01&02 Events

The Chair highlighted the main priorities and issues for the EAthC in the region. Director Kampfer provided a brief overview of IHO corporate activities including the preparation of the 2nd Session of the Assembly.

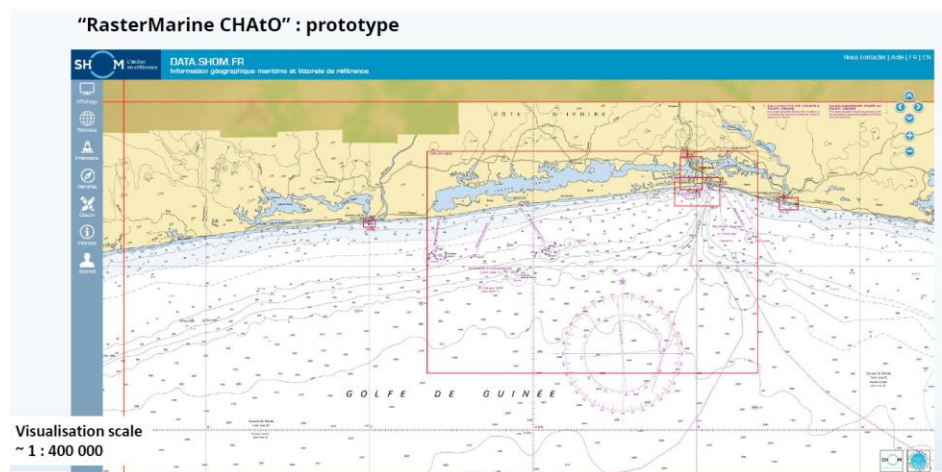
Despite the duration and format of the events, important topics were addressed in order to ensure some business continuity in the EAthC.

The status and implementation of the regional INT and ENC charting schemes were reviewed. The Region G ICCWG welcomed the upcoming production of the chart INT2891 (Lagos Harbour & Tin Can Island Terminal) by Nigeria and noted that a transition plan for a smooth simultaneous maintenance of this INT chart and its equivalent ENCs, currently produced by UK, was already in place. Proposals were made to start the implementation of the ENC Schemes for small- and medium-scales bands using INTOGIS II. It was also agreed that the Region G ICCWG should develop some Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure at some stage, eventually with some provisions to get prepared for implementing the WEND-100 Principles that will apply to upcoming S-1XX Products.

In the light of the final NCWG report on the Future of the Nautical Paper Chart that will be considered at HSSC-12, EAHC Members were also invited to consider the future of INT paper chart activities and the INT chart concept in the region.

As part of the review of the IHO CB Programme, Coastal States were invited to share with the IHO Secretariat and CB Coordinator the reports and recommendations received following inspections made in the framework of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS). These outcome can be used as key drivers for planning and targeting CB activities in the region by means of technical visits, training sessions or workshops. It was acknowledged that most, if not all, technical visits, seminar and workshops planned for 2020 had to be postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic and a revision of the approved 2021 CB Programmed will be required.

The NAVAREA II Coordinator (France) demonstrated a GIS prototype tool that will be made available to some EAHC Coastal States in early 2021 for experimentation. Using a seamless coverage of French¹ raster charts, this prototype offers the possibility to make georeferenced graphical MSI² reports directly to the NAVAREA II Coordinator.



In accordance with the Statutes of the Commission, Rear Admiral Carlos Ventura Soares (IHPT, Portugal) took over the Chairmanship of the EAHC while France was elected as Vice-Chair. The plenary 16th Conference is scheduled in Lisbon, Portugal in the week of 12 to 16 April 2021.

¹ Prototype currently limited to French charts coverage only.

² Maritime Safety Information