



INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION  
MESO AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC  
COMMISSION



**MACHC Integrated Chart Committee**  
**Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – Working Group Meeting**

1. Commencement of Call:

a. Welcome & Introductions:

The Chair of the MICC, Bernice Mahabier, opened the meeting at 10:00 (UTC-3). She thanked everyone for attending. The following Member States participated in the meeting:

- i. Bahamas
- ii. Brazil
- iii. Columbia
- iv. IC-ENC
- v. France
- vi. Mexico
- vii. The Netherlands
- viii. Suriname
- ix. United States
- x. United Kingdom

b. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes:

The agenda was shared and approved.

c. Review of actions:

The summary of actions is provided as Annex A. (Please see the last page)

2. MICC Organization:

a. MICC Membership update:

Bernice stated that there were no changes to the MICC Membership at this time. No new requests were received.

b. Administrative Actions:

Bernice emphasized the pressing need for nominations for a new vice-chair and confirmed that Julio Castillo would assume the chair role for the upcoming term.

3. Electronic Charts:

a. Review of actions:

- Updates/resolutions of overlaps in ENC coverage:
- Overlap Report IC-ENC on-Line update:

Julio Castillo from NOAA US presented an update on resolving ENC overlaps, particularly those involving the U.S., Mexico, and the UK.

There is an overlap identified in the Gulf of Mexico between Band 2 ENCs between NOAA and Mexico. NOAA decided not to retract its coverage in the immediate term due to exclusive economic zone considerations. He suggested direct communication between Mexico and NOAA at the next meeting in Panama to resolve overlaps efficiently.

Israel Beltran from Mexico agreed on the need for coordination with NOAA to align the ENC boundaries.

There is also another overlap identified between NOAA and UKHO in the east of Florida. NOAA adjusted its boundaries and removed the overlap area without involving UKHO. This overlap will be resolved shortly.

Julio stated that the MACHC - MICC contact list must be regularly updated. This is vital for coordination and recommends regularly updating contact information for key representatives to enable faster resolutions. **Julio Castillo will update and circulate the contact sheet before the next meeting. It is essential too to update the MICC portal for ensuring all parties have access to the latest resources.**

4. INT Charts:

- a) Updates about Current Coverage:
- b) Submission of INT Charts to INT Chart Coordinator

There is no update on this matter.

Lee Truscott from UKHO noted that the lack of new INT chart submissions reflected a matured regional charting approach.

5. Standardization of regional ENC schemes:

- a) Report on the submission of S101 schemes of Member states. With reference to IRCC15 7 Recommendation 10. WENDWG13/08, Presentation MRES working Group.

- b) Presentation UKHO UB2 Regional grid

Lee Truscott from the UKHO provided an overview of the UKHO Gridding Scheme. A global ENC gridding system is developed supporting nearly 2000 ENCs, that aligns with the S-102 grid and includes a structured naming convention. This is designed to minimize overlaps while maintaining comprehensive coverage. He explained that for handling overlap the UKHO clips or withdraws data in overlapping areas to maintain its grid system without duplication coverage. The existing ENC boundaries will be aligned with the new grid scheme. Lee explained that various approaches were explored for restructuring cells, depending on data location and coverage needs. By September, UKHO had prepared Band 1 and Band 2 grid cells for IC ENC verification. He mentioned that overlaps with the Mexican ENCs were discovered only after submission to IC-ENC, leading to withdrawal or adjustments of 12 UK ENCs. The overlaps were being resolved between UKHO and IC-ENC. With this example Lee emphasized the importance of coordination and visibility into other members' schemes to avoid redundant work.

**Questions and comments:**

Jan Schaap from the Netherlands noted that the Netherlands has adopted the UKHO gridding scheme but intends to apply its own naming convention.

Bernice thanked Lee for the presentation and acknowledged progress by members in gridding and production of S-100 products, emphasizing regional advancement.

**6. S-100 Developments & Support****a. Workplan in support of regional production of S-101:**

Bernice stated that the draft work plan for the regional production of S-101 was distributed, with feedback already received from UKHO. She asked the members to provide feedback promptly, so that the finalized work plan will be submitted to the MACHC by the end of the year.

**Questions and comments:**

Jan asked for clarification on the term “Regional Hydrographic Offices” in the work plan.

Bernice responded that this refers to the MACHC region.

Chris, CHM representative from Brazil, suggested to include the role of the RENCs as secondary or supporting stakeholders in the work plan.

Bernice thanked Chris and agreed that RENCs play a crucial role in supporting S-100 product development and should be explicitly included.

At last Bernice reminded the members to review and submit feedback for incorporation into the second draft. A revised version of the work plan will be discussed during the pre-MACHC meeting in December, with final approval to follow.

**b. INToGIS III**

Bernice Mahabier provided an update on the INToGIS III project, referring to a letter from the Working Group regarding its test phase. Member States were reminded of the 31 October deadline for submissions related to testing. She reviewed the project timeline.

**Questions and comments:**

Julio queried the availability of INToGIS III noting that version 2 was still accessible on the website.

Bernice clarified that testing and commissioning were scheduled for October, though further confirmation would be sought if discrepancies existed.

Jan highlighted an email accompanying the meeting documents, which stated that the second testing phase review indicated INToGIS III was not yet ready for deployment.

Nicolas David from France shared that the Southwest Pacific Working Group announced INToGIS III deployment is expected in early 2025.

Finally, Bernice thanked the members for their input and emphasized the importance of testing contributions. She encouraged members to share feedback or concerns with the chair of the relevant Working Group, Jens, for clarification or assistance.

c. WEND S100 Readiness Survey

Bernice Mahabier informed the group about a circular letter from the WEND regarding the Readiness Survey (WEND WG eCL 02/2024). She encouraged all members to submit their information, including details about their overseas territories, to ensure complete and accurate data. The survey will be used to assess the region's readiness for S100 and present the results at the WEND meeting.

**Questions and comments:**

Robert Wheeler from UKHO confirmed that they had responded to the survey via IC-ENC. He offered to share the UKHO response with Bernice.

Bernice recommended sending the information to the WEND, with her copied, to ensure that the survey results were considered at the WEND meeting.

Jan raised a question about the survey's distribution.

Bernice clarified that the survey had been sent to all MACHC members by Emma (MACHC Secretariat) for collective responses.

Finally, Bernice reminded everyone to check if they had received the survey and submit the required data, especially for overseas territories, to ensure a comprehensive regional overview.

d. The development in cartography at SHOM

Nicolas David from SHOM presented the impact of evolving cartography and the transition to a new method of producing nautical charts. The main concept of the method is to chart each area at a single scale, with the chart being a composite of three areas: simplified depictions, larger scale charts where they exist, and smaller scale charts. This method aims to simplify cartographic production by using grids derived from the future ENC grid. The approach will first apply to mainland France (2024–2029), then French overseas territories (2029–2034), and finally other territories (until 2037). The new method will result in changes to ENC coverage and the paper chart scheme. Areas charted at large scales will see significant changes, but small-scale charts will remain largely unchanged.

He mentioned that the major change is the adoption of the UKHO grid scheme for ENC distribution and the automation of paper chart production. Since 2024, SHOM has been testing software to automate paper chart production, aiming to transition to fully automated solutions in the near future. He emphasized that the UKHO grid scheme will also be adopted for all French territories, including the MAC region.

**Questions and comments:**

Chris asked about the reason for the change in SHOM's approach regarding the grid scheme.

Nicolas explained that the adoption of a grid scheme makes cartographic work simpler, which is why they chose to align with the UKHO grid.

Julio expressed excitement and interest in learning more about the development.

Bernice inquired if the UKHO grid would be adopted for the MAC region, to which Nicolas confirmed it would be.

Bernice thanked Nicolas for the presentation.

7. RHCs to establish an S-100 Coordinator role. With reference to IRCC 14 draft List of Actions, Decisions and Recommendations.

a. MICC CL2 for S100 coordinator

Bernice emphasized the need for candidates for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions for the S100 Coordinator role. The deadline for submission is October 31<sup>st</sup>. She encouraged Member States to put forward suitable candidates, particularly due to developments in gridding that require coordination in the region.

She mentioned that a circular letter was issued regarding funding for women in hydrography. The UKHO Hydrographic Office is offering financial support for female candidates who can fill the S100 Coordinator roles.

8. Any Other Business

There is no other business raised.

9. Adjourn:

Finally, Bernice thanked the group for their participation in this meeting and for their contributions.

## Annex A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

<b>"New" General &amp; Administrative Actions</b> from the Oct 11, 2024 virtual meeting			
#	Action	Who	Status
1	Call for candidates for vacant positions Chair and Vice Chair MACHC International Charting Coordination (MICC) Working Group with reference to MICC Letter 01/2023	All MS	Vice Chair position is still vacant

<b>Electronic Charts Updates/resolutions of overlaps in ENC coverage</b> from the Oct 11, 2024 virtual meeting			
#	Action	Who	Status
2	Overlap between NOAA, Mexican Hydrographic Office in the Gulf of Mexico (Band 2 ENCs)	US, Mexico	ongoing
3	Overlap between NOAA and UKHO East of Florida (Band 4 ENCs)	US, UKHO	ongoing

<b>Standardization of regional ENC Schemes Actions</b> from the April 19, 2024 virtual meeting			
#	Action	Who	Status
4	Member states are encouraged to submit planned ENC schemes in a specific format (to be determined) for the MACHC region to promote consistency and avoid overlap.	All MS	ongoing
5	For the planning of the regional scheme for usage band 2 a circular letter would be sent to other member states for a better understanding of the needs in the region.	Chair and MRES WG	ongoing

<b>S-100 Developments &amp; Support</b> from the Oct 11, 2024 virtual meeting			
#	Action	Who	Status
6	Review status from last year and provide feedback of the WEND WG CL 02/2024- Status of preparations to provide S-1xx datasets by 2026	All MS	Deadline 31 Oct 2024
7	Member states are encouraged to follow the progress of INTogIS III that will be released early 2025	All MS	Ongoing
8	Questionnaire on training needs to be distributed to member states.	Chair	Ongoing to discuss with CB coordinator
9	Review and provide feedback on the Draft Work Plan, TOR and ROP in Support of Regional Production of S-101 Products	All MS	Deadline 31 Oct 2024
10	Call for candidates for vacant positions Chair and Vice Chair MACHC International S-100 Coordination (MISC) Working Group with reference to MICC Letter 02/2024	All MS	Deadline 31 Oct 2024

<b>Any other business</b> from the April 19, 2024 virtual meeting			
#	Action	Who	Status

11	Status updating MICC portal in line with INToGIS III	Vice Chair	ongoing
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