

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION  
MESO AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC  
COMMISSION



MACHC-Letter 02/2021

February 15, 2021

To: All MACHC Members

Subject: Revised MACHC Statutes

Reference: MACHC 21 Action 21.2.1.1.4: MACHC to implement the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended by A-2. Partly implemented - Brazil and NL to work with MACHC Chair to examine further action required, and  
MACHC Action 20.7.1.2: Consider amendments for the MACHC disaster response framework based on the anticipated approval and amendment of the IHO Resolution 1/2005 on disaster response at IHO Assembly-2.

Dear Colleagues,

At the recent MACHC21 Conference, the Plenary took an action (21.2.1.1.4) to implement IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended by Assembly-2 and to modify the MACHC Statutes accordingly. The Netherlands and Brazil agreed to start this process with the MACHC Chair. The MACHC also has an open action from MACHC20 (20.7.1.2) to look at the implications of IHO Resolution on Disaster Response 1/2005, also as amended by Assembly-2. The IHO Assembly-2 was originally scheduled to take place in April 2020, and due to the pandemic, did not take place virtually until November.

In their thorough review of both resolutions, The Netherlands, Brazil and the MACHC Chair produced the attached document (one with track changes and one clean version) with proposed updates to the Statutes. The principal changes include:

1. Updated terminology consistent with the amended IHO Convention, such as the terms “International Hydrographic Bureau”, “IHB” are replaced by “Secretariat of the IHO” ; The term “Directing Committee of the IHB” to be replaced by “Secretary-General of the IHO” The terms “International Hydrographic Conference” and “IHC” to be replaced by “IHO Assembly”
2. Updated general language in Article 3 that codifies the ability of the MACHC to create Committees and Working groups and select leadership as appropriate to respond to the IHO global program and other emerging international opportunities and initiatives such as Seabed2020, the UN Decade etc.

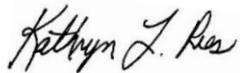
3. An updated Appendix 1 to Annex 1 with the revised format for the National Reports (which the MACHC has already been using in practice)
4. A new Annex 3 that codifies the MACHC Disaster Response Framework

All Members are kindly requested to review the proposed modified Statutes and provide any comments to the new MACHC Chair, Vice Admiral Edgar Luiz Siqueira Barbosa at: [dhn.intrel@marinha.mil.br](mailto:dhn.intrel@marinha.mil.br), with a copy to: [obino@marinha.mil.br](mailto:obino@marinha.mil.br), by March 31, 2021.

Article 2 a) and b) of the MACHC Statutes defines “Full Members” as IHO Member States within the Region that have signed the Statutes and “Associate Members” as any non-IHO Member State within the region that has signed the Statutes. While all Full and Associate Members are invited to provide their comments, please keep in mind Article 12 b) of the MACHC Statutes which notes “*The modification of the Statutes requires the approval of at least two-thirds of the Full Members of the Commission.*”

Once the comments are received, they will be collated by the new MACHC Chair who will then communicate the process by which final approval will be obtained.

Sincerely,



Kathryn L. Ries  
Deputy Director, Office of Coast Survey, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Chair, MesoAmerican and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission  
[MACHC.Chair@noaa.gov](mailto:MACHC.Chair@noaa.gov)

CC:  
IHO Secretariat