

MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEAS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

December 22, 2021

MBSHC CIRCULAR LETTER No 09/2021

Subject: MBSHC23 Extraordinary Meeting

Ref.: MBSHC Circular Letter No 06/21
IHO Circular Letter No 46/21

Annex: Logistic information for MBSHC23
Draft agenda for MBSHC23

Dear colleagues,

I contact you in uncertain times due to the evolution of the global pandemic, when we hoped that by now the situation would be less worrisome. A few months ago we seemed to be close to returning to normality, but the rise of new variants of the virus seems to be threatening us with a return to the restrictive situation of the past. I hope that your offices may be enduring these times without significant ill effects, that their operation carries on unaffected, and most importantly that your staff remains safe.

This circular letter covers the following subjects:

- The forthcoming extraordinary meeting MBSHC 23
- Update on the working group for the revision of MBSHC Statutes
- Issues related to ICCWG Region F

MBSHC23

As per Decision MBSHC 22/08, an in-person extraordinary meeting of the MBSHC is planned to take place before May 2022, with Slovenia as the host.

After coordination with the IHO Secretariat and the host, the Slovenian Hydrographic Office, it was agreed that the meeting would take place from 29 March to 1 April in Ljubljana.

Due to the changes in the health situation, the meeting will be carried out in a hybrid format, and consequently it is specially relevant to note the IHO Circular Letter of reference where guidelines for meetings in hybrid format are established.

Please find attached logistic information and points of contact for Member States that may consider traveling to Slovenia.

As an extraordinary meeting, only relevant issues will be discussed and no national reports will be submitted. Please find attached a draft agenda for the meeting, so that Member States may submit issues for consideration for inclusion into the agenda.

This Chair, in coordination with the host organization in Slovenia and the IHO Secretariat, will monitor the health situation in the region in case it became necessary to change the final format of the meeting, which would be circulated in due time.

Working group for the update of the MBSHC Statutes

The Working Group to update the MBSHC Statutes was established by Decision MBSHC 22/10.

The Working Group coordinator, Commander Salvador Moreno, reports that drafting a proposed updated Statutes is progressing. This Working Group met via VTC last 10th December, but a consensus draft has not been achieved yet.

The group will meet again in early January, and it is expected to result in a final draft proposal, which will be distributed for consideration and possible approval during the next MBSHC23 meeting.

Issues related to ICCWG Region F

As per Decision MBSHC 22/05, the position of ICCWG Region F Coordinator was declared vacant as there were no candidates for it.

MBSHC Circular Letter No. 06/2021 again called for candidates for the position of coordinator, but no applications were received. The aforementioned Circular Letter also stated that the Cartographic Section of IHM (Spain) agreed to handle the most urgent and relevant ICCWG matters for as long as they chaired the MBSHC.

Commander Jose María Bustamante reports that urgent requests that require a decision have been received, and consequently an ICCWG VTC meeting previous to MBSHC23 will be convened to deal with such issues.

Please be reminded that the position of ICCWG Region F Coordinator remains vacant, so it is urgent to designate a new coordinator. Again, please consider the relevance of this role for the Commission, and if any Member State is willing to take over this post please contact this Chair so that a proposal may be submitted to the plenary session for consideration in the next meeting.

Finally, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to wish all members of this community a happy holiday, and the hope that the New Year 2022 may bring us health to let us achieve prosperity and success at all levels.



MBSHC Chairman
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