

## Paper for Consideration by the MBSHC

### Election of MBSHC Vice Chair, Arrangements for Secretariat of MBSHC-22, Possible Consequences on Business Continuity, Calendar for MBSHC Conferences

<i>Submitted by:</i>	MBSHC Chair, supported by Croatia and IHO Secretariat.
<i>Executive Summary:</i>	Election of Vice-Chair of the MBSHC at the beginning of every MBSHC Conference is an important item for the sake of MBSHC. It has an impact on the Chairmanship as well as on the Secretariat of the Conference (MBSHC Statutes refer). No nomination has been received for the position of Vice Chair so far. This paper is requesting MBSHC to agree on the way forward based on several options, discussed during preparation meetings of MBSHC-22, between Spain, Croatia and the IHO Secretariat.
<i>Related Documents:</i>	MBSHC Statutes.
<i>Related Projects:</i>	Nil

#### Introduction and Background

1. After the period to submit candidates (MBSHC Letters 02/2020 and 02/2021 refer), there are no candidates for the position of Vice Chair at the start of this MBSHC-22 Conference.
2. *"...At the conclusion of the Conference, he [Vice Chair] shall become Chairman and remain in office until the end of the next Conference."* (MBSHC Statutes; Art. 6.a).
3. *"...a) Decisions and actions taken during each meeting should be prepared in written form by the Chairman and supplied next day to the Members present. b) At the end of the Conference, the Chairman shall read the text of the decisions and actions taken during the Conference, which will be adopted according to the provisions of Article 11. c) The new Chairman shall dispatch within one month of the close of the Conference a copy of the summary report containing the discussions, decisions, actions and recommendations of the Conference for approval..."* (MBSHC Statutes; Art. 8.a, b and c).

#### Analysis/Discussion

4. Croatia's position: The MBSHC Chair has been informed that in the absence of any other candidate, Croatia might accept to candidate for the position of Vice Chair. However, this proposal is subject to the evolution of the situation regarding the Director of their National Hydrographic Office which will be unknown until mid-August 2021. The following consequences are identified:
  - Ms Vinka Kolić cannot act as Vice Chair for the MBSHC-22.
  - In the case Ms Vinka Kolić is appointed to another position, Croatia cannot become Vice Chair and subsequently Chair of the MBSHC.
  - In the case, Ms Vinka Kolić is re-appointed as Director, Croatia, if elected by MBSHC Members, accepts to act as Vice-Chair for MBSHC-23, but cannot host MBSHC-23 if the next Conference is in 2022. Croatia would accept to become Chair at the end of MBSHC-23.
5. Spain's position: if agreed by MBSHC Members, Spain would accept an extension as MBSHC Chair under the following conditions:
  - a new Vice Chair is elected before the end of 2021, in order to guarantee that someone can take over the Chairmanship at the end of MBSHC-23, otherwise Spain would be obliged to step down from the position MBSHC Chair on 1 January 2022;

- due to possible change of command in IHM, MBSHC-23 is to be held no later than May 2022.
6. MBSHC-23, a “face-to-face” Conference in 2022: Due to the prolonged COVID restrictions, a face-to-face MBSHC Conference is strongly recommended before the 3rd Session of the IHO Assembly (A-3) planned in April 2023. The 2022 MBSHC Conference (MBSHC-23) - to be scheduled in the first quarter/trimester of 2022 - would be arranged jointly by the MBSHC Chair and Vice Chair. Location still needs to be defined [e.g. Slovenia if agreed following their previous offer for MBSHC-22,...]. At the end of MBSHC-23 Conference, Spain would leave the MBSHC Chair and the Vice Chair will be designated new Chair, as per the Statutes. It is not recommended to postpone a face-to-face Conference in 2023, on the year of A-3.
  7. If no Vice Chair candidate is elected/designated by end of 2021, the position of Chair of the MBSHC would need to remain vacant from 1 January 2022 until an MBSHC Member State declares its intention to become Chair. This worst case scenario must be avoided.

### **Recommendations**

Noting Spain and Croatia’s positions and the calendar constraints, noting that if no candidate is declared at the beginning of MBSHC-22, it is recommended for the sake of the MBSHC ...

8. That, for MBSHC Secretariat’s purposes, Spain will cumulate the functions of Chair and Vice Chair during MBSHC-22 (MBSHC Statutes, Art. 8.a, b and c refer).
9. That an election for the Vice Chair position is organized by correspondence (MBSHC CL), starting in September 2021, ending in December 2021.
10. That MBSHC-23 is planned as “face-to-face” Conference, early 2022 and no later than May 2022.
11. That, if the situation in the world prevents again from having MBSHC-23 as a face-to-face event in 2022, the Vice Chair elected in 2021 becomes automatically the Chair from 1 May 2022 at the latest.

### **Actions required from the MBSHC**

12. The MBSHC is invited to:
  - Note this proposal.
  - Agree to deviate, by exception, from the rules given in the Statutes in force;
  - Approve the recommendations in paragraph 8, 9, 10 and 11;
  - Take any other actions as appropriate.