

MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEAS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

March 17, 2022

MBSHC CIRCULAR LETTER No 02/2021

Subject: Virtual 22nd MBSHC Conference.
Ref.: MBSHC Circular Letter 02/2020 dated 17 February 2020.
Annex: POC list

Dear Colleagues,

This Instituto Hidrográfico de la Marina as MBSHC Chair and the Geodetic Institute of Slovenia as host of the next conference have been in contact regarding the situation generated by the global coronavirus pandemic. Our hopes that conditions would improve enough to hold a regular face-to-face MBSHC Conference have not been realized, and the time has arrived to reach the inevitable conclusion that we cannot risk the health and safety of attendees to conduct the MBSHC Conference in Ljubljana (Sloveni) as originally planned.

Regretfully, this is the official notification that we are planning to conduct our Conference via a virtual meeting platform. We have contacted the IHO Secretariat for assistance to select and set up a suitable platform that includes dynamic ways to engage participants, options for breakout sessions and simultaneous translation. We will do everything possible to ensure an effective and productive virtual Conference.

Tentative dates are **27-28 May 2021**. To minimize video conference fatigue, the Conference agenda must be streamlined with shorter daily sessions (3-4 hours a day maximum) at times that will accommodate participants from different time zones. We will need to trim the Agenda to core topics and would like your input on what those should include.

Member States are asked to submit proposed agenda items no later than **26 March**, so that we can take your views into account as we plan the agenda.

Member States are also reminded to provide national reports or any other documentation related to the agenda no later than **7 May**, using the template provided in the MBSHC section at the IHO website.

Also, please be informed that there are no candidates to take over the position of MBSHC Chair at the end of the Conference, when it should happen as per the Statutes. Consequently, a new period to submit candidates for the Chair is now open until the start of the MBSHC Conference. Member States are encouraged to volunteer for the position.

I look forward to your responses. Be safe and stay healthy.

Sincerely,



MBSHC Chairman
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