

MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEAS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

June 02, 2021

MBSHC CIRCULAR LETTER No 05/2021

Subject: **Statutes revision WG**

References:

- a. Decisions of the 2nd Session of the IHO Assembly
- b. IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended by IHO-A2 - Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions
- c. Statutes of the MBSHC - 8th Edition, June 2019
- d. ToR and RoP for the MBSHC (Region F) ICCWG - Adopted on July 6th 2017

Dear colleagues,

Following the 22nd Conference of the MBSHC, it was decided to undertake the revision of the Statutes of the Commission, mainly to bring them into line with the new IHO Res. 2/1997, but also taking into consideration other decisions taken at the Second Session of the Assembly such as gender neutrality and disaster response.

In addition, this revision should take into account the recommendations made by the IHO Secretariat, as set out in document MBSHC22-03.4 of the last conference, on the decision-making procedures related to the recommendations of the Region F IRCCWG Coordinator.

Furthermore, the Terms of Reference of the WG should be revised to ensure consistency in the decision-making process.

There was a call for volunteers during the conference for the establishment of a working group. The Chair wishes to express their appreciation to the following member states that volunteered by the end of the meeting:

- Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Malta, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine and UK.

Any member state wishing to join this working group may apply to do so, as the more countries represented in the working group, the easier it will be for the proposal presented at the next Commission conference to achieve consensus. Volunteer Members as well as any Member that wishes to join are requested to submit their POCs to the email address ihmrelin@mde.es no later than **15th June**.

This working group will be led by Spain and its objective will be to present a draft of the new statutes during the next MBSHC23 Conference, so the draft must be ready in advance as stipulated in article 9.a of the Statutes (4 months). As the date of the next meeting has not been set yet, the deadline for the draft statutes to be submitted to the President of the Commission is set for the end of this year.

The proposal work plan for the review of the Statutes will be as follows:

- Spain will circulate a draft with a first proposal by email to all members of the working group by 15 July 2021.
- A period of two months will be implemented for the members of the group to submit their comments (until 15 September).
- During the next month the comments will be consolidated into a new draft (until 15 October).
- This new draft will be re-circulated and a VTC will be scheduled for final review and consolidation (NLT 15 November).

With this work plan, this group would have a version that could be submitted to the MBSHC Chair in mid-November.

Once the Statutes have been revised, a revision of the ICCWG Terms of Reference will be undertaken, if possible. This revision is not a priority to be presented at MBSHC23, but it will be produced if feasible.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and curves, positioned above a horizontal blue line.

MBSHC Chairman
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