



*Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic
Commission (EAtHC)*

EAtHC Letter Nº. 2/2021

12 May 2021

From: Rear Admiral Carlos Ventura Soares
Portugal National Hydrographer and EAtHC Chair

To: Members, Associate Members and Observers of the IHO EAtHC

Subject: Actions and activities in the Commission

Dear EAtHC Colleagues,

1. As you are aware, the biennial Conference of the EAtHC (EAtHC16) is scheduled to take place in Lisbon, Portugal, from 29 September to 01 October 2021, preceded by a MSI & MSDI Seminar. The final decision about the format (face-to-face, VTC or hybrid) will be taken before 21st of July according to EAtHC CL 01/2021.
2. Until then, some actions/information from the last IRCC meeting need to be disseminated:
 - a. Member States (MS) should promote and distribute the S-67¹ Mariners' Guide to Accuracy of Depth Information in Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC) publication to the Marine Institutions and Education Schools. That publication is a guide to navigators, and navigator training organizations, on the degree of confidence they should have in the adequacy and accuracy of charted depths and their positions in an Electronic Navigational Chart.
 - b. MS are to analyze and review the paper on the Future of paper Charts² and provide feedback on it.
 - c. MS are to update the publication C-55³.

3. EAtHC Report to IRCC

Attached, I send the proposal for EAtHC Report to the IRCC. Please review the draft report and feedback any recommendation/suggestion to EAtHC Secretariat (dt.hi.chf@hidrografico.pt) before **May 19th**.

4. National Reports

I would like to encourage all EAtHC members, even if unable to attend the next meeting, to submit a National Report, in order to fully capture the issues and activities within the region. Please use the

¹ https://iho.int/uploads/user/pubs/standards/S-67/S-67%20Ed%201.0.0%20Mariners%20Guide%20to%20Accuracy%20of%20Depth%20Information%20in%20an%20ENC_EN.pdf

² <https://iho.int/uploads/user/Services%20and%20Standards/HSSC/HSSC12/2020-08-28%20Future%20of%20the%20Paper%20Nautical%20Chart%20Final%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>

³ <https://iho.int/en/iho-c-55>.



- template/structure as documented on the IHO EAtHC webpage for both report and presentation. All MS are invited to present their updates at plenary. **The deadline for submitting National Reports is 15 August 2021.** Please email them to dt.hi.chf@hidrografico.pt and to yves.guillam@iho.int.
5. The development of Spatial Data Infrastructures for Marine Data Management is one of the most relevant issues to an efficient data management between parties. EAtHC members are invited to reflect and evaluate if the creation of a MSDI working group in the Commission is important for the region and for making the linkage to the IHO MSDI WG. Other commissions already created this WG inside. In order to evaluate the position of the members, Portugal prepared a questionnaire to be accessed _____ and _____ filled _____ at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdq19z254EhTZSKCHAwu7xCicKswNicZDDhaDjLqTy-TsjyuA/viewform>. Please submit your answers **before June 30th**.
 6. Commander João Vicente (EAtHC Secretary: dt.hi.chf@hidrografico.pt) was appointed as Crowdsourcing bathymetry and SEAMAP 2030 Coordinator for the region. In that matters feel free to contact him.
 7. To have an effective correspondence between members, please confirm your details on the contact list at the IHO website: <https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/RHC/EAtHC/MISC/20201201-EAtHC-contact-list.xlsx>.
 8. I look forward to progressing the goals of EAtHC together and building on the success of previous EAtHC conferences.

Yours sincerely,

Carlos Ventura Soares
Rear Admiral
(EAtHC Chairman)

