

**44th Meeting of the
US Canada Hydrographic Commission (USCHC)
VTC, 18 March 2021**

IHO Secretariat Report

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Secretary-General



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Outcome of the 2nd Assembly – November 2020

The 2nd Assembly, structured as 3 daily remote sessions of 3 hours each, examined 17 proposals and several reports tabled by Member States, by subordinate organs and by the Secretary-General. The Assembly agreed on 52 decisions, including the approval of the revised Strategic Plan, the Work Programme and Budget of the Organization for the next three-year period by consensus, using the silence procedure.

All the documents related to the 2nd Assembly including the Proceedings are available at the IHO website. The Assembly agreed in principle to host its third session from 25 to 29 April 2023 in Monaco.

USCHC is invited to adapt their respective instruments to comply with the recommendations of the IHO Resolution 2/1997 (Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) as amended by A-2).



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Selected Council Decisions No. 1

Decision and Action C4/06: The Council agreed to include a standing agenda item in future Council meetings on the joint IHO-Singapore Innovation and Technology Laboratory (deadline C-5).

- The **Governing Board** of the Laboratory to report on an annual basis
- **Council** to advise the Lab on themes and projects to be considered.
- Possible topics for consideration of the Governing Board:
 - “Dual Fuel” Concept
 - Conversion of S-57 to S-101 and vice-versa.

Official start
delayed to
October 2021

Decision an/d Action C4/07: Secretary-General to report on implementation of proposal A-2 PRO-1.9 Future of S-23 (deadline: C-5).

The Secretariat will propose HSSC13 / May 2021 to establish a S-130 Project Team to develop the Product Specification and the resulting data set.

US indicated nomination of experts



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Selected Council Decisions No. 2

Decision and Action C4/08: The Council noted the task given by the A-2 to consider the best way forward with proposals A-2 PRO-1.4 and A-2 PRO-1.5 on the definition of hydrographic interest and report to A-3 in 2023 and by which the Council was empowered to establish a working group for this specific purpose (deadline A-3).

Decision and Action C4/09: The Council invited interested parties (**Argentina, Brazil, India, Uruguay ...**) in the development of a definition of hydrographic interest, to consider IHC17 outcome, PRO1.4 and 1.5, and come back with a single consolidated proposal to C-5 or C-6 for possible consideration at A-3. (deadline C-5, C-6).

The Secretariat invites USCHC members to consider to contribute to a future joint activity of interested parties in the development phase of a revised definition of hydrographic interest.

No activity noted so far



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Selected Council Decisions No. 3

-) **Decision and Action C4/10: Council** to monitor the implementation by **HSSC** of the recommendations on the Future of the Paper Nautical Chart as appropriate. HSSC to report to Council annually on recommendations on the Future of the Paper Nautical Chart (deadline C-5).
-) **Decision and Action C4/11: Council** to monitor the progress of the task given to **HSSC** to prepare a synoptic summary report on the various options offered to HOs for future production of S-101 ENC's in conjunction with S-57 maintenance/production (deadline C-5).

The Secretariat invites USCHC members to proactively contribute to the implementation of the strategic developments in future paper chart layout and production. Likewise the Secretariat welcomes any practical experience gained with the parallel production of S-57 and S-101 ENC's including their use for streamlined paper chart production.

CA & US already well involved in
supporting actions



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Selected Council Decisions No. 4

-) **Decision and Action C4/23: Council** to maintain and update the S-100 Implementation Roadmap and resulting activities, in liaison with Member States and external bodies, on an annual basis as a key priority of Council activities (deadline C-5).
-) **Decision and Action C4/24: Council** to monitor the subsequent development of the WEND-100 Principles, as a consequence of the expanding range of hydrographic data products addressed in the S-100 Implementation Strategy (deadline C-5).

**WENDWG is crucial to build bridges
between data standardization
and data production!**

Thanks to the Chair, John Nyberg (US) and his team!

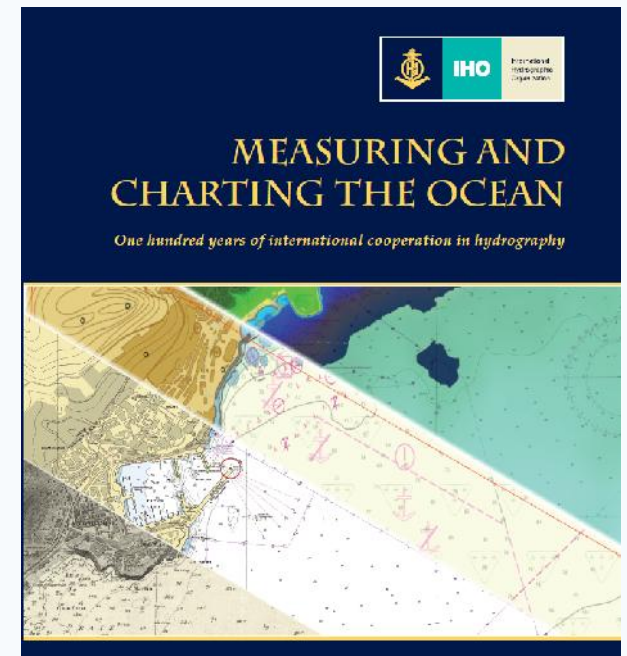


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IHO's renewed strategic goals

- Goal 1: Evolving the hydrographic support for safety and efficiency of maritime navigation, undergoing profound transformation.**
- Goal 2: Increasing the use of hydrographic data for the benefit of society.**
- Goal 3: Participating actively in international initiatives related to the knowledge and the sustainable use of the Ocean.**



Great, but how to under COVID conditions?



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IHO Secretariat's operation under COVID conditions

-) Inflow of Member States contributions is stable (so far).
-) New Member States: No 94: Lebanon , No 95: Albania (?), No 96: Kenya (?)
-) Increase of Health Insurance Premium by 5% equals to 12.000 € more per annum
-) Surplus of 350 000 € (approx. 10% of the 2020 Budget)
 -) Europe locked almost completely – home office everywhere
 -) Two COVID cases at Secretariat
 -) VTC arrangements require high effort in preparation – time shift as added burden
 -) Many VTC do not reflect the specialties of the format – too long, too formal, too detailed
 -) Much virtual activity but comparably low outcome – affects liaising Organizations
 -) Great desire (and need) for physical meetings in a multicultural setting of an IGO



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IHO Secretariat's tactics under COVID conditions

-) Given that there is
 -) a new Council, new Chairs of IRCC and HSSC;
 -) National HO's have to focus to cover domestic duties under COVID restrains;
 -) performance of IMO in terms of decision making is unclear;
 -) Industry partners struggling with the uncertain situation;
 -) the IHO's regular Capacity Building Program stalls completely.



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IHO Secretariat's tactics under COVID conditions

The Secretariat is focused to

-) Maintain the function of the diverse Working Groups and Project teams without physical meetings
-) Embed stakeholder meetings into HSSC and IRCC conferences not to loose contact completely
-) Strengthen the IHO competencies in digital services (DCDB, INtoGIS III)
-) Professionalize further in hybrid events and social media activities.
-) Promote further collaboration with SeaBed2030 and ISA.
-) Propose to invest more in building up technical capacity.

So sad we missed DCDB 30th Anniversary



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IHO Secretariat's tactics under COVID conditions (2)

The Secretariat is focused to

-) Force to build up capacity in digital building blocks of the S-100 environment such as
 -) Registry and Product Spec building software tools (catalogue builder)
 -) “Priority two” S-1xx product specs such as S-130 (S-23 follow up) and S-131 (Marine Harbour infrastructure)
 -) First best practice examples for S-57 ENC’s and paper chart production out of S-101 ENC’s
 -) Official test data sets for mature S-1xx Product Specs and software for practical tests.

About KHOA S-100 Viewer

KHOA S-100 Viewer is a GIS software that complies with the IHO S-100 standard. This project will be an open source project by the end of 2021.

Supported S-100 based standards

- S-101 Electronic Navigational Chart
- S-102 Bathymetric Surface
- S-111 Surface Currents
- S-121 Maritime Limits and Boundaries
- S-122 Marine Protected Areas
- S-123 Marine Radio Services
- S-124 Navigational Warnings
- S-125 Marine Navigational Services
- S-126 Marine Physical Environment
- S-127 Marine Traffic Management
- S-128 Catalogue of Nautical Products

License

KHOA S-100 Viewer will release under the LGPLv3.

Out now!



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IHO Secretariat's tactics under COVID conditions (3)

The Secretariat is focused to

-) Define the role and most relevant projects of the new Innovation & Technology Lab
 -) *define when should MOUs/Agreements be invoked with participants/stakeholders;*
 -) *Rules of Procedure and terms of use and re-use of the outcome of the Lab (licensing, open-source);*
 -) *Branding & Communication (targets, etc.).*
 -) Start to identify prospective new fields of engagement of IHO / HO's in support of UN Ocean Decade such as i.a.
 -) *future plastic pollution and acidification monitoring,*
 -) *Adopt back scatter to the standards framework,*
 -) *Implement real time services for global tide gauges presentation*
- to bring this to an out of the box thinking “back to the future” workshop aligned to either HSCC14 or IRCC14 once the situation will be back to a new normality (tentatively planned for 2022).



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International Hydrographic Review

- The newest IHR issue (November 2020) was recently uploaded.
- A new website www.ihr.iho.int will become operational within the first quarter of 2021 to offer IHR content in a contemporary way.
- IHR Governance Board consisting of nominated reps of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions does not function. The Secretariat plans to propose an alternative approach at IRCC. Related to this it has to be discussed in which direction the IHR should develop in terms of profile, content and reputation.

IHR as a rated magazine?
Is this a realistic option?



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World Hydrographic Day 2021 and IHO Centenary Celebrations (IHO-100)

- The theme for WHD 2021 is:
"One hundred years of international cooperation in hydrography".
- The theme is designed to showcase progress in knowledge and technology over the past 100 years, while celebrating the ground-breaking work which was done during this period. The goal is to highlight the past, present, and future of hydrography by showing the important work of early hydrographers, progress in technology, and state of the art in technology.
- The Secretariat invites USCHC to share historical pictures of their work as well as pictures/videos of modern technologies such as autonomous vehicles and drones.
- The "peak-of-the-peak" will be World Hydrography Day (WHD) on 21 June 2021. The Secretariat hopes on opportunities to present IHO's achievements to United Nations high level bodies and at the IMO Assembly in November 2021. Secretariat would be grateful for USCHC assistance for.

Event not movable.

Re-planned to a smaller format.



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**USCHC is requested to take note of this
report and take action as deemed
appropriate.**



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