

17th Conference of the Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission
Mindelo, São Vicente, Cabo Verde
Hybrid conference, 28 – 30 September 2022
and
Regional Awareness Seminar: “Working with NAVAREA II and your
Primary Charting Authority”
26 – 27 September 2022

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2022	
Task 3.2.1.4	Prepare for and report meetings of the Regional Hydrographic Commission: EAthC

The 17th Conference of the Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (EAthC-17) was held from 28 to 30 September 2022, in Mindelo, São Vicente, Cabo Verde, hosted by the *Instituto Marítimo e Portuário* (IMP) in Cabo Verde, in a full hybrid format with simultaneous interpretation in French and English. The Conference was preceded, from 26 to 27 September 2022, by an IHO Capacity Building Fund sponsored Regional Awareness Seminar on the theme: “Working with NAVAREA II and your Primary Charting Authority”. The Conference was chaired by RAdm Mário José Simões Marques, Director General of the Hydrographic Office of the Portuguese Navy (IHPT).



The Conference was attended by about 65 delegates: 50 (in-person) plus 15 (through video teleconference -VTC). Six IHO Member States of the Region out of 8 (France, Ghana, Morocco, Nigeria, Portugal, Spain), 9 Associate Members out of 9 (Cabo Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo, United Kingdom) and 4 Observers out of 8 (Angola, Gabon, Gambia, USA) were registered in the meeting. Due to some logistic issues (flights availability, internet connectivity), some registered delegates were unfortunately unable to be present or connected and some others had their arrival delayed. Representatives of IOC Africa, the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) and the RENC, PRIMAR, also attended the meeting together with two industry stakeholders (Kongsberg Maritime, SevenCs). Director Abri Kampfner and Assistant Director Yves Guillam represented the IHO Secretariat.



In-person participants of the 17th Conference of the EAtHC

The Conference was opened by Mr Abraão Vicente, Minister of the Sea of Cabo Verde via a video recording and Mr Seidi dos Santos, President of Board of Directors (IMP). In their address, Cabo Verde announced their intention to become an IHO Member State, the creation of a hydrographic cell in 2023 and their will to increase their hydrographic capacities to improve the safety of navigation, to protect the marine environment as well as their rights in the waters under their jurisdiction.

The conference adopted the agenda and reviewed the status of the Actions of the 16th EAtHC Conference. Director Kampfer reported on the IHO Work Programme and the Organization's activities during the previous year and provided an update on the programme and planned activities for the 3rd Assembly to be held in May 2023. Reports on the outcomes of all recent IHO Committees and Workgroups were provided by Member State representatives.

The Conference reviewed not less than 15 national reports, a record in the history of the EAtHC! Thanks to the Chair, most of the presentations were structured in a very effective format: top 3 achievements since the last conference, top 3 issues or shortfalls, top 3 plans affecting the region, top 3 challenges for the next 3 years and top 3 recommendations to the EAtHC.

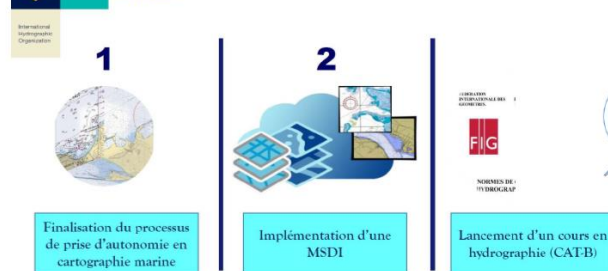
IHO PRÉSENTATION GÉNÉRALE

• **Relations avec d'autres départements nationaux**
Membre du Comité National de Coordination dans les domaines de l'Hydrographie, de l'Océanographie et de la Cartographie marine (CNCHOC)



17^e CHATO, Hybride, Mindelo, 28-30 Septembre 2022

IHO PRINCIPAUX CHALLENGES POUR LES 2-3 PROCHAINES ANNÉES



IHO RECOMMANDATIONS

- 1 Renforcer les capacités des États Membres via l'organisation des séminaires et des workshops de formation;
- 2 Assister les États Membres pour la mise en place des MSDI nationaux;
- 3 Créer un groupe de travail pour la mise en œuvre de la norme S-100.

17^e CHATO, Hybride, Mindelo, 28-30 Septembre 2022

Morocco's National Report (excerpts)

The national reports delivered by the representatives of coastal States located in Africa highlighted several important and recurring issues such as:

- Awareness of political authorities on the priorities and assets on hydrographic matters to be defined, in the long term, in order to meet increasing requirements (safety of navigation, coastal management, dredging monitoring, pipes detection...).
- Maintenance issues for hydrographic equipment, and modest but necessary investments to be made (tide gauges, etc.),
- Training of technicians, the incumbent hydrographers currently working in many hydrographic units of African ports being close to retirement age.

The EAthC reported on the Technical Visits in the region undertaken under the Capacity Building Programme. Director Abri Kampfer informed that High Level visits can be considered by the IHO Secretariat in addition, on request. However, in accordance with the new Capacity Building Strategy (still to be considered at the next Council meeting), the Capacity Building Coordinator reported that any subsequent visit in the region will be considered under the condition of progress made on the recommendations reported in former technical visits reports.

The EAthC also addressed the bilateral and regional cooperation agreements in force (with MOWCA¹ and PMAWCA² in particular) to assess whether they need to be denounced or reinvigorated. The EAthC welcomed the offer from Cabo Verde, for Western Africa, and Congo, for Central Africa, since they already have established links with these Intergovernmental Organizations, to act as focal point of contact in order to re-establish the dialogue.

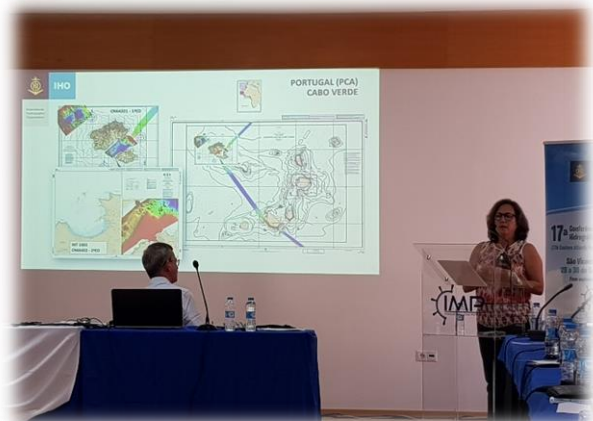
The seminar “Working with NAVAREA II and your Primary Charting Authority” was chaired by France with contributions from Portugal and the UK. All the participants shared their concerns and experiences in the management of Maritime Safety Information, in data exchange with the NAVAREA II Coordinator (France) and/or their Primary Charting Authority (PCA). The IHO Secretariat reiterated a well-known recommendation in the EAthC on the establishment of a National Hydrographic Committee, since it appeared that those Coastal States (such as Togo) who have established their own national hydrographic committee are in a much better situation for meeting their SOLAS obligations.

¹ Maritime Organization of West and Central Africa.

² Ports Management Association of West and Central Africa.



*The NAVAREA II Coordinator (Shom, France)
leading a session on navigational warnings*



*Ms Paula Sanchez (IHPT)
on the role of Portugal as PCA*

The Commission welcomed the offer made by Morocco to host the 18th Conference of the EAthC in Casablanca, May 2024. RAdm Mário José Simões Marques closed the Conference expressing his gratitude to all participants, his thanks to the IHPT team for the Secretariat of the Conference, and the outstanding hospitality and efficient support of the IMP in Mindelo. France took over as Chair of the EAthC, with Morocco as Vice-Chair.