

Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC) 22nd VTC

27-28 May 2021

Review of MBSHC Statutes and Region F ICCWG ToR. Proposal

Submitted by:	IHM (Spain)
Executive Summary:	This document provides the background for a possible revision of the MBSHC statutes and the ToR of the Region F ICCWG, as well as the concepts that would affect such revisions. Proposals for the way forward are also included.
References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
Annexes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. MBSHC (Ed8 June2019) with comments II. Region F ICCWG ToRs (July2017) with comments

Introduction and Background

1. The second session of the IHO Assembly (A-2) took place from 16 to 18 November 2020 as remote event (VTC). As result of the Decisions of this session, RCHs are invited to consider the need to adapt their respective instruments / statutes to comply with the recommendations of the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended by A-2 as appropriate (Decision A2/09) and any other A-2 Decisions such as Decision A2/07 (gender-neutrality) and A2/10 (response to disasters).
2. In addition, some concerns have arisen about the procedures followed since the last meeting of the MBSHC in making decisions, especially those affecting the proposals submitted to the plenary by the Region F ICCWG. As a result of these doubts, consultations were submitted to the IHO secretariat, and their recommendation was to review documents Reference C and D, to ensure the consistency of the described procedures regarding decision making.
3. Finally, and as a consequence of the difficulties encountered in the appointment of a handover of the chair of this RCH, it has been noted that there is no rule in the statutes to guarantee continuity in the post of Chairperson.

Analysis/Discussion

4. With the background described above, this Chair has begun a review of the texts of the referenced documents, confirming that there is a need for the aforementioned revision.
5. In order to be able to address all the suggested changes, it is considered necessary to involve the maximum number of representatives of member states in order to achieve a

consensus draft version, so that this revision process does not become a long and unproductive procedure.

6. Given the current tools for convening meetings through VTC services, the creation of working groups to conduct these reviews is considered the best alternative.
7. Annexes to this paper are versions of the documents referred to, highlighting those points that could be reviewed in the course of this work.
8. Finally, if the revision of the Statutes is approved, it is proposed that a new wording be drafted to group concepts under headings that facilitate their understanding. In the current version there are concepts scattered throughout the text that make it difficult to interpret.

Recommendations

9. The establishment of a working group among the members of Region F ICCWG, led by the WG coordinator for the revision of the current ToR text.
10. The constitution of a working group within the MBSHC with the participation of as many members as possible to carry out the revision of the statutes taking into account all the aspects mentioned above.
11. The final proposal of each working group should be reviewed as a whole so that the decision-making process is not compromised.
12. The drafts of both amendments should be presented for possible adoption at the next plenary meeting of the MBSHC.

Action Requested of MBSHC Member States

- a. **Decide** if the revision of the MBSHC Statutes is necessary;
- b. **Decide** if the revision of the ToR of the Region F ICCWG is necessary;
- c. **Establish** a WG within MBSHC to review the Statutes;
- d. **Establish** a WG within ICCWG to review the ToR;
- e. **Take** any other actions as considered appropriate.