

From: **Rear Admiral Peter Sparkes**  
**UK National Hydrographer**  
**and SAIHC Chair**



**SAIHC Letter No. 3/2020**

20 April 2020

**To:** Members, Associate Members, and Observers of the IHO Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC)

**Subject:** **Chairman, COVID-19, SAIHC17 Update & Meeting Dates, Agenda Input and National Report**

Dear SAIHC Colleagues,

### **Chairman**

Following the handover of Chair from Tim Lowe CBE, I would personally like to introduce myself and thank you all, in my role as the new Chair of SAIHC, for providing me with the opportunity, along with Mauritius as the Vice Chair to work together in partnership to progress the aims of the hydrographic commission. Additionally, and mindful of the prevailing pandemic uncertainty, I would encourage positive and proactive engagement at the forthcoming SAIHC meeting.

### **COVID-19**

Clearly, we are living in unprecedented and uncertain times. First and foremost, I would like to extend my best wishes to you, your colleagues and all your families and hope that as a community we stay safe and well. Our partnership and shared dedication to hydrography will, I have no doubt, help to sustain and drive us forward during this crisis.

### **SAIHC17 Update & Meeting Dates**

Following very positive discussions with Mauritius, we are still planning for SAIHC17 to go ahead, as scheduled, between 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> September in Mauritius.

In the next few weeks a formal invitation will be issued, along with registration details; it would be very helpful if you could indicate your availability to attend, in principle, by no later than Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Our Mauritian hosts have indicated a final 'go / no go' decision date of the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

### **Agenda Input**

I very much recognise the importance and value of the SAIHC community collaborating together and I am keen to receive your thoughts on agenda items to maximise the benefit of the meeting. Please can you send agenda items by email to:

[International.Relations@ukho.gov.uk](mailto:International.Relations@ukho.gov.uk) and to the new SAIHC Secretary, Mr Ash Parker - [Ashley.Parker@ukho.gov.uk](mailto:Ashley.Parker@ukho.gov.uk), by no later than 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020.

## National Reports

I would encourage all SAIHC members, even if you are unable to attend SAIHC17, to submit a national report so that we can understand better the issues and opportunities within the region and develop ways of reconciling them.

The final minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> SAIHC Conference are available from the IHO website [HERE](#). The SAIHC16 Minutes do include a number of actions, which are detailed at Annex A. Please review them and action if applicable.

It should also be noted that the SAIHC INT Chart Coordinating Working Group (ICCWG) is incorporated as a standing agenda item of the Conference. Action Items resulting from the 8<sup>th</sup> SAIHC ICCWG are listed at Annex B. The ICCWG allows for INT Chart producers of Region H and all SAIHC recipients of an INT Chart service to interact and discuss specific requirements and shortcomings in the charting service provided.

I would be most grateful if you could submit your comments / updates on the SAIHC16 and 8<sup>th</sup> ICCWG actions to the Secretary, by 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your ongoing efforts in support of shared interests in the region. I hope you all stay well and look forward very much to meeting you in Mauritius at SAIHC17.

Yours sincerely



Rear Admiral Peter Sparkes

Chairman Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC)

Enclosures:

Annex A - Status of Actions resulting from the 16<sup>th</sup> SAIHC Conference

Annex B - Actions resulting from 8<sup>th</sup> SAIHC ICCWG

## Annex A 16<sup>th</sup> SAIHC Conference Action Items

No.	Agenda Item	Action	Action By	Deadline	Status
1	SAIHC14 - 3.4.1	Countries in the SAIHC region to provide capacity building inputs by end of February each year in accordance with capacity building procedures. (Note: Urgent requirements can be forwarded at any time or brought to SAIHC meetings).	SAIHC Member States	Ongoing	Ongoing
2	SAIHC14- 3.4.4 and 3.4.5	Charting Member States requested to provide coastal bathymetric data and shallow/deep ocean bathymetric data collected to be forwarded by HOs to the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (IHO DCDB). Feedback to be provided on progress at next SAIHC Conference.	SAIHC Member States	Ongoing	Ongoing
3	SAIHC14- 3.4.9	Countries with PCA responsibility to offer assistance to nations preparing for the IMO audit process.	PCA	Ongoing	Ongoing
4	SAIHC14- 3.4.9	Invite Members which are preparing for or have undertaken the IMO audit process to consider requesting support to meet items that have been raised within the audit, and also to share best practice.	SAIHC Member States	Ongoing	Ongoing
5	SAIHC14 3.4.13	The members of SAIHC were requested to consider submitting papers for publication in the review	SAIHC Member States.	Standing Item	Ongoing
6	SAIHC14 3.4.6 and 3.4.14 and ICCWG6 Action 9	SAIHC Member States to provide new information and available survey data, and report changes that may affect safety of navigation in their national waters to INT Chart producer nations, to ensure that their responsibilities as required by SOLAS are met. Where another organisation conducts a survey on behalf of the coastal state, it is important to make the survey data available to the Primary Charting Authority in order to update charts for the area. The modalities of data sharing to be resolved bilaterally.	SAIHC Member States.	Standing Item	Ongoing
7	SAIHC14 - 6.5	All Member States and associated PCA to check relevant C-55 data and update as required. All Member States to check relevant P-5 entries, informing IHO Secretariat when either/or	SAIHC Member States and	Ongoing	Ongoing

		are complete.	PCA		
8	SAIHC14 - 6.6	Marine Disaster details, action on Member States to review and if necessary, update the contact details on the Marine Disaster spreadsheet, and to provide an alternative point of contact (if applicable) informing SAIHC Chair when complete.	SAIHC Member States and SAIHC Chair	31 October 2019	Ongoing
9	SAIHC15 - 13	SAIHC Chair to invite organisations to SAIHC17 to further develop Blue Economy within the SAIHC region for the hydrographic element.	SAIHC Chair	SAIHC17	Ongoing
10	SAIHC15-14	Angola to provide an update on MSI structure at next SAIHC, and send MSI information to both Portugal and South Africa.	Angola	December 2019	Ongoing
11	SAIHC16-5	Mozambique to update next SAIHC on how they have overcome their internal communication issues regarding the coordination of MSI.	Mozambique	SAIHC17	Open
12	SAIHC15-14	Comoros requested to improve communication with NAVAREA coordinator	Comoros	December 2019	Ongoing
13	SAIHC16-7.1	UK to retrieve SHOM data from portal to include in generation of 100m grid for SAIHC region.	UK, SAIHC MSDI working group	31 October 2019	Open
14	SAIHC16 - 7.2	Circulate IHO CL11/2019 - Call for Approval of Edition 2.0.0 of IHO Publication B-12 Crowdsourced Bathymetry Guidance Document, to SAIHC Associate Members. (see SAIHC16 Action 28)	SAIHC Secretary	30 September 2019	Complete
15	SAIHC16 - 7.2	SAIHC Members and Associate Members requested to inform SAIHC Chair and Vice Chair with indication of what CSB activity would be permitted in their EEZ and TTW. To enable discussion at C-3 and to inform CSBWG in October 2019.	SAIHC Secretary, SAIHC Member States	30 September 2019	Complete
16	SAIHC16 - 7.2	SAIHC MSDIWG to include Seabed 2030 activity and support in ToR.	SAIHC MSDIWG coordinator	During SAIHC16	Open
17	SAIHC16 – 8.1	SAIHC Member at IHO Council to raise concern on CL11/2019 - Call for Approval of Edition 2.0.0 of IHO Publication B-12 Crowdsourced	SAIHC Member at IHO Council	C-3	Open

		Bathymetry Guidance Document.			
18	SAIHC16-8.1	SAIHC Member at IHO Council to raise concern at C-3 on the impact on NAVAREA Coordinators as a result of the expansion of Satellite services e.g. Iridium.	SAIHC Member at IHO Council	C-3	Open
19	SAIHC16-12	Marine Spatial Planning and National Oceans and Coastal Information Management System presentation from the Department of Environmental Affairs to be uploaded to SAIHC website.	SAIHC Secretariat	30 September 2019	Open
20	SAIHC16 - 13	SAIHC Member States are encouraged to explore the draft MSDI training material available on the SAIHC website, and join the SAIHC MSDI WG to progress MSDI within the SAIHC region.	SAIHC Member States	SAIHC17	Open
21	SAIHC16 - 13	SAIHC Member States are requested to complete the SAIHC MSDI SAIHC Member questionnaire, if not already completed.	31 October 2019	SAIHC17	Open
22	SAIHC16 – 15.1G	UK to write an article for IH Review on the challenges of remote surveying in St Helena.	UK	31 January 2020 (for inclusion in the May 2020 Edition)	Open
23	SAIHC16 - 21	SAIHC CB Coordinator to reach out to SAIHC Member States following SAIHC16 to plan for training within the next IHO CB plan 2020 - 2023.	SAIHC CB Coordinator	31 October 2019	Open
24	SAIHC16 - 21	SAIHC CB Coordinator to show the realised benefit of IHO CB activities attended by SAIHC Member States, to feed into the regional plan.	SAIHC CB Coordinator	SAIHC17	Open
25	SAIHC16 - 25	SAIHC Chair to consider inviting MapAction to attend SAIHC17.	SAIHC Chair	1 March 2020	Open
26	SAIHC16 - 25	SAIHC CB Coordinator/India/South Africa to develop Disaster Response Framework for the SAIHC region.	SAIHC CB Coordinator/India/South Africa	SAIHC17	Open
27	SAIHC16 -	IHO Secretariat to provide feedback on status of IHO	IHO	SAIHC17	Open

	11	CL11/2019 - Call for Approval of Edition 2.0.0 of IHO Publication B-12	Secretariat		
28	SAIHC16 - 11	SAIHC Member States to include feedback from IHO CL11/2019 - Call for Approval of Edition 2.0.0 of IHO Publication B-12 Crowdsourced Bathymetry Guidance Document, in country reports to A-2. (see SAIHC16 Action 14)	SAIHC Member States	15 December	2019
29	SAIHC16 - 11	South Africa to consider providing an article for IH Review on the development of SANHO hydrographic capability, when delivered.	South Africa	SAIHC17	Open
30	SAIHC16 - 11	Mozambique to consider providing an article for IH Review on the IDAI disaster and the lessons learnt.	Mozambique	SAIHC17	Open
31	SAIHC16 - 27.2	SAIHC Member States to note the recommendations from the IALA presentation and act on them as applicable.	SAIHC Member States	SAIHC17	Open
32	SAIHC16 – 27.3	CB Coordinator to include SEAIGNEP in SAIHC activities	CB Coordinator	SAIHC17	Open
33	SAIHC16 - 28	SAIHC Member States to note the recommendations from the NAVAREA VII presentation and act on them as applicable.	SAIHC Member States	SAIHC17	Open
34	SAIHC16 - 28	Portugal to engage with Angola on MSI warnings.	SAIHC Member States	SAIHC17	Open
35	SAIHC16 - 29	SAIHC Secretary to allocate 3 hours for ICCWG in SAIHC Agenda.	SAIHC Secretary	SAIHC17	Open
36	SAIHC16 - 29	SAIHC Member States to support resolving all ENC overlaps by A-2.	SAIHC Member States	21 April 2020	Open
37	SAIHC16 - 29	UK to support ICCWG Coordinator in progressing the ENC scheme for the SAIHC region.	UK	SAIHC17	Open
38	SAIHC16 - 30	SAIHC Member States to read the C-3 documentation, and refer to the C-3 presentation topics of interest to RHCs, to provide feedback for SAIHC region to SAIHC Secretary.	SAIHC Member States	30 September 2019	Open

## Annex B 8<sup>th</sup> ICC-WG Action Items

No.	Action	Action By	Deadline
1	ICC-WG Coordinator to contact Russia and Australia to resolve ENC overlap	ICC-Coordinator	Ongoing
2	Provide link to ENC portal demonstrator to MS	IHO Secretariat	Item closed
3	Define minimum meta data required to support trial ENC scheme	ICC-Coordinator	Item closed
4	To define ENC scheme for SAIHC Region H.	ICC-Coordinator	Ongoing
5	Suggested trial teleconference	ICC-Coordinator	Ongoing
6	INT 7582 – is to be removed from S11 and the chart is to become INT 7583 (new INT number). A copy of this chart needs to be circulated to the members for comment and will be pending until this is done.	SAIHC Member States	INT 7582 removed from S11.  Ongoing
7	INT 7631 & INT 7632 - ongoing discussions between UK, MZ and PT. New survey data is awaited and this will affect buoyage's and chart limits (which still need to be confirmed).	UK Portugal Mozambique	Ongoing
8	INT 7645 – the Scheme has been proposed and is in process. As soon as the limits have been established they are to be forwarded to the chairman for inclusion in S11.	PT/MZ South Africa	Ongoing
9	Member States to feedback comments on how CATZOC is to be used to DQWG.	Member States	Ongoing
10	UK, Tanzania, Kenya, and India to coordinate ENC requirements to provide the latest data in a carriage compliant product for the Mariner and report back to ICCWG coordinator.	UK, Tanzania, Kenya, India	Ongoing
11	PCA to coordinate with Kenya and Tanzania ENC priorities and create a plan for ENC scheme.	UK, Kenya, Tanzania	Item closed
12	India and UK to confirm when overlaps with GB ENCs have been removed in Seychelles, Tanzania and Mozambique	India and UK	Ongoing
13	To provide a report on the latest state of overlaps in SAIHC region.	ICC-Coordinator	Item closed