

US-Canada Hydrographic Committee Joint Communiqué

Quebec City, Canada

February 24, 2020

On Monday, more than 30 hydrographic scientists and managers met to convene the 43rd U.S.-Canada Hydrographic Committee (USCHC). The USCHC is one of 15 Regional Hydrographic Commissions composed of hydrographic offices who are members of the IHO. Hydrographer General of Canada, Dr. Genevieve Bechard chaired the meeting with Director of NOAA's Office of Coast Survey, RDML Shepard M. Smith. IHO Secretary General Dr. Mathias Jonas, represented the International Hydrographic Organization. Also attending were representatives from Canadian Hydrographic Service, the U.S. and Canadian Navies, as well as senior representatives of the National Geospatial-intelligence Agency (NGA) plus a small number of invited observers. The USCHC meeting was held in conjunction with the Canadian Hydrographic Conference.

Dr. Bechard opened the meeting referencing the very exciting decade the hydrographic community faces. This is underscored by a series of global initiatives together with exciting developments in data collection, processing, and distribution for national hydrographic offices. Over a dozen reports were shared eliciting extended discussions throughout the day. Extended discussions included the proposed IHO's S-100 Implementation Roadmap.

The Hydrographic Offices also reached an agreement to collaborate in certain areas such the development of concepts surrounding "Paper Chart 2.0" as a new IHO global standard. Paper Chart 2.0 promises to enable hydrographic offices to produce paper charts directly from ENC's. Additionally, the offices delved into details of a multiyear effort to rescheme ENC's and provide future navigational services in transboundary areas initially focusing on the Great Lakes.

The Commission identified several collaborative efforts with which the two nations are involved, such as sharing of data for improving nautical charts and personnel exchanges for hydrographic surveys and other operational activities. Both countries are actively testing new survey platforms and the sharing of reports of success, lessons learned, and progress made. During the meeting, Dr. Bechard and RDML Smith signed an agreement for the collection and sharing of coastline data for the improvement of nautical charts in and around Detroit, Michigan/Windsor, Ontario.

The Commission tasked itself to develop a vision for the upcoming decade oriented around a tentative theme of providing the user a seamless experience navigating or utilizing maritime data in transboundary areas.

The new editor of the International Hydrographic Review (IHR) briefed the Commission of plans to reinvigorate the publication and encouraged the hydrographic offices to promote the IHR as a serious option for staff to publish papers related to their work.

IHO Secretary General thanked the co-chairs for a productive meeting.

The meeting summary and presentations will soon be available at <https://iho.int/en/uschc43-meeting-2020>. For further information, please contact Douglas.Brunton@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.









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