

*STANDARD REPORT FORMAT for RHCs and the HCA*

REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES – CANADA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (USCHC)

**1. Chair:**

Rear Admiral Shepard M. Smith (USA) from 24 February 2020 to present

Dr. Geneviève Bécharde (Canada) from 18 March 2019 to 24 February 2020

Rear Admiral Shepard M. Smith (USA) from 26 March 2018 to 18 March 2019

Dr. Geneviève Bécharde (Canada) from 20 January 2018 to 26 March 2018

Mr. Denis Hains (Canada) from 20 March 2017 to 20 January 2018

**Vice-Chair:**

Dr. Geneviève Bécharde (Canada) from 24 February 2020 to present

Rear Admiral Shepard M. Smith (USA) from 18 March 2019 to 24 February 2020

Dr. Geneviève Bécharde (Canada) from 26 March 2018 to 18 March 2019

Rear Admiral Shepard M. Smith (USA) from 20 March 2017 to 26 March 2018

**2. Membership:**

United States of America

-Office of Coast Survey, NOAA

-National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA)

-United States Navy (USN)

Canada

-Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS)

-Royal Canadian Navy (RCN)

Observers:

-International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)

-United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) USCHC41, 42, and 43

**3. Meetings:**

41<sup>st</sup> Meeting (USCHC41) – Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, 26 March 2018

(In conjunction with the Canadian Hydrographic Conference (CHC2018))

42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting (USCHC42) - Biloxi, Mississippi, USA, 19 March 2019

(In conjunction with The Hydrographic Society of America Conference (US Hydro 2019))

43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting (USCHC43) – Québec City, Québec, Canada, 24 February 2020

(In conjunction with the Canadian Hydrographic Conference (CHC2020))

4. Agenda Items:

*(Please list the principal agenda items or subjects dealt with during the period)*

- i. Strategic directions of the individual hydrographic offices (HOs). E.g. the transformation to a data-centric model for the HOs.
- ii. Trans-boundary ENC overlap resolutions, single-agency charting, and planning for the implementation of grid-based ENC coverage, that is, what will the new scheme(s) for the region look like and who are the clients.
- iii. Marine spatial data infrastructure (MSDI).
- iv. The IHO strategic plan review.
- v. Personnel exchange.
- vi. Crowd-sourced bathymetry (CSB).
- vii. Satellite-derived bathymetry (SDB).
- viii. GEBCO Seabed 2030 and ways the USCHC can contribute to it.
- ix. Paper charts derived automatically from an ENC (aka Paper Chart 2.0)
- x. S-102, S-104, and S-111 products and services developments.
- xi. New survey technologies and methods, e.g. autonomous surveying vehicles (ASVs).
- xii. The role of the hydrographic offices regarding data provision and support of IMO in the context of marine autonomous surface shipping (MASS).

5. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed:

*(Please list the significant difficulties encountered during the period, if any, and the challenges yet to be addressed)*

- i. The implementation of new ENC grid-based schemes is ongoing.
- ii. The seamless delivery of S-100 products and services in the transboundary areas needs more work. In part this will be a test of the WENS principles.
- iii. The USCHC is still determining the best way to contribute to the GEBCO Seabed 2030 project.

6. Achievements/outputs/conclusions:

*(Please list the significant achievements/outputs/conclusions reached during the period)*

- i. Staff exchanges. Three CHS employees were deployed on NOAA surveys in 2019. Reciprocal deployments are planned for the future.
- ii. Information and experiences with autonomous survey vehicles was shared.
- iii. The re-establishment of a committee (now called the Hydrographic Geospatial Products and Services Committee (HGpsc)) to address trans-boundary issues such as the implementation of a new ENC grid-based scheme.
- iv. Under the USCHC, arrangements for surveying within the territorial waters of the other nation were made and executed. The data was also shared.
- v. New shipping routes for the Great Lakes were cooperatively identified and the affected ENCs updated.
- vi. Overlaps in ENC coverage have been resolved. Ongoing collaboration keeps this problem to a minimum.
- vii. Work towards an adequate paper chart from an ENC has made significant progress.

- viii. A summary of the history of USCHC was drafted, approved, and submitted to the IHO for the USCHC website.
- ix. The UNGGIM Shared Guiding Principles were adopted.
- x. Updates to C-55 and P-5 have been delivered.
- xi. USA and Canada have remained active on IHO committees and working groups.

The US and CA are moving in the same direction in many areas and there continues to be excellent opportunities for cooperation and collaboration.

7. Actions required of the Assembly:

- a) note the report of the
- b) take any other action considered appropriate.

REFERENCES

USCHC41 Victoria, British Columbia [http://iho.int/mtg\\_docs/rhc/USCHC/USCHC41/USCHC41\\_Docs.htm](http://iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/USCHC/USCHC41/USCHC41_Docs.htm)

USCHC42 Biloxi, Mississippi [http://iho.int/mtg\\_docs/rhc/USCHC/USCHC42/USCHC42\\_Docs.htm](http://iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/USCHC/USCHC42/USCHC42_Docs.htm)

USCHC43 Québec City, Québec [http://iho.int/mtg\\_docs/rhc/USCHC/USCHC43/USCHC43\\_Docs.htm](http://iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/USCHC/USCHC43/USCHC43_Docs.htm)