

Meso-American & Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission MACHC

Presented by RAdm Angus Essenhig, OBE
MACHC Chair

24th Conference of the MACHC (MACHC24)

- Arranged as in person meeting in Paramaribo, Suriname from 12 -15 Dec 23 in a semi-hybrid format
- Meeting convened with UK as Chair and Suriname as Vice-Chair
- MICCWG, MSDIWG, CBC, Seabed 2030 and the newly established MACHC MSIWG all met prior to the main plenary session
- Good progress made on actions and recommendations
- MACHC25 will take place week commencing 2 Dec 24, location TBC



IRCC16
Santa Cruz Island – Galapagos, Ecuador
10 – 12 June 2024

Key Achievements

Capacity Building:

- **Mr Diego Fernando Mendez Porta of Guatemala completed the Master of Science Programme** in Hydrographic Science. **Mr Walther Danilo Quiroz Gonzalez of Guatemala also completed the CAT B Nautical Cartography Programme** (sponsored by ROK); and **Mrs Shari Bowen-Robinson of Jamaica completed the NIPPON Foundation GEOMAC course** at the UKHO alongside **Mrs Nayivis Lopez Ortega from Cuba**
- A **Tides Workshop for Spanish Speakers**, co funded by the IHO, IMO and IOC was led by NOAA USA, support by Brazil/Spain and hosted by Costa Rica in Nov 23. 31 students, representing 16 countries and 24 organisations participating from the MACHC and neighbouring RHCS, SWAtHC and SEPRHC.
- **Two IHO funded High Level Visits were delivered** (to the Dominican Republic and Jamaica) as part of the IHO Capacity Building 2023 Workplan

MICC:

- WG now has a **new Vice-Chair**, Mr Julio Castillo of the NOAA USA
- **Steady increase in ENCs** over the years, with 1,242 ENCs available in 2023. Usage Band 5 has had the most increase, with 623 ENCs now available
- MACHC will coordinate and focus on the following products: **S-101, S-102, S-104, S-111, S-124 and S-128** in the region

MMSDIWG:

- WG has a **new Chair**, Mr Andy Dippolito of the USA NGA
- **Surveys are an ongoing activity** within the region and are constantly being updated



Important Findings (RHC top 3 challenges)

- **More active participation** from most MACHC Members in the Committee/Working Groups
- ENC producers **face challenges with meeting the IHO S-100 implementation** timescales
- As of May 24, **no Member State has offered to host the next Conference** in Dec 24



Lessons Learned

- Statutes revised to now include 'Annex 5 Ongoing/Permanent Actions List'. These actions will be 'Business As Usual' actions that Member States should refer to on a bi-annual basis
- Technical Visits and High-Level Technical Visits to Members and Associate Members are extremely relevant to leverage hydrographic and cartographic activities in these countries, as well as to raise awareness of the importance of investment within these fields. When engaging with policy makers it is essential to use relatable language, referring to the UN SDGs and highlighting the wider benefits such as economic growth and security to explain the importance of hydrography
- The increasing demand for responses and support from Member States needs to be carefully considered and, where necessary, perhaps regulated a little. There is a sense that we might ask too much from National Hydrographic Offices and SIDS that have limited capacity and therefore we may need to consider how we prioritise the asks

Proposals

- Take **note of this Report**
- To note the **importance of the need for IHO Capacity Building** support within the region
- **Read the full Report** on the IRCC webpage
- Consider any appropriate action