



(Draft V1.0) **Minutes**

of the

25th Conference

of

The Meso American and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC25)

in

Panama City, Panama

between

Wednesday 4 December

and

Friday 6 December 2024

This document does not act as a verbatim record of the MACHC25 Plenary. It provides an overview of the presentations, reports and a summary of the Actions and Decisions (sent out separately on Wed 11 Dec 24 and also available [here](#) on the IHO MACHC25 website) made during the Plenary.

The numbering in the Report coincides with the [Agenda](#) items of the MACHC25 Conference. All documents and presentations are available for viewing and download via the IHO MACHC25 website [here](#).

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MACHC25 Day One - Wednesday 4 December 2024

W Panama, Panama City, Panama

1.0 Welcome from MACHC Chair

MACHC Chair, RAdm Angus Essenhigh OBE (UK), welcomed the delegates and acknowledged the absence of the Vice Chair, Bernice Mahabier, due to an injury and wished her a speedy recovery. MACHC Chair outlined the programme over the three days.

MACHC Chair welcomed the online participants and encouraged all Member States (MS from hereon in) to contribute with energy and enthusiasm to maximise participation over the ensuing days.

Action 1: Any question raised by virtual participants would be collated by MACHC Sec and put to presenters after Plenary for answering and responses collated and shared by due date.

1.1 Introductions

MACHC Chair confirmed that all 15 full members were present, albeit Mexico virtually, and that we were, therefore, quorate to hold MACHC25. MACHC Chair confirmed that there were 107 participants registered in total, of which 94 registered to attend in person and 13 registered to attend online. Chair invited all in-person attendees to briefly introduce themselves.

1.2 Approval of MACHC25 Agenda and List of Documents

MACHC Chair confirmed that the draft agenda was circulated to all MS on 28 November for comments, no requests were received by MS. No further comments were raised by the Plenary and therefore the agenda was adopted.

Decision 1: MACHC25 Agenda approved and adopted.

MACHC Chair explained that all documents received prior to the Plenary could be found on the [IHO MACHC25](#) website.

1.3 Matters Arising from MACHC24 Minutes

The Chair confirmed the MACHC24 Minutes were available on the MACHC24 IHO page and included all received feedback. Chair asked the Plenary if there were any further adjustments/comments; no further comments were made.

Decision 2: MACHC24 Minutes approved.

1.4 Review of Actions List from MACHC24

MACHC Chair invited MACHC Secretary to present the MACHC List of Actions from MACHC24. MACHC Secretary presented all open actions. The MACHC Actions List was circulated to MS prior to the Plenary on 26 November.

Decision 3: Agreed that the establishment of a Strategic Plan Review Working Group superseded the requirement for a MACHC Strategic Plan Project Team; therefore, Member States agreed to close the action (Action 4.0_2 from MACHC24)

Decision 4: Decided MSI WG was to follow the decision of WWNWS-Sub Committee that Sairdrone activity is not normally suitable for navigational warning. Agreed to close the Action 13.1 from MACHC24.

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1.5 Official Photograph Session

In Person delegation



Virtual delegation



2.1 IHO Secretariat Report

Mr Luigi Sinapi, IHO Director, presented to the Plenary. Key points were:

- IHO membership has reached 100 states.
- Emphasized importance of regional Commissions in engaging with non-member states to further increase membership.
- Highlighted the importance of Capacity Building noting that funded activities not executed in 2024 will not be carried over to 2025.
- Provided details on the funding for non-earmarked and earmarked projects, emphasizing the need for Member States to contribute to the IHO Capacity Building fund.
- Discussed the Empowering Women in Hydrography project, mentioning various activities such as education, training on survey ships, participation in IHO working groups, and

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international fora. He encouraged Member States to support and participate in the project.

- He urged Member States to contribute e-learning material to the IHO e-learning Centre, which aims to provide accessible training resources. He mentioned the need for more material and the ongoing efforts to develop content for the Centre.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-02.1 V2 IHO Secretariat Report](#)

2.2 IRCC 16

Miss Lucy Fieldhouse of UKHO presented the key findings and recommendations from the 16th IRCC meeting which took place in June 2024. Key points were:

- S-100 implementation plan, noting that S-100 edition 5.2.0 has been approved and core Phase One product specifications are in line with the S-100 timeline.
- Emphasized the importance of MS responding to IHO Circular letters to avoid delay in the approval process.
- Discussed the importance of Capacity Building, encouraging Member States to support the IHO Capacity Building fund and contribute e-learning material to the IHO e-learning Centre. She also mentioned the need for Member States to participate in the Capacity Building subcommittee.
- Presented the recommendations from IRCC 16, including the need for Member States to support the enlargement of IHO membership, increase participation in the Empowering Women in Hydrography project, and engage in Crowdsource Bathymetry initiatives. She also emphasized the importance of resolving ENC overlaps and contributing bathymetric data to the DCDB.
- All IRCC16 recommendations (which were read out during the MACHC25 Plenary) can be found [here](#).

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-02.2 IRCC16 Update](#)

2.3 IHO Council 8 Update

Björn Van Vliet of The Netherlands, MACHC Council 8 Representative, provided the Plenary with a brief update from the IHO Council 8 which took place in October 2024. Key points of the presentation were:

- Discussed the creation of sea trial areas, emphasizing their importance for testing the dissemination and use of S-100 data. He mentioned the Saint Lawrence River as an example of a sea trial area where data will be made available for testing from June to November 2025.
- Highlighted the significance of the S-100 Infrastructure Centre, which will be hosted and funded by the Republic of Korea until 2035. The Centre will be governed by the IHO secretariat, and its interim establishment has been agreed upon to meet the S100 roadmap timelines.
- Mentioned the establishment of the Strategic Plan Review Working Group, chaired by Rear Admiral Ben Evans, with the task of revising the IHO strategic plan for 2027 to 2032. The working group will consider input from MS and RHCs.
- Emphasized the need for collaboration with the IMO to ensure the success of S-100. He mentioned that the IMO has set S-100 as the baseline standard for maritime services and highlighted the importance of IHO Member States contributing to relevant IMO meetings.
- All Council recommendations and decisions can be found on the [Council 8 webpage](#).

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-02.3 IHO Council 8 Update](#)

2.4 Maritime Safety Information/WWNWS Report

WWNWS Chair, Mr Timothy (Ed) Stacey, presented key updates on MSI to the Plenary. Key points raised were:

- Provided an overview of the Worldwide Navigational Warning Service (WWNWS), explaining its role in the international and national coordination of navigational warnings globally. He mentioned the use of enhanced group call services and the involvement of Coastal States in the promulgation of warnings.
- Discussed the Nav Area 4 and 12 Strategic Performance Indicator, which measures the percentage of Coastal States capable of providing Maritime Safety Information (MSI). He highlighted the goal of reaching 90% success by 2026 and the methods used to measure success, including receiving information, attending meetings, and confirming contact with national coordinators.
- Reported that Nav Area 4 and 12 achieved the strategic performance indicator in 2024, with satisfactory coordination from an increasing number of Coastal States. He noted the improvement in communication with the Bahamas and Costa Rica, which changed from red to green status.
- The MACHC MSI website can be accessed [here](#).

Action 2.4.1 - Review the MACHC website to verify MSI status: <https://www.iho-machc.org/msi.html> BY March 2025

Action 2.4.2 - Review and verify the MSI National Coordinator point of contact and report any MSI related changes by contacting navsafety@nga.mil and timothy.e.stacy@nga.mil

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-02.4 Maritime Safety Information/WWNWS Report](#)

3.0 IHO Revised Strategic Plan 2021-2026

Mr Ben Evans, of the US, discussed the process and timeline for the revision of the IHO strategic plan for 2027 to 2032. He highlighted the need for Member States to provide input and the importance of defining the revised goal focus areas by the end of the year.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-03 IHO Revised Strategic Plan - 2027 -2033](#)

4.1 UK Presentation - Development of new (Virtual) Port Situational Awareness Service

Mr Nathanael Knapp of the UK demonstrated a new port situational awareness tool developed by the UKHO. The tool uses multiple data sources to help Mariners prepare for port entry by visualizing what they can expect to see. The product targets vessels such as trampers, cruise liners, and super yachts.

Presentation link here: MACHC25-04.1 <https://youtu.be/a0mLxRzj0Jc>

4.2 SEPRHC Report

Mr Alexis Grattz, from Colombia, provided an update on the South East Pacific Regional Hydrographic Commission, highlighting the cooperation between member states, the implementation of the S-100 standard, and the coordination of Capacity Building projects.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-04.2 SEPRHC Presentation](#)

5.0 Approval of amended Statutes

MACHC Chair confirmed the approval of the amended Statutes, which were circulated for review and incorporated comments from member states, with no further comments received during the meeting.

Decision 5: Approved the updated Statutes as presented by the Commission.

6.0 National Reports

MACHC Chair talked through the National Report instructions and provided MS and Associate MS with their breakout group information. The Chair explained that no translation would be provided in the Breakout Groups and that all virtual MS and Associate MS would have full presenting rights to enable them to present their national report key messages. The Chairs of the Breakout Group were as follows:

Breakout Group A: Mr Fermin M.Vega Desdin of Cuba (Spanish speaking group)

Breakout Group B: Mr John Lowell of the USA

MS and Associate MS were tasked to present the following:

- 1) Top achievements in the past year
- 2) Top challenges and/or obstructions in the past year
- 3) Top plans that affect the MACHC region

All MS and Associate MS presentations were collated by each Breakout Group Chair and the key findings shared back to the Plenary on Thursday 5 December at agenda Srl 8.0.

The Plenary broke for the National Report breakout group sessions.

All submitted National Report presentations can be found here: [MACHC25 \(2024\) | IHO](#)

End of Day One

MACHC25 Day Two - Thursday 5 December 2024

W Panama, Panama City, Panama

MACHC Chair commenced Day Two of the Plenary by thanking the Panama Canal Authority and the industry sponsors, AXYS, Esri, EXAIL, IIC Technologies, Kongsberg, Norbit, Saildrone, TCarta, Teledyne, Woolpert, Fugro and Xylem Hypack for their generous hosting and sponsorship of the previous night's event at the Miraflores Visitor Centre and Os Segredos Da Carne restaurant.

7.0 Review of Actions from Day One of MACHC25

MACHC Secretary spoke through all actions from Day One of Plenary. Actions can be found [here](#).

8.1 National Report Breakout Group A Key findings and messages

Chair of Breakout Group A, Fermin M Vega Desdin of GeoCuba, presented to the Plenary on the key findings from the National Report presentations in Breakout Group A. Key points were:

- Presented the key points identified by Group A, highlighting the importance of international collaboration and the need for increased capacity in hydrographic services.
- Emphasized the importance of international collaboration in hydrographic services, noting the participation of Panama and El Salvador in providing technological solutions and cartographic publications.
- Highlighted the need for increased capacity in hydrographic services, including the renovation of cartographic capabilities and the production of new nautical charts in Guatemala, Honduras, and other regions.
- Discussed the implementation of new technologies and the need for collaboration to enhance hydrographic services and data sharing.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-08a National Report Breakout Group A Key Findings](#)

8.2 National Report Breakout Group B Key findings and messages

Chair of Breakout Group B, John Lowell of the USA, presented to the Plenary on the key findings from the National Report presentations in Breakout Group B. Key points were:

- Emphasized the need for improved geospatial governance and the challenges of transitioning to S-100 standards.
- Highlighted the trend of improved geospatial governance across the region, with several nations establishing national committees as part of Phase One Capacity Building activities.
- Noted the general improvement in knowledge about data and information sharing between nations, emphasizing the importance of broader engagement of government agencies.
- Discussed the advancements in Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) with robust web portals being developed for quick access to information, supporting broader national value.
- Mentioned the challenges faced by nations like Guyana and Suriname in acoustic data collection due to high turbidity areas, and the need for best practices to address these issues.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-08b National Report Breakout Group B Key Findings](#)

9.1 Ocean Power Technology (DSS Corp)

Mr Thomas Meurling of Ocean Power presented to the Plenary on 'Advanced Hydrographic Survey for Unmanned Surface Vehicles, using Artificial Intelligence'.

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Presentation link here: [MACHC25-09.1 Ocean Power Technology \(DSS Corp\) Presentation](#)

10.1 IALA presentation

Ms Gerardine Delanoye, from IALA, provided an update on their recent activities, including the ratification of the IALA Convention by 35 states and the development of new training courses.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-10.1 IALA Presentation](#)

11.1 MMSDIWG Report

MACHC MSDIWG Chair, Mr Andy Dippolito of the USA, presented to the Plenary the latest updates from the MMSDIWG which was held on Tuesday 3 December. Included in the presentation was the 2025 MSDI Work Plan. Key points raised were:

- Emphasized the need for updated contact information for MSDI points of contact, requesting all Member States to provide responses by March 2025.
- Proposed aligning the MSDI Working Group work plan with the IHO MSDI work plan, streamlining efforts and ensuring consistency.
- Encouraged participation in quarterly MSDI meetings, highlighting the importance of sharing best practices and industry presentations.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-11.1 MMSDIWG Presentation](#)

Action 11.1.1: Provide National response by Mar 25, and annually thereafter prior to MACHC meeting in Dec 25 (submit by Mar 25 and then again by Dec 25) to the MMSDI WG Chair's letter.

Action 11.1.2: Request to submit nominations for Vice Chair/Co-Ambassador for MMSDI WG.

Decision 6: Agreed to archive MMSDI WG Work Plan in favour of working towards IHO MSDI Workplan 2024-2027

12.1 MICCWG Report

MACHC MICCWG Vice Chair, Mr Julio Castillo of US, presented to the Plenary the latest updates from the MICCWG which was held on Tuesday 3 December. Included in the presentation was the [2025 MICC Work Plan](#). Key points raised were:

- Reported on the progress made in resolving ENC overlaps, with most issues being quickly addressed and resolved.
- Announced the establishment of an S-100 working group, with interested candidates from Venezuela and Cuba to lead the group.
- Presented the proposed MICC Working Group work plan for 2025, outlining key activities and quarterly calls.

Action 12.1: US to review potential training for MACHC countries regarding water column data in National Rivers by March 2025

Decision 7: Endorsed MICC WG 2025 Workplan

Decision 8: Approved the MICC WG Chair and Vice Chair candidates (Julio Castillo as Chair and Shari Robinson as Vice Chair)

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-12.1 MICCWG Presentation](#)

13.1 MSIWG Report

MACHC MSIWG Chair, Mr Timothy 'Ed' Stacy of US, presented to the Plenary the latest updates from the MSIWG which was held on Tuesday 3 December. Included in the presentation was the [2025 MSI Work Plan](#). Key points raised were:

- Discussed the development of an S-124 implementation plan, starting with a questionnaire to determine regional requirements.
- Announced the appointment of the British Virgin Islands as the Vice Chair of the MSI Working Group, expressing excitement for future collaboration.
- Highlighted the success of virtual MSI training and the plan to continue offering annual virtual training sessions.

Decision 9: Agreed to Close Action 13.1 from MACHC24

Decision 10: Approved British Virgin Islands for Vice Chair of the MSI WG

Decision 11: Endorsed MSI WG 2025 Workplan

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-13.1 MSIWG Presentation](#)

14.1 CBC Report

CB Coordinator Chair, Miss Lucy Fieldhouse of UK, presented to the Plenary the latest updates from the Capacity Building Committee meeting held on Tuesday 3 December. Included in the presentation was the 2026 Work Plan. Key points raised were:

- Highlighted various training opportunities available, including Category B courses in hydrographic surveying and the IHO Nippon Foundation GeoMAC Project.
- Presented the proposed Capacity Building Work Plan for 2026, including high-level visits, technical visits, and seminars to support regional engagement.
- Emphasised the importance of the Empowering Women in Hydrography project, encouraging Member States to consider contributing and participating in the initiative.

Action 14.1.1: France to pass on thanks to PRIMAR for number of Capacity Building opportunities in the MACHC region with respect to S-100 development by January 2025; MACHC Chair to thank KHOA and Nippon Foundation on behalf of the Commission by January 2025.

Action 14.1.2: Noting the presentations from the RENCs, MACHC WGs to consider how to leverage the support of the RENCs for the benefit of the region.

Decision 12: Endorsed MACHC Capacity Building 2026 Workplan

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-14.1 CBC Presentation](#)

15.1 MACHC Seabed 2030 (SB2030)/Crowd Sourcing Bathymetry (CSB) Report

MACHC Seabed 2030 Coordinator, Mr Diego Billings of Jamaica, presented to the Plenary the latest updates from the Seabed 2030/CSB Working Group which was held on Tuesday 3 December. Included in the presentation was the [Seabed 2030 / CSB 2025 Work Plan](#). Key points raised were:

- Emphasized the importance of contributing data to the Seabed 2030 project, highlighting the progress made in the MACHC region with 29.3% coverage.

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- Discussed the availability of CSB data loggers for MS, offering assistance in setting up and using the loggers to contribute data.
- Highlighted the significant increase in publicly available data within the region, encouraging MS to contribute and utilize the data for various purposes.

Decision 13: Endorsed CSB/Seabed 2030 2025 Workplan

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-15.1 Seabed 2030 / Crowd Sourcing Bathymetry](#)

16.1 IENWG Report

Mr Pierre-Yves Dupuy from France presented the IENWG report. Key points raised included:

- Introduced the IENWG report, focusing on the cooperation between the European Union (EU) and the IHO. He emphasized that the activities of this group are of interest not only to European countries but also to partner countries, considering the EU's role as a global actor.
- Highlighted the increasing recognition of the value of hydrographic data and products by the EU for a wide range of matters and noted that this aligns with the definition of hydrography within the IHO.
- Emphasized the importance of standardization work and the standards available from the IHO.
- Mentioned the EU's growing interest in the development of S-100 products.
- Discussed the new evolutions in EU maritime policies and the opportunities for projects requiring cooperation between EU countries and partner countries.
- Discussed the new evolutions in EU maritime policies, highlighting the numerous opportunities for projects that require cooperation between EU countries and partner countries. He noted that these policies are continuously evolving.
- Mentioned the success of the EMODnet bathymetry initiative, which has been recognized as a significant achievement in EU-IHO cooperation. He confirmed that the initiative will continue for the next four years, involving 15 Hydrographic Offices and numerous Research Institutes.
- Highlighted the various opportunities for projects that require cooperation between organizations of EU countries and partner countries. He emphasized the importance of these projects in advancing maritime policies and hydrographic data utilization.
- Highlighted the Capacity Building initiatives, mentioning the good work under the leadership of Belgium and the strong contributions from the Netherlands, France, and the IHO secretariat. He encouraged participants to look at the document on the IHO website.
- Encouraged participants to review the document on the IHO website that outlines the Capacity Building initiatives and potential actions. He highlighted the importance of this document for understanding the ongoing efforts and future plans.
- Mentioned the focus on navigation and major shipping lanes, particularly those important for the EU from Europe to Asia. He noted the study conducted to establish visibility on possible actions in Capacity Building related to these lanes.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-16.1 V2 IENWG](#)

17.1 PRIMAR S-100 Developments

Mr Pierre-Yves Dupuy from France presented to the Plenary the PRIMAR S-100 Developments presentation. Key points included:

- Provided an update on PRIMAR S-100 developments, focusing on Capacity Building actions, multi-fuel services, and the involvement of PRIMAR in IHO committees and

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working groups. He also mentioned the importance of dissemination and the development of S-100 products.

- Discussed the extended Capacity Building actions decided at the last PRIMAR Advisory Committee meeting. These actions aim to support the development of S-100 products and utilize the outcomes of the IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee.
- Highlighted the multi-fuel services offered by PRIMAR, which are essential for coping with the dissemination challenges of S-100 products. He emphasized the importance of these services in the effective distribution of hydrographic data.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-17.1 PRIMAR](#)

17.2 IC-ENC S-100 Update

Mr James Harper, IC-ENC General Manager, presented an IC-ENC S-100 Update. Key points included:

- Discussed IC-ENC's efforts to support new and emerging countries, highlighting the importance of providing help and training to these nations to ensure they can effectively produce and manage hydrographic data.
- Introduced the IC-ENC Activity Fund, which supports various activities, including S100 product specification development, legal advice, and Capacity Building. He encouraged participants to take advantage of this fund and submit proposals.
- Emphasized the development of S-100 products and the role of IC ENC in supporting this process. He noted the cooperation with PRIMAR and the focus on ensuring the quality and availability of these products.
- Provided an overview of the IC-ENC Activity Fund, explaining its purpose and the types of activities it supports. He highlighted the importance of this fund, including S-100 product specification development, legal advice, test data set production, and capacity building. He encouraged participants to take advantage of the fund and submit proposals.
- Encouraged participants to take advantage of the IC-ENC Activity Fund by submitting proposals. He stressed the importance of utilizing this resource to enhance hydrographic capabilities and support various initiatives.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-17.2 IC-ENC](#)

17.3 IIC Technologies

Mr Nuno Silva of IIC Technologies, presented, 'Navigating Your S-100 World', to the Plenary.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-17.3 IIC Technologies](#)

18.1 AXYS Technologies Presentation

Mr Julio Leal of AXYS Technologies, presented 'Environmental Monitoring Technology' to the Plenary.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-18.1 AXYS Technologies](#)

18.2 Kongsberg Presentation

Mr Leonardo Figueroa presented 'Kongsberg Discovery 2024 year of technology development and collaboration in Latin America'.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-18.2 Kongsberg](#)

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19.1 Saildrone Presentation

Mr Brian Connon of Saildrone gave a pre-recorded presentation, 'Remote Surveying in the MACHC Region', to the Plenary.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-19.1 Saildrone](#)

19.2 Teledyne Geospatial Presentation

Mr Juan Carballini of Teledyne Geospatial presented, 'S-100 production and automated nautical paper chart production workflow' to the Plenary.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-19.2 Teledyne Geospatial](#)

19.3 EXAIL Presentation

Mr David Vincentelli and Nicolas Gracieux of EXAIL presented to the Plenary.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-19.3 EXAIL](#)

19.4 SevenCs Presentation

Mr Juan Carballini of SevenCs presented, 'S-100 Data Management, S-100 Authentication, SDMS S-100 Exchange Set Creation, 7Cs S-57 vs S-101 Consistency Service, and Datasets Validation' to the Plenary.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-19.4 SevenCs](#)

19.5 HYPACK Presentation

Mr Carlos Tejada of HYPACK presented, 'The art of the possible with hydrospatial Information' to the Plenary.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-19.5 HYPACK](#)

19.6 Fugro Presentation

Mr Jose Martinez Diaz, of Fugro, presented 'Support for Hydrographic Surveying and Coastal Resilience' to the Plenary.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-19.6 Fugro](#)

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21.1 NORBIT Oceans Presentation

Mr Alexis Cardenas of NORBIT Oceans, presented, 'Multibeam data acquisition and cartographic processing using open-source technologies' to the Plenary.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-21.1 Norbit Oceans](#)

End of Day Two

MACHC25 Day Three - Friday 6 December 2024

W Panama, Panama City, Panama

20.0 Review of Actions from Day Two

MACHC Secretary articulated all actions from Day Two of Plenary. Actions can be found [here](#).

21.2 TCarta Presentation

Mr Kyle Goodrich and David Bautista of TCarta presented 'Aplicaciones de Mapeo Basado en Satélite y desarrollo de habilidades hidroespaciales en la región del Caribe' to the Plenary.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-21.2 TCarta](#)

21.3 ESRI Presentation

Mr Rafael Ponce, of ESRI, presented, 'Automation of Cartographic Production, realizing the power of GIS' to the Plenary.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-21.3 ESRI](#)

22.1 Any Other Business (AOB)

No comments made.

22.3 Report to IRCC

MACHC Chair articulated what might be reported at the next IRCC. Key Points:

- Note the level of participation at this year's MACHC meeting and the support from partner organisations and Industry.
- Whilst Capacity Building and S-100 are concerns and a challenge for nations within the MACHC Region, the support from the RENCs and the work of the Fund Generation PT signal an increase in opportunities for MS beyond IHO CB Phase 0 and Phase 1.
- The dissemination of IHO-funded training and opportunities has certainly benefited IHO Member States in the MACHC Region, particularly for the advanced courses.
- Each MACHC Working Group / Committee Chair was invited to provide a short update for the report covering progress over the past 12 months and any opportunities and challenges.
- The draft IRCC report will be shared with MACHC Members for review.

Presentation link here: [MACHC25-22.3 Report to IRCC](#)

22.4 Nominations for next MACHC Chair and Vice Chair

MACHC Chair articulated that, as stated in Article 5 of the statutes, '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 continuity, it is suggested that the Vice Chair be elevated to the position of Chair for the next period'.

MACHC Chair was pleased to announce that Suriname would be happy to take the role of Chair if MACHC Members agreed. MACHC Chair asked the floor if any other Full Members wished to put themselves forwards. As no other MS put themselves forward, a vote was held and Suriname and Ms Bernice Mahabier were voted by the MS to take on the role of Chair.

MACHC Chair moved on to the role of Vice Chair and reminded MS that a circular letter was sent on 6 June (01/2024) asking for nominations for Vice Chair and that one nomination was received

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from France and Rear Admiral Laurent Kerléguer. MACHC Chair explained that Circular Letter 06/2024 confirmed we received no further nominations by the closing deadline of 31 August.

MACHC Chair asked if MS agreed for France to take the role of Vice Chair. MS raised their hands in agreement. MACHC Chair then congratulated France for assuming the role of Vice Chair.

Decision 14: Confirmed Suriname as MACHC Chair and France as MACHC Vice Chair for the period Mar 25-Mar 27.

22.5 Next MACHC Conference (MACHC26)

MACHC Chair explained that a Circular Letter (12/2024) was sent on 8 November asking for nominations to host the next Conference (MACHC26).

MACHC Chair explained that an offer to host was received from Jamaica and asked Mr Diego Billing to confirm this is still the case which Jamaica confirmed.

MACHC Chair suggested that MACHC26 be held the week beginning 8 December 2025 due to another IHO meeting in the week 2 December 2025 (Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica). MACHC Chair asked if there were any objections to this, of which there were none, so the decision was made to hold it in the week commencing 8 December 2025.

Decision 15: Agreed that MACHC26 would be held in the week commencing 8 Dec 25 (including Capacity Building Seminar)

22.6 Short Presentation by the Candidate Nations who wish to host.

Mr Diego Billing from Jamaica gave a short speech about hosting MACHC26.

22.2 Review of Actions from Day Three of MACHC25

MACHC Secretary articulated all actions from Day Two of Plenary. Actions can be found [here](#)..

23.0 Closing remarks

Closing remarks and thanks were given by:

IHO Director, Mr Luigi Sinapi

MACHC Chair, RAdm Angus Essenhigh OBE

End of Day Three