

## Chair

# Meso-American and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission

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**Date:** 1 July 2024  
**MACHC Letter Number:** 02/2024  
**To:** Ambassador Jerusa Léa Ali, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas  
**Subject:** Associate Membership of the MACHC

*Dear Ambassador,*

It is with great pleasure that I write to you in my capacity as Chair of Meso-American and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC). I was delighted to read about the recent High-Level Visit by IHO Director Luigi Sinapi, to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. It sounds like this was a highly productive visit with many positive outcomes that will further the development of hydrography in your country.

As Chair, I was particularly pleased to note the recommendation in the concept note, signed by yourself, for The Bahamas to increase familiarity with regional hydrographic matters through participation at the MACHC as an Associate Member. A key to the success of the Commission is participation from coastal states in the region, so we would greatly welcome The Bahamas' increased involvement. I am pleased to attach a copy of the MACHC Statutes for your information. I would also recommend that the relevant national authorities familiarise themselves with our dedicated [Meso American & Caribbean Sea HC | IHO](#) web page, as this hosts the Commission's current and historic working documentation.

As stated in Article 2.b. of the Statutes, for The Bahamas to become an Associate Member, the MACHC Statutes will need to be signed by your country's designated signatory. I would be delighted if we could arrange for the signing to be conducted in-person at the forthcoming 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the MACHC, taking place in Panama between 02 - 06 December 2024. Alternatively, if this is not convenient to your signatory, then I would be very happy to visit Nassau to conduct an in-person signing at a mutually convenient time.

If this proposal is agreeable, please can you inform the MACHC Secretary, Emma Webb ([machc.chair@ukho.gov.uk](mailto:machc.chair@ukho.gov.uk)), as to which signing option is preferable and she will coordinate the necessary arrangements.

I look forward to hopefully welcoming The Bahamas as an Associate Member of the MACHC.

*Yours Sincerely,*



**Rear Admiral Angus Essenhigh OBE**

**Enclosures:** MACHC Statutes

**Copy to:** Luigi Sinapi ([Luigi.Sinapi@iho.int](mailto:Luigi.Sinapi@iho.int)); Emma Webb ([machc.chair@ukho.gov.uk](mailto:machc.chair@ukho.gov.uk))