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MBSHC24-03.1A

International
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Organization

MBSHC Chair Report

MBSHC 24 Constanta, Romania 2-4 July 2024



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Scope of the report

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The report covers the main activities of the MBSHC since the 23rd conference in Ljubljana (Slovenia) in March 2022.



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Main goals and efforts

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*During the two years of Croatian chair-ships of the MBSHC main efforts was put into the **implementation of Decisions, Actions and Recommendations** adopted during 23rd MBSHC conference, including numerous **Permanent Actions** updated during MBSHC23.*

*It has done through **close cooperation** with the members of MBSHC, especially with the **chairs and coordinators** of the working groups of MBSHC and **MBSHC representatives** in various IHO bodies and working groups.*

*It has acted in **full compliance with the applicable regulations** of the IHO, MBSHC and WG by issuing a circular letter (CL) for a specific decision, action or recommendation.*

Number of CL issued:

- **7** in 2022
- **15** in 2023
- **13** in 2024

*A **total of 35 CLs** were issued.*



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Background

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- **Chair: Croatia**, from April 2022
- **Vice Chair: Romania**, from September 2022.
- **24 Member States** - Algeria, Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine.
- **Associate Member(s):** Israel, Palestinian Authority, United Kingdom, United States of America.
- **Observers:** CIESM, Germany, IALA, IOC, IC-ENC and PRIMAR



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Meetings attended by the Chair of the MBSHC

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- *3rd Session of the **Assembly** (A3, 2023)*
- *7th **Council Meeting** (C7, 2023)*
- *6th **Council Meeting** (C6, 2022)*
- ***IRCC16** (2024), only with the report and presentation*
- ***IRCC15** (2023), only with the report and presentation*
- ***IRCC14** (2022), only with the report and presentation*
- ***HSSC15** (2023)*



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Key Achievements

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- **S-100 implementation:**
 - **MBSHC S-1XX WG was established** to coordinate activities related to S-100 roadmap implementation which is in line with the IHO Strategic Plan.
 - **the Region F International Charting Coordination Working Group (Region F ICCWG)** - extended mandate to include coordination of S-101 in the F region.
- **New Member States** – enlargement of the MBSHC membership is beneficial:
 - Albania became a new member of the IHO in May 2022 , the MBSHC Statutes is signed – member of the MBSHC since June 2023.
- **Disaster Response Framework** for the MBSHC region was approved at the MBSHC23 and updated for 2024.
- **MSDI (Italy – MBSHC Ambassador)** is recognized to be relevant due to marine spatial data integration and new standard S-100.
 - There is a constant need to cooperate with MS, to encourage training, awareness of the importance of the integrated geospatial information framework and involvement of the MS in the MSDI initiatives.
- **Capacity building (Türkiye– CB Coordinator)** is core strategic issue and plays a key role in the region.
 - 2022 2 workshop:
 - Cartographic Data Management (05.–07.12.2022, İstanbul, Türkiye)
 - MSDI development & implementation (07.–09.12.2022, İstanbul, Türkiye)
 - 2024: 2 workshops:
 - MSDI Development & Implementation (07-09 May.2024, İstanbul, Türkiye)
 - ENC Quality Assessment & Conversion Course (20-24 May 2024, İstanbul, Türkiye)



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Important Findings and Challenges

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- The **main challenge** in the MBSHC region is still **the implementation of S-100 products and services**, and for that reason additional effort, capacity building activities, education, trainings, and cooperation among MS in the region is required.
- MBSHC is a region with the largest number of countries and **improving cartographic coordination** between them is important and permanent ongoing task. Progress has been made in the Region F concerning the solution of some ENC overlaps, INT and ENC charting schemes.
- The main difficulties faced by the MBSHC are in the coordination and blocked negotiation between interested parties of the INT chart schemes and ENC coverage. The only way forward is to continue the **discussion and bilateral negotiation** between interested parties and find a way to provide **external independent expert** (legal aspect) **advisory support** in the process of bilateral negotiations that would lead to conclusion of a technical agreement to resolve the ENC overlap and INT paper charts schemes.
- To get **more active participation** from most MBSHC MS in the Committee/Working Groups of the MBSHC and IHO .
- The challenge faced in terms of the **CB activities** is mainly related with the **limited funds** available. S-100 is the priority related to CB activities. IHO should find ways to **increase alternate sources of funding** and partnerships for capacity building, as the demand far outweighs IHO CB funds.
- To **motivate MBSHC MS** to improve knowledge of the seafloor by promoting the sharing of data with the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB) – according to their national law policies and regulations.
- **Motivating** and sustaining member engagement in **Seabed 2030**



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Lessons Learned

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- ***Bilateral discussion*** is the only way for the solution of ENC overlapping issues and the only way for the step forward. Independent the third party professional legal advisory support is recommended to speed up the processes of bilateral negotiation.
- The coordination role of the IHO-EU network working group - IENWG is a **great example of the cooperation between European HOs in large EU funded projects**, especially in the MBSHC region.
 - MBSHC MS are active contributors to the European Marine Observation and Data Network - EMODNet Bathymetry portal - The EMODNet bathymetry data is used in the IHO-IOC GEBCO global grid.
 - active participation from the MBSHC MS in the EU initiatives – Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and EU Directive on Public Sector Information (PSI).
- **Collaboration across RHC** and exchange of knowledge and experiences among the MS – especially on the **implementation of the S-100** (trainings, support to less developed MS, study visits etc.) is **important and good way forward** if we want to be in line with the S-100 roadmap.
- **Awareness raising among MS** – it is necessary to create an environment where many stakeholders such as maritime administrations, industry and other professional organizations can be involved and cooperate to facilitate widest possible implementation of S-100.



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Proposals

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Action Requested of MBSHC Member States

- *Note this report;*
- *Make additions as may be necessary;*
- *Take any other actions as considered appropriate.*