

MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEAS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

11 January 2024

MBSHC CIRCULAR LETTER No 02/2024

Subject: Outcome of IRCC15 and Council 7 affecting MBSHC

Reference:

- A. List of Actions
- B. Art. 3.d of the Statutes of MBSHC (9th Edition, April 2022)

Dear colleagues,

1. Based on the results of the last meetings of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC15) and the IHO Council (C-7), the Chair of the MBSHC, acting in accordance with reference B, listed the actions that require the attention of each Member State, shown in the annex A (Ref A).
2. MBSHC Member States are requested to review the listed actions and submit comments and views (if any) to the MBSHC Chair by the end of March 2024.
3. If deemed applicable and appropriate, each Member State is advised to take the necessary measure.

Best regards,

Vinka KOLIC BUBIC, M.Sc.

MBSHC Chair

Director of the Hydrographic Institute of the
Republic of Croatia



Vinka Bubic

List of actions

Recommendations to RHCs from IRCC 15/2023

MBSHC MSs are encouraged:

1. to participate in discuss how hydrographic offices can assume a geo-coordinating role to help ensure provision of data on a regional level.
2. to participate in debate on future engagement in climate change related activities in reference to strategic goal.
3. encourage to join in the work of the Capacity Building Sub Committee (CBSC).
4. to have more Crowdsourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG) participation.
5. contributions to the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB), regardless of origin.
6. to actively contribute with new data to GEBCO (The General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans).

MBSHC MSs are requested:

1. to start producing S-101 and other S-100 products by focusing on a specific part of the region in cooperation with neighboring countries.
2. to report to the IMO Secretariat and the Chair of the EGC Coordinating Panel on the progress and status of implementation of newly recognized mobile satellite services by MSI providers.
3. to support the CSB initiative with positive actions, such as requiring all research vessels to collect bathymetric data for late uploading, when on passage or when it does not interfere with other research activities.
4. to consider the provision of paper chart updating procedures depending on the findings of the IHO Nautical Charting Working Group (NCWG).
5. to consider the requirements (including regulations) for non-ECDIS mandated vessels (e.g. small commercial, fishing, leisure, etc.) within national, regional, and global discussions on this topic (HSSC15 dec. 7 reg. Electronic Chart Systems PT refers).

Selected decisions from 7th meeting of the IHO Council:

(The entire list is available at: [IHO Council 7 Oct 2023 Summary Report](#))

MBSHC take note on

1. **Decision C7/03:** Noting Decisions A3/31 and /32 and Council Circular Letter CCL 03/2023, the 3rd Council of the IHO (2023-2026) was formally established, with **Ms. Pia Dahl Højgaard (DK)** as Chair, and **Dr Masayuki Fujita (JP)**, as Vice-Chair.
2. **Decision C7/05: IHO Member States having a seat at the Council** to provide the IHO Secretariat with their updates to the IHO Council List of Contacts.
3. **Decision and Action C7/07 (former C6/67):** The **Council** welcomed the update from the United Kingdom on the concept of a national committee on S-100 [See Red Book] and

noted the expected benefits of such an approach. The **Council** invited **Member States** to share their national strategies with regard to the establishment of similar national S-100 committees, as appropriate. (Deadline: C-8 (-3 months)).

4. **Decision C7/09:** In accordance with Decision A3/08(b), the **Council** endorsed the principle that additional funding resources (Decision A3/20 and IRCC15 Decision 41 refer) should be considered for setting up a sustainable technical and administrative infrastructure around S-100 including standards development to meet the S-100 timeline.
5. **Action C7/10:** In parallel of the establishment of the S-100 Infrastructure Centre, the **Council** tasked the **HSSC** to identify at their next meeting, the current or emerging components that are critical in the implementation of the S-100 Roadmap that could candidate for being funded by the IHO (project based in the short term on one hand, longer term operational mode for standards maintenance on the other hand). (Deadline: HSSC-16 (-7 weeks), then C-8 (-3months)).
6. **Decision C7/11:** The **Council** noted the establishment, under HSSC, of the S-100 Infrastructure Centre Establishment PT, the S-100 Security Scheme PT as well as the establishment of the ECS PT under the ENCWG.
7. **Decision and Action C7/12:** Following the update provided by the HSSC Chair on the work plan of the S-100 ICE PT, the **Council** invited **HSSC Members**, then **IHO Member States** to provide their views on the recommendations delivered by the PT, as soon as they become available and no later than HSSC-16. (Deadline: HSSC-16 (-7 weeks)).
8. **Decision C7/13:** In order to meet the IMO timelines for S-100 ECDIS transition, the **Council** agreed that an IHO CL should be issued to inform **IHO Member States** of the schedule for preparation, by early November 2024, for the beginning of the approval phase of Edition 2.0.0 of S-100-based Product Specifications (Phase 1 / Route Monitoring as a 1st step).
9. **Decision C7/16:** While noting the existing IHO Resolution 2/2014 as amended – Prince Albert the 1st Medal for Hydrography, the **Council** endorsed the proposal from **HSSC** and **IRCC** for an annual Champion of Hydrography Award and agreed upon the proposed way forward.
10. **Decision C7/18:** With the aim to include the **RENCs** representation in the HSSC Membership, the **Council** endorsed the proposed amendments to the HSSC TORs and ROPs.
11. **Decision C7/26:** The **Council** approved the proposed amendments to the S-100 Implementation Roadmap in order to issue version 3.0 dated October 2023, presented by **HSSC Chair**. This new version includes amendments submitted (Docs C7-04.4A&4.4B):
 - by the Secretary-General to the main text taking into account in particular the IMO MSC106 decision on the S-100 ECDIS transition plan,
 - by the HSSC Chair to Annex 2, and by France for figure 4 in Annex 2.
12. **Decision C7/27:** IHO Secretariat to make available the finalized version 3.0 of the Roadmap. (Deadline: 30 November 2023)
13. **Decision C7/28** (former C6/37, ..., C3/13): **Council/HSSC/IRCC Chairs/SecGen** supported by subject matter experts and Member States as appropriate to maintain the S-100 Implementation Roadmap as an incremental version-controlled document (including narrative and timelines) on an annual basis.
14. **Decision and Action C7/33:** The **Council** noted the proposed theme for the 2024 World Hydrography Day by the **Secretary-General** which is “*Hydrographic Information - Enhancing Safety and Efficiency in Marine Activities*”.
15. **Decision C7/36:** The **Council** acknowledged that the current structure of the Strategic Plan (SP) 2021-2026 was still relevant at conceptual level (vision, goals, etc.), and agreed that the objective for the next SP 2027-2032 should be limited to a *revision* of the current SP.

16. **Decision C7/38:** The **Council** welcomed the offer from the **Council Vice-Chair** to lead a correspondence group consisting of **BR, DE, DK, FR, GB, HR, JP, NO, NZ, SE and US** on the ways and means to prepare the next IHO Strategic Plan 2027-2032. (Deadline: C-8 (-3 months)).
17. **Decision and Actions C7/40:** The **Council** endorsed the principle of considering an initial proposal for a IHO Resolution *Guidelines for Making IHO Events More Inclusive* (title to be confirmed) to be prepared by an ad hoc drafting group (**AU, CL, FJ, NZ, SG, GB, US...**) (Deadline: 31 January 2024).

The Council tasked the ad hoc drafting group (respectively IRCC) to conduct a survey on behalf of the Council to assess the feasibility, preference, and willingness of MS, WGs, Committees Chairs... (respectively RHCs), to host and attend meeting in the **four different modalities (in-person, in-person with live streaming, hybrid, or full VTC)**.
18. **Decision and Action C7/42:** The **Council** endorsed the **IHO Secretariat's** ambitions to further digitalize the services rendered to IHO Member States and welcomed the offer to **IHO MS** who would like to be involved in the different testing and acceptance phases of the new IHO Portal (POC: adtdt@iho.int). (from December 2023).

The **Council** noted the potential participation in the testing phase of **BR, DK, FR, ID, JP, NO, SE, GB**, and the **US**.
19. **Decision C7/46:** The **Council** noted the information paper provided by the **US** on national regulations as well as the useful experience shared by other **Member States**. The **Council** encourages **Member States** to participate in the activities of the ENCWG / ECS PT.