



INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION

STATUTES OF THE SOUTH-EAST PACIFIC REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

5th edition, November 2023

Note: The Member States of the South-East Pacific Regional Hydrographic Commission agree to develop an inclusive management in the maximum of managerial, administrative, technical and operational activities of hydrography.

Article 1 – ON THE COMMISSION

The South-East Pacific Regional Hydrographic Commission (hereinafter referred to as "The Commission") is hereby established in accordance with Article 8 of the General Regulations of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended, and shall be governed in accordance with these Statutes.

Article 2 – ON MEMBERS

- a) Members of the Commission are Member States (MS) of the Southeast Pacific region, members of the IHO, whose representatives are responsible for hydrography and navigation in their respective national areas and signatories to the present statutes.
- b) Countries in the Southeast Pacific region that are not members of the IHO but wish to cooperate with the activities of the Commission shall apply to the Chair to be recognized as associate members.
- c) Associate members shall not have the right to vote.
- d) Current members of the Commission are Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

Article 3 – ON OBJECTIVES

The Commission shall have a consultative, scientific and technological character; it shall not exercise authority over hydrographic services or institutions in charge of hydrography and navigation in member countries and its activities may not extend to matters of international policy.

The objectives of the Commission, which is an integral part of the IHO, are:

- 1) To promote technical cooperation in hydrographic surveys, nautical cartography and information for mariners.

SEPRHC Statutes. 5th Edition November 2023

- 2) To examine, within its area of competence, matters of general interest to which the IHO is dedicated, avoiding any interference in the attributions of the IHO and any other commission established by the same.
- 3) To stimulate Member States and associate members to expand hydrographic activity in the region and seek to encourage them to seek advice and technical assistance from the IHO and other organizations to strengthen their hydrographic capabilities; to facilitate the exchange of technical information within the framework of bilateral agreements.
- 4) To facilitate the exchange of information relating to surveys, research and/or technical and scientific developments, to assist in the planning and organization of hydrographic activities in the widest sense, but without interfering with the national responsibilities of each hydrographic office.
- 5) Develop studies as an IHO working group, when deemed necessary.

Article 4 – ON PARTICIPATION

- a) The development of in-person meetings will consider the attendance of the following participants: Member States, Associate Member States and observers.
- b) Member States commit to participating on all possible occasions, either as advisor or assistant, in hydrographic programs that require joint actions and to incorporate the agreements arising from the minutes of the Meeting as soon as possible.
- c) The Commission may organize working groups to study and implement projects.
- d) Experts may be invited to participate in the meetings as observers, by the Chair, with the prior consent of the majority of the members.
- e) An invitation to attend the Conference should always be sent to the IHO General Secretary.

Article 5 – ON REGULAR MEETINGS

- a) The Commission shall meet twice over the three-year term period of the Chair, both ordinary Meetings to be held in the country of the member assuming the Chair. The purpose of the second Meeting shall be to monitor the state of progress of the tasks or agreements at the regional level.
- b) Members and associate members shall be represented at meetings by the directors of hydrographic offices or heads of national institutions responsible for hydrography and navigation or by their duly accredited delegate. They may be accompanied by assistants from their hydrographic services, but it is desirable that the number of attendees be kept to a minimum.

- c) The presence of a majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute the quorum necessary for its operation.
- d) Countries that are not members of the Commission may send representatives of the national authorities responsible for hydrography and navigation to the meetings as observers. Observers may take part in the discussions, but shall not have the right to vote. Experts and special guests shall also have the status of observers.

Article 6 – ON MEETING VENUES

- a) The venues of the first and second ordinary Meetings will be established in the country that will assume the Chair, on a rotating basis according to the geographical position of the member states from north to south, respectively.
- b) If the Chair is unable to hold any of the meetings, they shall inform the Member States of the Commission of this decision six (6) months in advance, with the purpose of coordinating the venue of the next meeting, giving priority to the member that follows in order of geographic position, or the availability of any Member State to assume it voluntarily.
- c) When reasons of force majeure or unforeseen circumstances prevent a Member State from taking over or maintaining the Chair, the relevant country shall give six (6) months prior notice to the current Chair, who shall hold an extraordinary consultation with the other members on the acceptance or nomination to take over the Chair.

Article 7 - ON THE CHAIR

- a) The Chair shall conduct the meetings of the Commission. The representative of the country in which the first regular meeting takes place shall become the Chair for a period of three years, and will be replaced at the following Chair handover meeting.
- b) Between ordinary Meetings, the Chair shall become the Secretariat of the Commission and attend to all matters of interest to be distributed by correspondence. They shall prepare the provisional agenda for the next meeting, and as the first agenda item they will present a complete report of the activities of the Commission since the previous meeting.
- c) The incoming new Chair shall be responsible for the organization of the first ordinary meeting, and their country shall cover the cost of all local administrative expenses involved.
- d) The Chair may be replaced by their successor at the head of their hydrographic service.
- e) The representation of the Commission before the IHO Council shall be through the Chair acting during the same period.
- f) The Chair of the Commission shall attend the annual meetings of the IHO Inter-Regional Coordination Committee - IRCC and Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee - HSSC as a representative of the Commission.

- g) In case the Chair is unable to attend the meetings set forth in paragraphs e) and f), they may delegate the role to another member of the committee with the approval of the other MS.

Article 8 – ON THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING

- a) Proposals considered by the members to be included in the agenda of a Meeting shall be sent to the Chair at least three (3) months prior to the date set for the beginning of the Meeting.
- b) The Chair shall prepare the provisional agenda in consultation with the members at least two (2) months prior to the opening of the next Meeting.
- c) The agenda shall be approved by the Commission at the beginning of each Meeting.
- d) During the course of the Meeting, the Commission may modify the order of discussion of the various items on the agenda.
- e) Any proposals by any member or associate member not included on the agenda shall be submitted to the Chair and, with the agreement of the members, may be included on the agenda for discussion 24 hours after their acceptance.

Article 9 – ON CORRESPONDENCE

- a) The Chair shall prepare a daily written text of the decisions taken on each agenda item and shall arrange for its distribution the following day to the members present.
- b) At the end of the Meeting, the Chair shall read the text of the decisions taken, which shall be approved in accordance with the provisions of Article 10 of these Statutes.
- c) In the event that the Minutes cannot be signed immediately at the end of an ordinary Meeting, the Chair shall send, within 30 days after the closing of the Meeting, the PRELIMINARY proposal of the Minutes in digital format, so that all the MS may provide observations or suggestions within a period not exceeding 30 days since the sending of the digital file. If no observations are received, the Minutes will be considered approved and a copy will be sent to all the MS, signed by the Chair of the Commission.
- d) A copy of the Minutes will be sent to the associate members.
- e) The documentation and circular letters of this Commission must be kept in an organized manner on the Commission website. The current Chair will be in charge of updating.

Article 10 – ON DECISIONS

- a) The decisions of the Meeting shall be adopted by a simple majority of its members, an affirmative vote indicated by raising the right hand. In the event of a tie, a second vote shall be taken, after hearing the recommendations of the IHO representative.

- b) In the event that a member considers that an agenda item should be approved unanimously, they shall raise the issue at the beginning of the Meeting.
- c) Each MS is entitled to one vote.
- d) All decisions shall enter into force immediately after signing the Minutes of the relevant Meeting.

Article 11 – ON EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS

- a) The Chair may convene an extraordinary meeting of the members of the Commission during the IHO Assembly, to deal with one or more specific topics, when the majority of its representatives are taking part in the same.
- b) In the case of urgent matters that cannot be dealt with by correspondence or delayed until the next meeting, the Chair may call an extraordinary meeting with the agreement of the members, which may be held as a virtual event.
- c) The provisions of Article 7 do not apply to the meetings defined in paragraphs (a) and (b) above; their organization and conduct shall be the responsibility of the Chair.
- d) When these meetings do not include all members, their recommendations shall be presented for approval at the following ordinary meeting of the Commission or by correspondence, if the matter is urgent.

Article 12 – ON EXPENSES

Travel and hotel expenses of all participants in the meetings will be paid by their respective institutions and organizations.

Article 13 – ON AMENDMENT OF THE STATUTES

The members of the Commission may propose amendments to these statutes, which shall be discussed during the course of a Meeting, and the decisions shall require unanimous approval by the MS of the Commission and they will be included in the report of the Meeting.

Article 14 – ON OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE COMMISSION

- a) The official language of the Commission shall be Spanish.
- b) The final report shall be prepared in Spanish. It shall be sent to the Secretary of the IHO and to each of the members of the Commission alongside a translation into English.

Article 15 – ON DISSEMINATION OF AGREEMENTS

Any agreement that, in the opinion of the Commission, may be of interest to all IHO Member States shall be expressly reported to the IHO Secretariat for dissemination.

SOUTH-EAST PACIFIC REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

(SEPRHC)

SIGNATURE BY EACH COUNTRY ON SPECIFIED DATE

CHILE

Rear Admiral **Arturo OXLEY LIZANA**
Director of the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of
the Chilean Navy - SHOA
November 29, 2023

COLOMBIA

Captain **José DÍAZ RUIZ**
Director of the Center for Oceanographic and Hydrographic
Research of the Colombian Navy.
November 29, 2023

ECUADOR

Commander **Luis MORALES AUZ**
General Coordinator for Oceanographic Affairs
INOCAR
November 29, 2023

PERU

Rear Admiral **Carlos GUERRERO MALPARTIDA**
Director of Hydrography and Navigation of the Peruvian
Navy- DHN
November 29, 2023