



STATUTES

of the

MESO AMERICAN - CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (MACHC)

as amended by the [Commission XVIIIth Conference of the Commission in Belém, Brazil \(December/June 2016/2021\)](#)

Notes:

1. The terms "International Hydrographic Bureau" and "IHB" to be replaced by "Secretariat of the IHO" when the amendments to the Convention on the IHO enter into force.
2. The term "Directing Committee of the IHB" to be replaced by "Secretary-General of the IHO" when the amendments to the Convention on the IHO enter into force.
3. The terms "International Hydrographic Conference" and "IHC" to be replaced by "IHO Assembly" when the amendments to the Convention on the IHO enter into force.

ARTICLE 1: ~~ABOUT~~ OF THE COMMISSION

- a) The Meso American - Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission ([MACHC](#)) has been constituted in conformity with [IHO Resolution 2/1997 "ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS \(RHC\)"](#), as amended ~~of~~by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), included as Annex 1. The Commission should provide, in pursuance of the resolutions and recommendations of the IHO, regional coordination with regard to nautical information, hydrographic surveys, production of nautical charts and documents, technical cooperation, capacity building (CB) projects and marine spatial data infrastructure (MSDI) projects, related to the work of the IHO, and shall be governed according to these Statutes.
- b) The geographic Region covered by the Commission shall be that defined by the IHO INT Charting Scheme Region B, included as Annex 2, hereafter referred as "the Region".

ARTICLE 2: ~~OF~~ THE MEMBERS

- a) Full Members of the Commission shall be IHO Member States within the Region that are signatories to these Statutes.
- b) Associate Membership is open to any non-IHO Member State within the Region that is a signatory to these Statutes. Other [IHO Members States of the IHO](#) that contribute to the objectives of the IHO through their activities in the fields of hydrography, nautical charting, nautical information or navigational warnings, marine spatial data infrastructure (MSDI) and related fields ~~the safety of navigation through their activities in the fields of hydrography, nautical charting or nautical information~~ in the Region and are signatories to these Statutes may be accepted as Associate Members. Associate Members have the same rights and obligations as the Full Members of the Commission except the right to vote or to be elected Chair or Vice Chair.
- c) The Chair shall also invite other IHO Member States that are not signatories to these Statutes but that contribute to the objectives of the IHO by their activities in the fields of hydrography, nautical charting, nautical information or navigational warnings, marine spatial data infrastructure (MSDI) and related fields ~~the safety of navigation by their activities in the fields of hydrography, nautical charting or nautical information~~ in the Region, ~~or organisations active in the Region,~~ to attend as Observers. International Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Industry and Academia stakeholders may be invited by the RHC to participate as Observers or Subject Matter Experts.

ARTICLE 3: ~~OF THE AIMS~~ OF THE COMMISSION

- a) The Commission, which is an integral element in achieving the objectives of the IHO and which promotes the aims of the Organization at the regional level, shall have an advisory, scientific and technological character; it shall not exert any authority over the Hydrographic ~~Offices~~Services or other institutions responsible for hydrography and navigation of the Member countries and activities shall not extend to matters concerning international political issues.
- b) The Commission has a limited but important role~~capacity for in regional~~ disaster preparedness and response (in support of the IHO rResolutions 1/2005). ~~The role of The Commission through the Chair of the MACHC aims to act as~~ that of a broker of hydrographic demand (from the affected countries) and supply (by countries offering assets). For this purpose a MACHC Disaster Response Framework has been established to prepare the MACHC to respond to coordinate response efforts internally and with regional partners, as resources allow. This Framework is included as Annex 3. The Chair cannot ~~assume~~absorb Members' or Observers'States responsibilities for Diplomatic clearance needed to deploy those hydrographic assets.
- c) Particular aims of the Commission are:
1. To promote technical co-operation and training in the domain of hydrographic surveying, marine cartography and nautical information.
 2. To examine in its area of interest, matters with which the IHO is concerned, avoiding any interference with the authorities prerogatives—of the IHO Secretariat~~International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB)~~ and of any other bodies set up by the IHO. Where ever possible, rRegional activities should align with and support the intent and objectives of the approved IHO Work Programme.
 3. To stimulate all countries of the Region to expand their hydrographic activities and to encourage them to seek advice and technical assistance from the IHO Secretariat~~IHB~~ and other organisations in order to strengthen their hydrographic capabilities, including, but not limited to, crowdsourced bathymetry (CSB) and satellite-derived bathymetry (SDB).
 4. To facilitate the exchange of information related to surveys, research and/or scientific and technical development to assist in planning and organizing the hydrographic activities in the widest sense of the aims, but without interference in national responsibilities.
 5. To implement the agreed INT and ENC Chart Schemes for the Region and to monitor their suitability.
 6. To carry out studies and projects through committees or working groups of the Commission so as to provide input to the IHO and related international initiatives when deemed necessary.
 7. To identify the MACHC Representative(s) to the IHO Council (~~when the IHO Council is established~~), as outlined in the guidance provided in Annex 43 to the Statutes.
 8. To examine the role hydrography can play in disaster risk reduction, for instance by capacity building.
 9. To ensure that regional capacity building activities are aligned and coordinated in accordance with the IHO CB Strategy and with CB procedures and practices developed by the Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC).
 10. To align other regional activities with the approved IHO Strategic Plan and Work Programme, taking into account the actions, recommendations and outcomes of

the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC). The MACHC will establish committees or working groups and select leadership of them, as appropriate, to advance these regional priorities.

11. To ensure a coordinated and cohesive regional approach is considered for the implementation of the S-100 Universal Hydrographic Data Model by engaging with data owners, product and service providers, and other stakeholders as appropriate.

ARTICLE 4: ~~OF THE ORDINARY CONFERENCES~~

- a) The Commission shall meet in ordinary Conference in a country of the Region at least twice between two successive ordinary sessions of the IHO Assembly~~International Hydrographic Conference (IHC)~~.
- b) The Members shall be represented at the Conferences by the heads of the Hydrographic Authorities or their nominees or, where such services do not exist, by heads of national authorities responsible for hydrography and navigation.
- c) The presence of at least one-half of the Full Members of the Commission shall constitute the necessary quorum to hold the meeting.
- d) An invitation to attend the Conference shall always be sent to the IHO Secretariat~~Directing Committee of the IHB~~.
- e) The Chair shall invite those countries of the Region that are not Members of the Commission and the Chairs of adjacent RHCs~~Coordinators of adjacent INT Chart Regions~~ to send Representatives to attend the Commission Conferences as Observers. Any Member may propose to the Chair the invitation of technical experts as Observers. Observers can participate in the discussions and in the working groups set up by the Commission but shall not have voting rights.
- f) The host country may limit the number of participants to not more than two per country according to the availability of facilities.

ARTICLE 5: ~~OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR~~

- a) The Conferences of the Commission are conducted by the Chair with the assistance of the Vice Chair.
- b) The Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission shall be from a Full Member State~~of the Commission~~, elected on a rotational basis. Under normal circumstances, the term for the Chair and Vice Chair will be two years. If the period between Conferences exceeds two years, the term will extend until the end of the next Conference.
- c) At the conclusion of a Conference, Full Members will offer suggestions regarding the election of a new Chair and Vice Chair. In order to assure ~~the~~ continuity, it is suggested that the Vice Chair be elevated to the position of Chair for the next period.
- d) If the Chair, ~~or the Vice Chair,~~ is unable to officiate at the Conference, he or she will be replaced by the Vice Chair. If neither is able to officiate, they shall each be replaced by his or her designated Representative.
- e) The incoming Chair shall take office three months after the conclusion of an ordinary Conference.

ARTICLE 6: LOCATION ~~OF THE SEATS OF THE CONFERENCES~~

- a) At the end of each Conference, those Full Members interested in desirous of hosting the following Conference shall put forward their candidatures. Proposals for holding the Conference in a country of an Associate Member may also be considered. Where no

other compelling circumstances exist, priority shall be given to a Full Member ~~State~~ which has not yet hosted a ~~C~~onference, or to the one which did so the longest time ago.

- b) The host country will assist with the arrangement of authorizations and visas, so as to facilitate attendance at the Conference.

ARTICLE 7: PREPARATION AND EXECUTION OF THE CONFERENCE

- a) The Chair shall prepare the Provisional Agenda in conjunction with the Members at least two months before its opening. The Provisional Agenda shall normally include the standard items suggested in relevant IHO guidance (for example, National Reports, INT Charts and ENC ~~C~~ell-scheme). The first item shall be the Chair's report on the activities of the Commission since the last Conference. All Conference Documents shall be made available on the IHO/MACHC web site at least one month prior to the meeting.
- b) Members' Proposals to be included on the Agenda of a Conference should be sent to the Chair for the next Conference at least four months in advance of the date agreed for the commencement of the Conference.
- c) The Agenda shall be adopted by the Commission at the beginning of each Conference.
- d) The Commission can modify the order of discussion of the different items of the Agenda during the Conference.
- e) Proposals of Members not included in the Agenda shall be submitted to the Chair and, with the agreement of the Members, shall be added to the Agenda for consideration.
- f) Each Full Member has one vote and votes shall be indicated by a show of hands.
- g) The Chair prepares a list of (extant) action items for each Conference, with a suggested way ahead. The Chair will update the list as part of the minutes of the Conference.
- g)h) At the end of each Conference, the Chair shall present the ~~Resolutions,~~ ~~a~~Actions and Decisions taken in the working language of the Commission. ~~Sixty (620)~~ days after the close of the Conference, the Chair will submit to the Full Members and Participants a report, (in the working language of the Commission) which will include those ~~Resolutions~~Actions and Decisions, as well as any supporting information submitted. Full Members shall report any objections ~~to~~of the report within 20 days. Any objections to the report shall be made by electronic mail.
- h)i) Between Conferences, if necessary, subjects may be discussed and decided by correspondence in the MACHC working language.
- i)j) In preparation for, during and between Conferences, the Chair ~~may~~shall be assisted by ~~the~~ Secretary appointed by him/her. The duties of the Secretary ~~could~~ include the following:
1. To collate, three months before the Conference, all proposals from the Full Members, to be included in the Agenda.
 2. To forward ~~P~~proposals and the ~~P~~rovisional Agenda to the Chair and Vice Chair at least two months prior to the Conference.
 3. To prepare and distribute a list of participants at least one month prior to the Conference.

4. To receive and to forward any requirements from the Members to the Chair and Vice Chair as appropriate.
5. To prepare for the Chair, a report of the Conference within 4520 days following its conclusion, including the discussions, [Actions/resolutions](#) and [Decisions](#) taken, as well as any supportive information that was submitted.
6. To prepare the final report and forward it to the [IHO Secretariat/IB](#).
7. To assure with the host country, the nominal organization of the Conference.

ARTICLE 8: ~~OF CONFERENCE ACTIONS/RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS~~

- a) The [Actions/resolutions](#) and [Decisions](#) of the Conference shall usually be reached by consensus among Full Members. If consensus cannot be reached, [Actions/resolutions](#) and [Decisions](#) shall be adopted by a simple majority of the Full Members present. In case of an equal number of votes (tie), a second vote shall take place after listening to the comments of the Representative of the [IHO Secretariat/IB](#).
- b) The Chair each day shall prepare a written text of the [Decisions](#) taken on each item of the Agenda and shall see to its distribution to all the attendees present for the next day.
- c) Each Full Member has only one vote.
- d) At the end of the Conference, the Chair shall read the text of the [Actions/resolutions](#) and [Decisions](#) taken. All [Decisions](#) become operative immediately.

ARTICLE 9: ~~OF CORRESPONDENCE~~

- a) The Chair shall send, within two months after the closing of the Conference, one copy of the Draft Report regarding the discussions, [Actions](#) and [Decisions](#) taken during the Conference to each of the Full Members for its approval, and for Associate Members and Observers to comment. The Full Members shall send back their approval or any amendments within two months after its receipt. Any objection shall be resolved by correspondence. ~~A signature page shall be circulated to obtain final approval.~~
- b) A copy of the Final Report of the Conference shall be sent to the Full Members, Associate Members, Observers and the [IHO Secretariat/IB](#).

ARTICLE 10: ~~OF EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCES~~

- a) The Chair may convene an Extraordinary Conference of the Members of the Commission when their Representatives are assembled for a session of the [IHO Assembly/IC](#), inviting others qualified to attend as Observers.
- b) In the case of urgent matters, which cannot be treated by correspondence nor can be delayed for the next Conference, the Chair, in agreement with the Full Members may convene an Extraordinary Conference, [either in person or virtually as circumstances dictate](#).

ARTICLE 11: ~~OF EXPENSES~~

- a) The Chair and the host country shall be responsible for the organisation of the Conferences.
- b) Travelling, hotel and per diem expenses of participants at Conferences shall be the responsibility of the nation or the organization of the participant.
- c) All expenses related to the provision of the venue and associated facilities for Conferences shall be the responsibility of the host country.

- d) In order to support Spanish speaking participants at meetings of the Commission (see Article 13), all participants are strongly encouraged to provide in-kind and/or financial support to enable ~~continuous interpretation~~ simultaneous translation at the meetings.

ARTICLE 12: ~~OF THE STATUTES~~

- a) The ~~IHO Secretariat~~ IHB shall be the custodian of these Statutes.
- b) The modification of the Statutes requires the approval of at least two-thirds of the Full Members of the Commission.
- c) If modifications to the extant Statutes are agreed by those Full Members attending a Conference, but they do not receive the approval of at least two-thirds of the Full Members as required, the Chair shall submit the proposal(s) by mail to all Full Members with information copies to Associate Members. Final approval shall be subject to the provisions of Article 12b. All approved modifications to the Statutes shall then appear in the report of the Conference.

ARTICLE 13: ~~OF THE LANGUAGE OF THE COMMISSION~~

- a) The working language of the Commission shall be English, with simultaneous translation ~~continuous interpretation~~ at meetings to and from Spanish being provided by the host country, with the support of other collaborating Members ~~States~~ or organizations if required (see Article 11d).

Signatures: Full Members

BRAZIL	Name Title/Post	
COLOMBIA	Name Title/Post	
CUBA	Name Title/Post	
<u>DOMINICAN REPUBLIC</u>	<u>Name</u> <u>Title/Post</u>	
FRANCE	Name Title/Post	
GUATEMALA	Name Title/Post	
<u>GUYANA</u>	<u>Name</u> <u>Title/Post</u>	
JAMAICA	Name Title/Post	
MEXICO	Name Title/Post	
NETHERLANDS	Name Title/Post	
SURINAME	Name Title/Post	
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	Name Title/Post	
UNITED KINGDOM	Name Title/Post	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Name Title/Post	
VENEZUELA	Name Title/Post	

Associate Members

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	Name Title/Post	
BARBADOS	Name Title/Post	
BELIZE	Name Title/Post	
COSTA RICA	Name Title/Post	
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Name- Title/Post	
EL SALVADOR	Name Title/Post	
GRENADA	Name Title/Post	
GUYANA	Name- Title/Post	
HAITI	Name Title/Post	
HONDURAS	Name Title/Post	
NICARAGUA	Name Title/Post	
PANAMA	Name Title/Post	
SANTA LUCIA	Name Title/Post	
ST. KITTS AND NEVIS	Name Title/Post	
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	Name Title/Post	

IHO Resolution 2/1997

<u>ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS (RHC)</u>	<u>2/1997 as amended</u>	<u>IHO A-2</u>	<u>T1.3</u>
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GENERAL

1 The mission of the IHO is to create a global environment in which States provide adequate and timely hydrographic data, products and services and ensure their widest possible use. To accomplish this mission, Member States are to pursue, on an intergovernmental basis, their cooperation on hydrographic activities on a regional basis.

2 IHO Member States have established regional coordination as an essential factor to support enhancements in the exchange of information and foster training and technical assistance between all nations. To effectively implement this, Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) are recognized by the Assembly as the primary organs to bring together coastal States within a region to progress the work of the IHO and extract the highest societal value of Member States' effort for the benefit of the nation, region and wider global marine geospatial community.

3 The IHO has established an Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) with the aim to establish, coordinate and enhance cooperation in hydrographic activities amongst States on a regional basis, and between regions, especially on matters associated with CapacityBuilding; the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service; General Bathymetry and Ocean Mapping; Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures; Education and Training and the implementation of the WEND suitable for the need of international shipping. The IRCC is the IHO Committee tasked to coordinate and engage directly with RHCs on regional activities.

ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS

4 It is resolved that the IHO Secretariat and the relevant IHO subordinate bodies shall encourage IHO Member States having common regional interests in data collecting or nautical charting to form RHCs to cooperate in the undertaking of surveys and other projects. Recognized by the Assembly, the RHCs shall complement the work of the Organization, establish common regional approaches, and balance regional issues with global geospatial needs.

5 RHCs should provide, in pursuance of the resolutions and recommendations of the IHO, regional coordination with regard to nautical information, hydrographic surveys, production of nautical charts and documents, technical cooperation, capacity building (CB) projects and marine spatial data infrastructure (MSDI) projects, related to the work of the IHO. RHCs, led by IHO Member States, should enable the exchange of information and consultation among the hydrographic services of all coastal States concerned in the region. Geographically adjacent RHCs should liaise with each other to coordinate the provision of hydrographic services. Cooperation among all RHCs, including among those not adjacent, is encouraged. RHCs should be aware of the technical maturity level and fiscal challenges that may influence state involvement. The processes and management of the RHC meetings should be designed to accommodate the broad participation of nations within the region.

6 RHCs should assess regularly the status of nautical information, navigational warnings, hydrographic surveying, nautical charting, hydrographic capacity and requirements within their region and provide reports to the work of the relevant IHO subordinate bodies and inputs to relevant IHO publications.

ANNEX 1 to STATUTES OF THE MACHC

7 RHCs should be properly constituted, follow standard processes where possible, and have activities in line with the objectives of the IHO as described in Article II of the Convention on the IHO, and Article 8 of the IHO General Regulations. Regional activities should align with and support the intent and objectives of the approved IHO Work Programme. RHCs should take into account the actions, recommendations and outcomes of the IRCC.

8 Geographical areas of the RHCs will normally coincide with INT chart regions, modified as appropriate to meet regional requirements and special circumstances. There are special provisions for Region M (Antarctica) because of its special status.

9 The working languages used by the RHCs should be agreed upon by their members and designated to ensure the best communication between participants. The reports and IHO documents relating to RHC activities shall be in at least one of the official languages of the IHO. For correspondence with the IHO Secretariat, one of the official languages shall be used.

10 The IHO Secretariat shall be invited to attend the meetings of RHCs as Permanent Observer.

MEMBERSHIP

11 RHC membership may include full Members and Associate Members willing to contribute to the objectives of the IHO in the fields of hydrography, nautical charting, nautical information or navigational warnings, marine spatial data infrastructure (MSDI) and related fields in the region concerned. The roles of full members, associated members and observers should be defined by each RHC, in line with the IHO General Regulations. The invitation procedures for membership should be established by each RHC, following approaches that are open, inclusive and supportive of a regional coordination role.

12 Full membership is reserved for IHO Member States within the region who sign the statutes of the RHC. Associate membership is available to other IHO Members States or other nations who are non-IHO members and being signatories of the statutes of the RHC. International Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Industry and Academia stakeholders, active in the region concerned may be invited by the RHC to participate as Observer or Subject Matter Expert.

LEADERSHIP

13 Leadership of the RHC should be documented within the Commission Statutes, and establish the position of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary, with associated selection process, and term of duties. Duties of the Commission Leadership are encouraged to be in line with this Resolution and the IRCC document titled *Roles and Responsibilities of Regional Hydrographic Commission Chairs*.

14 The Chair of the RHC will provide the secretariat support for the RHC meetings and the intersessional coordination within the region. The IRCC shall maintain a list of responsibilities of the Chairs to enable the work of the RHCs in the IRCC document titled *Roles and Responsibilities of Regional Hydrographic Commission Chairs*.

PROVISION OF HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES

15 RHCs are recognized by the IHO to coordinate the breadth of regional activities needed to fulfill the provisioning of hydrographic services for international treaty or other regulatory requirements, and general marine geospatial information needs. RHCs will identify and assess INT Charts and ENC coverage within the region, highlighting those areas of significant navigational risk to the producer nations, and work to resolve the issues in a timely manner. As new marine geospatial products and services are developed within the S-100 Universal Hydrographic Data Model, RHCs should engage with data owners, product and service providers, and other stakeholders as appropriate to ensure a coordinated and cohesive regional approach is considered.

CAPACITY BUILDING

16 Where CB is required, RHCs are recommended to establish an internal body to deal with CB matters. All RHCs are encouraged to appoint a CB Coordinator to ensure that regional capacity building activities are aligned and coordinated in accordance with the IHO CB Strategy and with CB procedures and practices developed by the Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC). Such appointment should be reflected in the RHC Statutes to define the role of the CB Coordinator. This part-time allocation to assist RHCs should come primarily and ideally from Hydrographic Offices (HOs) within the region. If that is not possible then the RHC might agree to request support from another RHC or an HO that might wish to take that responsibility.

17 The CB Coordinators should be nominated having in mind the importance of continuity; should be in regular contact with the corresponding RHC Chair as well as with the CBSC Chair, the IHO Secretariat and the relevant NAVAREA Coordinators. Ideally CB Coordinator should be a CBSC member with access to RHC meetings. However, RHCs may nominate a CBSC member different from the CB Coordinator.

OTHER RHC ACTIVITIES

18 RHCs are also encouraged to establish other committees and working groups, as appropriate, to pursue regional priorities including those that align with IHO global strategic objectives. These include efforts to establish regional charting schemes, elimination of ENC overlaps and gaps, marine spatial data projects, among others. The procedures for establishing such groups, their leadership and duration should be determined internally as RHCs see fit.

REPORTING

19 Chairs of RHCs shall report to the IHO Assembly on RHC activities, the findings of the assessments made in accordance with paragraph 6, future plans and the agreed key targets that support RHC tasks detailed in the IHO Work Programme. The Chairs of RHCs shall also submit reports to the IRCC meetings and an annual report to the IHO Secretariat indicating progress made against the agreed key targets in the IHO Work Programme. Between sessions of the IHO Assembly, reports of studies or other activities, which may be considered of general interest to all IHO Member States, shall be sent by Chairs of RHCs to the IHO Secretariat for general dissemination.

20 The following structure is recommended for National Reports made to RHCs. These reports are intended to streamline information to be considered by the RHC Conferences and to be used by the IHO Secretariat to update the Country Information System (CIS):

Structure for National Reports to Regional Hydrographic Commissions

Executive summary

1. Hydrographic Office / Service: General, including updates for the IHO Yearbook e.g. reorganization.
Note: use the available template for updates to the Yearbook or the online system.
Use separate sections if more than one national HO works within region for a single Member State.

2. Surveys: Coverage of new surveys
New technologies and /or equipment
New ships
Crowdsourced and satellite-derived bathymetry – national policy
Challenges and achievements

3. New charts & updates: ENC coverage, gaps and overlaps
ENC distribution method
RNCs
INT charts
National paper charts
Other charts, e.g. for pleasure craft
Challenges and achievements

4. New publications & updates: New Publications
Updated publications
Means of delivery, e.g. paper, digital
Challenges and achievements

5. MSI: Existing infrastructure for MSI dissemination
Statistics on work of the National Coordinator
New infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan
Challenges and achievements
Note: use of the WWNWS template for this section.

6. C-55: Latest update
Note: use the available template to update C-55 or the online system.

7. Capacity Building: Offer of and/or demand for Capacity Building
Training received, needed, offered
Status of national, bilateral, multilateral or regional development projects with hydrographic component (In progress, planned, under evaluation or study)
Definition of proposals and requests to the IHO CBSC

8. Oceanographic activities: General
GEBCO/IBC's activities, GEBCO Seabed 2030 activities
Tide gauge network
New equipment
Challenges and achievements

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9. Spatial data infrastructures: Status of MSDI
Relationship with the NSDI
Involvement in regional or global MSDI efforts
National implementation of the Shared Data Principles – including any national data policy and impact on marine data
MSDI national portal
Best practices and lessons learned
Challenges and achievements

10. Innovation: Use of new technologies
Risk assessment
Policy matters

11. Other activities: Participation in IHO meetings
Meteorological data collection
Geospatial studies
Preparation for responses to disasters
Environmental protection
Engagement with the Maritime Administration
Aids to Navigation matters
Magnetic and gravity surveys
International engagements
Etc.

12. Conclusions:

21 The IHO Secretariat will keep templates for the National Reports and its presentations to RHC meetings. The templates will be in a format compatible with the IHO databases.

AMACHC addendum to Annex 1 to Statutes of the MACHC:

- Appendix 1 provides the structure for the National Report
- Appendix 2 provides a structure for Input to the IHO Publication P-5 (*Yearbook*)
- Appendix 3 provides a structure for Input to the IHO Publication C-55 (*Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide*)
- Appendix 4 provides a structure for thea National MSI Self-Assessment

APPENDIX 1 to ANNEX 1 to STATUTES OF THE MACHC

NATIONAL REPORT FROM [*Name of the Country*] TO THE MACHC [*meeting number*]

Reference: [IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended](#)

1. Hydrographic Office / Service:
 - a) Name of the institution: [*name of the institution submitting the report*]
 - b) Description: [*General description, including updates for the IHO Yearbook e.g. reorganization*]
 - c) Submitted by: [*name and e-mail of the responsible for the report*]

[Detailed information to update IHO Publication P-5 (*Yearbook*) is submitted as Annex A to this report as detailed in IHO Resolution 2/1997. [If a State has updated the IHO Publication P-5, this section could simply say that IHO Publication P-5 has been verified.](#)]

2. Surveys:

[*Describe any significant developments since the last MACHC [Conference meeting](#) in surveys related to the items below*]

 - a) Coverage of new surveys
 - b) New technologies and/or equipment
 - c) New ships
 - ~~d) Problems encountered~~
 - [d\) Crowdsourced and satellite-derived bathymetry - national policy](#)
 - [e\) Challenges and achievements](#)

[Detailed information about surveys to update IHO Publications P-5 (*Yearbook*) and C-55 (*Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide*) is submitted separately and directly to IHO [Secretariat](#).]

3. New charts & updates:

[*Describe any significant developments since the last MACHC [Conference meeting](#) in charting related to the items below*]

 - a) ENCs [coverage, laps and overlaps](#)
 - b) ENC ~~d~~ Distribution method
 - c) RNCs
 - d) INT charts
 - e) National paper charts
 - f) Other charts, e.g. for pleasure craft
 - ~~g) Problems encountered~~ [Challenges and achievements](#)

[Detailed information about charting to update IHO Publications P-5 (*Yearbook*) and C-55 (*Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide*) is submitted separately and directly to IHO [Secretariat](#).]

4. New publications & updates:

[*Describe any significant developments since the last MACHC [Conference meeting](#) in nautical publications related to the items below*]

 - a) New Publications
 - b) Updated publications
 - c) Means of delivery, e.g. paper, digital
 - ~~d) Problems encountered~~ [Challenges and achievements](#)

[Detailed information to update IHO Publication P-5 (*Yearbook*) is submitted separately and directly to IHO [Secretariat](#).]

APPENDIX 1 to ANNEX 1 to STATUTES OF THE MACHC

5. MSI

[Describe the status of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) related to the items below]

- a) Existing infrastructure for MSI ~~dissemination~~[transmission](#)
- a)b) [Statistics on work of National Coordinator](#)
- b)c) [New infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan](#)
- e)d) [Problems-encountered](#)[Challenges and achievements](#)

[Detailed information about MSI to update IHO Publication C-55 (*Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide*) is submitted separately and directly to IHO [Ssecretariat](#). The national self-assessment of MSI is also submitted separately.]

6. C-55

[Describe any significant developments]

[The detailed table with the latest information to update IHO Publication C-55 (*Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide*) is provided separately and directly to IHO [Ssecretariat](#).]

7. Capacity Building

[Offer of and/or demand for Capacity Building](#)

[Describe the need for or ability to offer Capacity Building in relation to the items below]

- a) [Offer of and/or demand for Capacity Building](#)
- a)b) [Training received, needed, offered](#)
- b)c) [Status of national, bilateral, multilateral or regional development projects with a hydrographic component. \(In progress, planned, under evaluation or study\)](#)
- e)d) [Description of proposals and requests to the IHO/ CBSC \(specific requests for support\)](#)

8. Oceanographic activities

[Describe any significant developments in oceanographic activity since the last MACHC [Conference meeting](#) related to the items below]

- a) General
- b) GEBCO/IBC's activities, [GEBCO Seabed 2030 activities](#) (~~Bathymetric data made available to GEBCO~~)
- c) Tide gauge network
- d) New equipment
- e) [Problems-encountered](#)[Challenges and achievements](#)

9. [Spatial data infrastructures](#)~~MSDI progress~~

[Describe any significant ~~MSDI~~ development since the last MACHC [Conference Meeting](#) related to items below]

- a) ~~The s~~[Status of MSDI](#)
- b) [Relationship with the NSDI plans for involvement in MSDI](#)
- c) [Involvement in regional or global MSDI efforts challenges facing the HO](#)
- d) [National implementation of the Shared Data Principles – including any national data policy and impact on marine data](#)
- e) [MSDI national portal](#)
- f) [Best practices and lessons learned](#)
- g) [Challenges and achievements](#)

10. Innovation

- a) [Use of new technologies](#)
- b) [Risk assessment](#)
- c) [Policy matters](#)

APPENDIX 1 to ANNEX 1 to STATUTES OF THE MACHC

~~10.11.~~ Other activities

[Describe any other significant developments of interest to the MACHC since the last MACHC ~~Conference~~meeting related to the items below]

- a) Participation in IHO ~~meetings~~Working Groups
- b) Meteorological data collection
- c) Geospatial studies
- d) ~~Preparation for responses to d~~Disaster prevention
- e) Environmental protection
- f) ~~Engagement with the Maritime Authority~~Astronomical observations
- g) ~~Aids to Navigation matters~~Magnetic/Gravity surveys
- h) ~~Magnetic/Gravity surveys~~International
- i) ~~International engagements~~
- i)j) Etc.

~~11.12.~~ Conclusions

[Provide a short ~~conclusion~~summary statement that highlights any of the following]

- a) Areas of significant achievement (main achievements during the year)
- b) Areas of particular concern (main challenges and/or obstructions)
- c) Any other matters of interest to the MACHC (plans that affect the region)
- d) Lessons learned to share

APPENDIX 2 to ANNEX 1 to STATUTES OF THE MACHC

Input to the IHO Publication P-5 (Yearbook)

https://iho.formstack.com/forms/web_form_p5

Country: _____

Organization: _____

Contact information / Informations de contact / Información de contacto	
- National Hydrographer or equivalent - Directeur du service hydrographique ou équivalent - Director del Servicio Hidrográfico o equivalente	Post: Name: Postal address: Tel: Fax: Email:
- Head of the Hydrographic Office (if different from the person indicated above) - Directeur du Service Hydrographique (si différent de la personne indiquée ci-dessus) - Director del Servicio Hidrográfico (si diferente de la persona indicada anteriormente)	Post: Name: Postal address: Tel: Fax: Email:
- Other point(s) of contact - Autre(s) point(s) de contact - Otros punto(s) de contacto	
- Web site - Site web - Sitio web	
Country information / Informations sur le pays/ Información sobre el país	
- Declared National Tonnage - Tonnage national déclaré - Tonelaje Nacional Declarado	Tonnage: Date:
- National day - Fête nationale - Fiesta nacional	
- Date of establishment and Relevant National Legislation - Date de mise en place et législation nationale pertinente - Fecha de constitución y legislación nacional pertinente	

APPENDIX 2 to ANNEX 1 to STATUTES OF THE MACHC

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Date first joined IHO - Date d'adhésion à l'OHI - Fecha de adhesión a la OHI 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Date ratification Convention - Date de ratification de la Convention - Fecha de ratificación de la Convención 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remarks on membership - Remarques sur l'adhésion - Comentarios sobre la adhesión 	
Agency information / Information sur l'agence / Información sobre la agencia	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Top level parent organisation - Organisme mère - Organización asociada de nivel superior 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal functions of the organisation or the department - Attribution principales de l'organisme ou du département - Principales funciones de la Organización o departamento 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual operating budget - Budget annuel - Presupuesto anual 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total number of staff employed - Effectifs totaux - Número total de personal empleado 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of INT charts published - Nombres de cartes INT publiées - Número de cartas INT publicadas 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total number of paper charts published - Nombre total de cartes papier Publiées - Número total de cartas de papel publicadas 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of ENC cells published - Nombres de cellules ENC publiées - Número de células ENC publicadas 	

APPENDIX 2 to ANNEX 1 to STATUTES OF THE MACHC

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of Other charts - Nombre d'Autres cartes - Número de Otras cartas 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Type of publications produced - Type d'ouvrages produits - Tipo de publicaciones producidas 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detail of surveying vessels / aircrafts - Détail des bâtiments hydrographiques / aéronefs - Detalle de los buques hidrográficos / aeronaves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Name - Nom - Nombre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Displacement - Déplacement - Desplazamiento 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Date Launched - Date demise en service - Fecha de botado 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of crew - Nombre de l'équipage - Tripulación
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other information of interest - Autres informations utiles - Otra información de interés 				

APPENDIX 3 to ANNEX 1 to STATUTES OF THE MACHC

Input to the IHO Publication C-55
(Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide)
https://iho.formstack.com/forms/web_form_c55

Country: _____

C-55 Summary for:				Comments on Charts:
Country:				
Country Iso Code:				
Country SubCode:				
INT Region:				
Country/Depend:				
Last updated:				
Provided by:				
Chart coverage	Passage (%)	Coastal (%)	Port (%)	Comments on Surveys:
INT				
RNC				
ENC				
Status of Paper Charts				
Paper charts with depths in meters (%)				
Paper charts referenced to a satellite datum (%)				
Status of Surveys	Adequate (%)	Resurvey (%)	No survey (%)	
0-200m				
> 200m				

MSI	Y/N	Comments on MSI:
Local warning		
Coastal warning		
Nav warning		
Port warning		
GMDSS	Y/N	Comments on GMDSS:
Master Plan		
Area A1		
Area A2		
Area A3		
NAVTEX		
SafetyNETet		

APPENDIX 4 to ANNEX 1 to STATUTES OF THE MACHC

National MSI Self-Assessment

Country: _____

Organization: _____

1. Maritime area

[Describe maritime area including details of the geographic boundaries]

2. Operational Points of Contact for the National Coordinator

INSTITUTION	TELEPHONE	FACSIMILE	EMAIL

3. GMDSS Master Plan

[Report on the status of the GMDSS Master Plan: Is it up to date? When was the last update?]

[Specifics of equipment used and software version with date up-dated]

Equipment Type for Ports and Local Area	Software Version	Date of Up-date

[Detail the number of warnings identified as immediate priority (requiring transmission within 30 minutes) and the average elapsed time for passing to NAVAREA Coordinator, as reported to the last [MACHCRHC Conferencemeeting](#)]:

Year Y-2		Year Y-1		Year Y	
Total	Average elapsed time	Total	Average elapsed time	Total	Average elapsed time
xx	xx.x Mins	xx	xx.x Mins	xx	xx.x Mins

4. NAVTEX Coverage:

[Diagram of NAVTEX Stations and service areas within maritime area; Contact details for NAVTEX Stations; Confirm operational status has been validated]

5. Operational Issues:

[New infrastructure in accordance with GMDSS Master Plan; Problems encountered?]

6. Contingency Planning

[Provide information regarding contingency plans that have been established and future plans where appropriate. Also report on any testing of the plan that has been conducted]

APPENDIX 4 to ANNEX 1 to STATUTES OF THE MACHC

7. Capacity Building

[Demands for Capacity Building, Training requested or received, any offered, status of national, bilateral, multilateral or regional development projects with MSI component]

8. Other Activities

[Participation in other IHO or IMO Working Groups, Regional Hydrographic Commissions, regional conferences related to MSI over past year]

9. National Maritime Website

[Address, statistics (if permitted by national legislation); how often is the information on your web site updated? Do you display the date and time of the last update on your web site?]

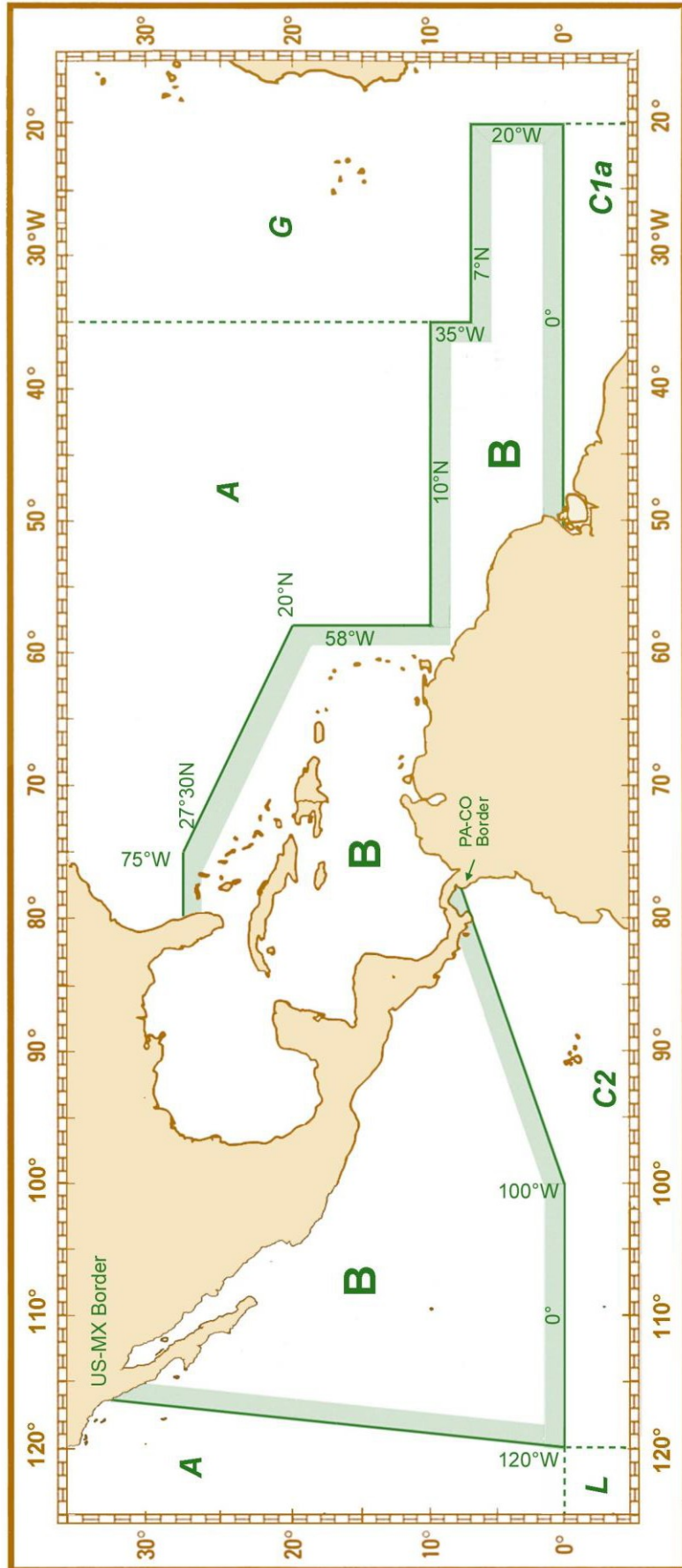
10. Recommendations

[If any]

11. Summary

[Please provide a short summary of this paper which will be included in the final report of the [Conference meeting](#)]

ANNEX 2 to STATUTES OF THE MACHC



MACHC Disaster Response Framework
(adopted at MACHC20)

Reference: IHO Resolution 1/2005 as amended

1. Introduction

This plan aims at preparing the MACHC to respond to disasters in accordance with the Reference.

This will be done in two steps:

- a) Preparation activities; and
- b) Implementation activities following a disaster.

These two groups of activities are described below.

2. Preparation of the Contingency Framework by MACHC coastal States

- a) Inform the MACHC Chair on points of contact and the means of communication (attention should be given to provide alternative means of communication in case the country has no telephonic and e-mail access):
 - i) Senior Point of Contact
 - ii) Working Point of Contact
 - iii) Communication means
- b) Prepare and keep updated with the MACHC Chair a checklist for key infrastructure in order to assess whether they are intact or need some urgent action. A generic template is provided in Annex A.
- c) Prepare and keep updated a National Communication Plan identifying the stakeholders that will need to be contacted in order to obtain/to pass relevant information. Consider using alternative means of communication such as radio communications or Messenger App (e.g. Skype, Signal, Telegram, WhatsApp) if e-mail is not accessible.
- d) Identify appropriate contacts in the national foreign Ministry to facilitate requests for help via diplomatic channels.

3. Preparation of a GIS layer to support coordination

A GIS layer representing the hydrographic efforts to help the Chair in his/hers coordinating role. For example, the layer could indicate the affected ports and routes, the deployment of surveys teams, supporting imageries, status of MSI, outcomes of Analyzed Imagery, recommended routes for humanitarian ships, etc. Such a system has the potential to avoid duplications and assure the establishment of the priorities by the governments providing support. Chair will seek support to the establishment and maintenance of the GIS.

4. Preparation of the Contingency Plan by the MACHC Chair

- a) Compile the information provided in 2 and prepare a Communication Plan based on the information provided.
- b) Prepare a list of (possibly) available assets that impacted coastal States can consider to request via diplomatic channels to the neighboring States. A generic template is provided in Annex B.

5. Response implementation activities by a coastal State following a disaster

- a) Conduct the initial damage assessment of the key infrastructure using the checklist prepared in 2b.
- b) Assess the specific effects on shipping of the existence of obstacles and any changes to the seafloor that can hinder navigation, taking full account of the effects of drifting obstacles which may also hinder preliminary survey results.
- c) Prepare a priority plan for survey and charting to ensure that the passage of support and supplies through maritime channels and ports, and the marking of new dangers where necessary.
- d) Inform the MACHC Chair the result of the assessment performed in 5a, b and c as soon as practicable.
- e) Prepare a list of necessary support (4b) to be communicated to the minister of foreign affairs via the chain of command in order to assure timely diplomatic clearance for other Members hydrographic assets as part disaster relief. Provide an information copy to the MACHC Chair.

The response to a disaster can be divided into activities for immediate response and a subsequent recovery response.

6. Implementation activities by the MACHC Chair:

- a) Establish communication with the coastal State in distress in order to obtain the initial assessment (5a, b and c).
- b) Take the necessary actions in coordination with the coastal State.
- c) Prepare a situation awareness report to be disseminated to all the coastal States as established in the Communication Plan. Disseminate updates as deemed necessary.
- d) Communicate with the NAVAREA Coordinators to ensure awareness of the situation and that the necessary navigational information is disseminated.
- e) Liaise with the IHO Secretariat.
- f) Communicate with the appropriate Regional and International Organizations to share information and coordinate the efforts, for example:
 - i) CDEMA (<http://www.cdema.org>)
 - ii) RAC-REMPEITC Caribe (<http://www.racrempeitc.org>)
 - iii) IMO (<http://www.imo.org>)
 - iv) IALA (<http://www.iala-aism.org>)
 - v) MapAction (<http://www.mapaction.org>)
 - vi) Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (<https://www.ctic.ioc-unesco.org/what-is-the-icg-caribe-ews>)

Refer to the Communications Section of the MACHC Initiative Disaster Response website for a complete list of national points of contact and related regional organizations.

- g) Decide, based on the information collected, whether an Extraordinary Conference of the MACHC (or videoconference) is needed, in order to discuss in detail the problems, evaluate the damage and respond to requests for support.

7. Establishment of the MACHC Contingency Framework

The MACHC Contingency Framework will be prepared based on the information provided with the annexes and approved by each MACHC Conference or by correspondence as necessary, based on the information provided by the coastal States. The Chair should ensure a permanent agenda item on RHC meetings in order to monitor the readiness of the Commission to respond to disasters and conducting regular table-top exercises to evaluate the procedures.

8. Online documents

This Framework, templates and other relevant documents are available on the Disaster Response Section of the MACHC Initiative website (<https://www.iho-machc.org/dr.html>). National Points of Contact should be updated annually. Documents will also include National Response Plans, experiences and related best practices.

Annex A - Template for the definition of the key infrastructure components and damage assessment in coastal States

Annex B - Template for (possibly) available assets that impacted coastal States can consider to request via diplomatic channels from neighboring States

Annex A

Template for the definition of the key infrastructure components and port damage assessment in coastal States

- 1) Situation in each of the key ports, their accesses and critical passage points:
 - a) Existence of debris and obstructions and hazardous materials
 - b) Possible changes to the charted depths
 - c) Working condition of tide gauges
 - d) Working condition of AtoN
 - e) Piers, buildings available
 - f) Fuel available
 - g) Storage space available
 - h) Vessels of opportunity available
 - i) Capacity to disseminate key navigational information to the National MSI Coordinator
- 2) Capacity of the National MSI Coordinator to:
 - a) promulgate the appropriate navigational warnings and necessary information and advice to shipping through existing channels (e.g. NAVTEX, EGC, etc.)
 - b) communicate with the NAVAREA Coordinator
 - c) communicate with the other national agencies as established in the National Communication Plan

Annex B

Template for (possibly) available assets that impacted coastal States can consider for request via diplomatic channels from neighboring States

- 1) Reconnaissance/assessment flights
- 2) Assessment using satellite imagery, including satellite-derived bathymetry
- 3) Deployable survey teams
- 4) Production of interim-ENC
- 5) Preparation of situational awareness map

PROCEDURE FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MACHC REPRESENTATIVES TO THE IHO COUNCIL

Designation of MACHC representatives to the IHO Council shall be determined in compliance with IHO General Regulations Articles 2 and 16.

Role and Authority of Representatives to the MACHC in the Council

1. IHO Member States representing the MACHC, shall occupy their seat on the Council for all sessions of the Council throughout the inter-sessional period between Assemblies.
2. All expenses connected with the participation of representatives to the Council shall be defrayed by their respective State, in accordance with IHO General Regulation Article 3.
3. In carrying out their role as a representative of the MACHC to the Council, the elected Members ~~States~~ shall take into account the views of the Members ~~States~~ of the Commission. A standing agenda item during the MACHC Conferences will cover IHO Council matters.

Selection Procedure (see also flowchart Appendix 1)

4. Three months before an ordinary session of the Assembly, the [IHO](#) Secretary-General shall inform the Chair of the MACHC of:
 - a. the number of seats allocated to the MACHC, and
 - b. those Members ~~States~~ that are eligible for selection by the MACHC.
5. If the number of Members ~~States~~ eligible for selection to represent the MACHC to the Council is equal to the number of seats on the Council assigned to the MACHC by the [IHO](#) Secretary-General under the terms of clause 4 above, then the aforementioned eligible Members ~~States~~ will be designated as representatives of the MACHC.
6. If the number of Members ~~States~~ eligible for selection to represent the MACHC to the Council is greater than the number of seats assigned to the MACHC by the IHO Secretary-General under the terms of clause 4 above, then the Chair of the MACHC will invite those Members ~~States~~ that have been designated as eligible for selection to the Council to indicate if they wish to be considered as candidates for selection.
 - a. If the number of candidate Members ~~States~~ is equal to the number of number of seats on the Council assigned to the MACHC, then these candidate(s) will be designated as representatives of the MACHC.
 - b. If the number of candidate Members ~~States~~ is smaller than the number of seats on the council assigned to the MACHC, the candidate(s), if any, will be automatically designated and will be complemented by the eligible Member ~~State~~(s) that have not been representatives of the MACHC to the Council for the longest time. If this proves inconclusive, the Chair will designate consult with other eligible Members ~~State~~(s) to determine if they can serve as representative of the MACHC.
 - c. If the number of candidate Member States is greater than the number of seats on the council assigned to the MACHC, the candidate(s) to represent the MACHC to the Council will be designated through a voting procedure.

Voting Procedure

7. The voting procedure will take place in the three months prior to the [session of the IHO](#) Assembly, preferably at a Conference of the MACHC otherwise by correspondence if no MACHC Conference is scheduled.

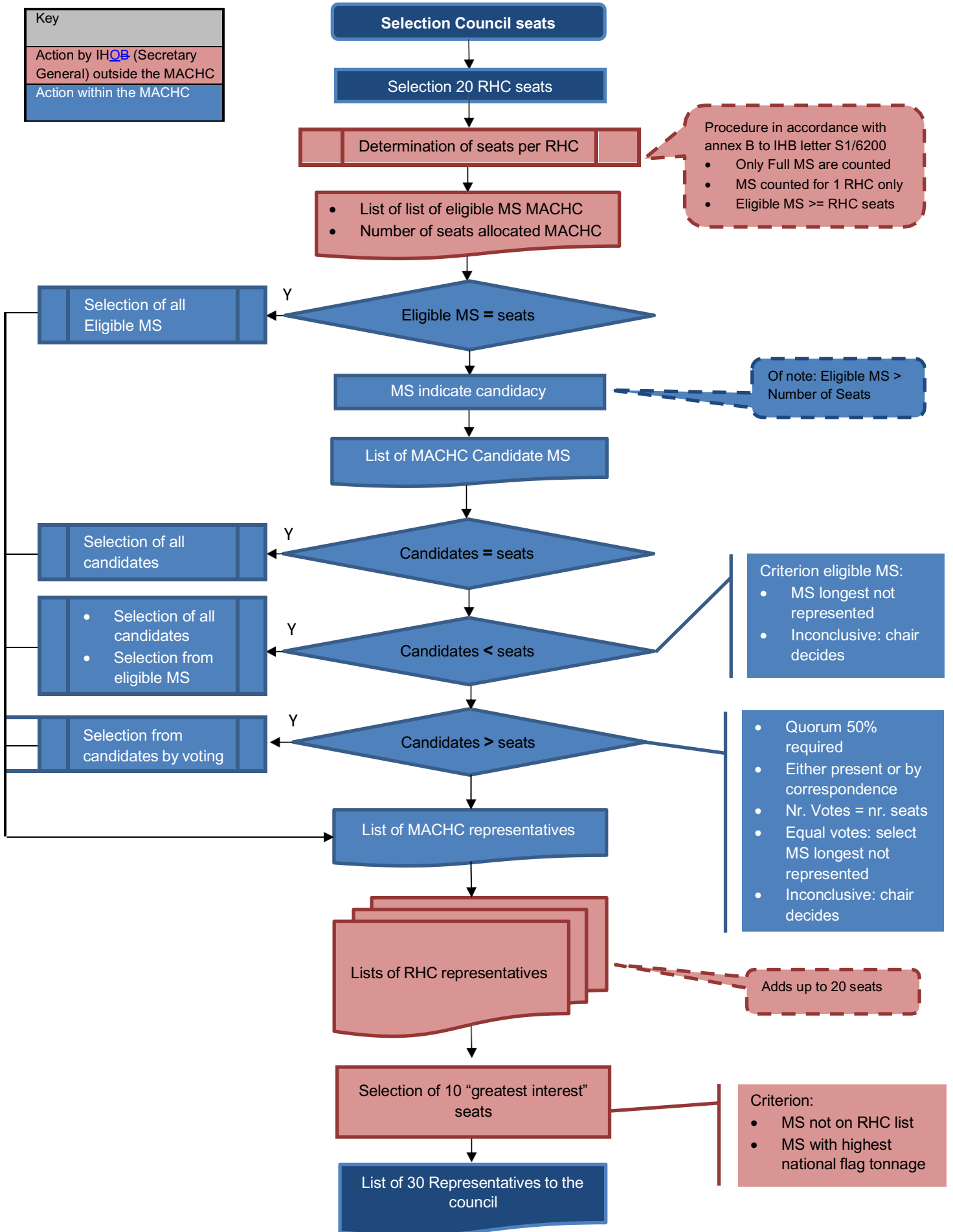
ANNEX 43 to STATUTES OF THE MACHC

- a. Each Full Member ~~State~~ may submit one voting paper marking as many candidate Member from the list as seats have been assigned to the MACHC (see example of voting paper in Appendix 2).
- b. The quorum for a valid voting procedure is set at 50% of Members ~~States~~ casting their vote. Representatives of the MACHC to the Council are then elected by simple majority. An incomplete or blank voting paper is a valid voting option and does not count against the quorum.
- c. If no quorum is achieved, the voting window is extended for two weeks and the chair invites the missing Members ~~States~~ to cast their vote. The existing votes stand.
- d. If still no quorum has been achieved, the Chair designates the representatives of the MACHC to the Council based on the votes cast. In case of a draw the candidate that has not been a representative of the MACHC to the Council for the longest time is designated as representative of the MACHC. If this proves inconclusive the Chair will designate a candidate as representative of the MACHC.

Selection ~~Manning~~ of the representatives

8. The Members ~~States~~ selected to represent the MACHC in the Council are normally represented by the head of the Hydrographic ~~O~~ffice. Each Member ~~State~~ shall inform the Chair of the MACHC and the IHO Secretary-General ~~of the IHO~~ of the name of its official representative. An alternate may also be designated.
9. Members ~~States~~ representing the MACHC shall inform the Chair of the MACHC and the IHO Secretary-General of any changes in representation, whether permanent or temporary, as soon as practicable.

APPENDIX 1 to ANNEX 43 to STATUTES OF THE MACHC



APPENDIX 2 to ANNEX 43 to STATUTES OF THE MACHC

~~Meso-American and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC)~~

Selection of MACHC Representative(s) to the IHO Council

Example of Voting Paper

Part A

Number of Seats on Council allocated to the MACHC: *Chair inserts number in here*

(This is the number of boxes that may be marked below)

Part B

To vote for a candidate State put an 'X' in the adjacent box. The number of boxes that may be marked is shown in Part A above.

<i>Chair inserts candidate State A in here</i>	<i>Votes indicated with an X here</i>
<i>Chair inserts State B in here</i>	<i>Votes indicated with an X here</i>
<i>Chair inserts State C in here</i>	<i>Votes indicated with an X here</i>
<i>insert other States if appropriate</i>	<i>Votes indicated with an X here</i>

Member-State: Date:

Authorised By: Position:

(signature)