

**NAVAREA and Sub-area Coordinator attendance at IHO Regional Hydrographic Commission Meetings**

Submitted by Chair, World-Wide Navigational Warning Service

**SUMMARY**

Executive Summary: This document contains a summary of NAVAREA and Sub-area Coordinator attendance at IHO Regional Hydrographic Commission Meetings for 2023-2024

Action to be taken: Paragraph 3

Related documents: IHO Strategic Plan for 2021-2026

**1. Background**

1.1 The IHO has encouraged the establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) to coordinate hydrographic activity and cooperation at the regional level. The RHCs are made up of IHO Member States together with other regional States that wish to participate. RHCs work in close harmony with the IHO to help further its ideals and program. RHCs meet at regular intervals to discuss such things as mutual hydrographic and chart production problems, plan joint survey operations, and resolve schemes for medium and large-scale International Chart coverage in their regions.

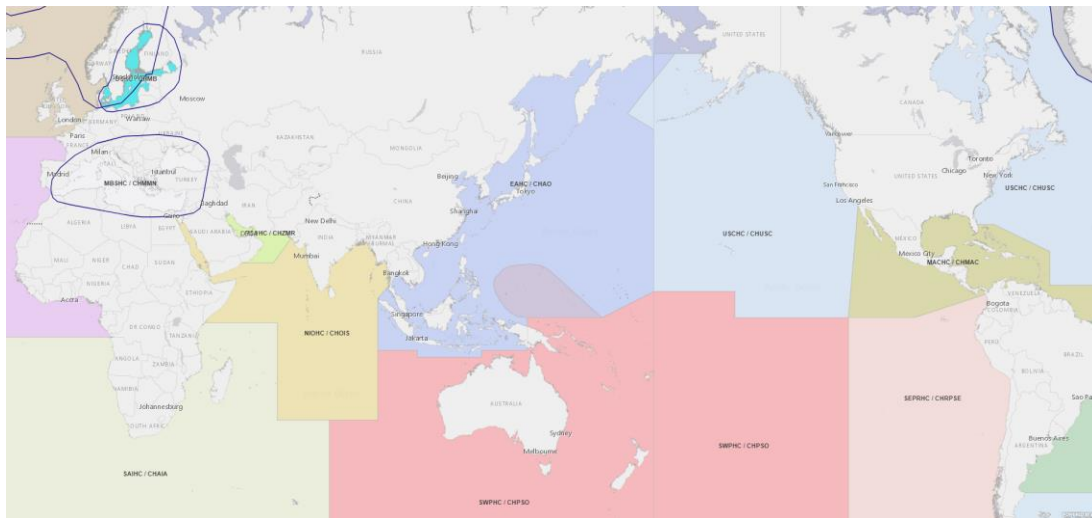
**2. Discussion**

- 2.1 The mission of the IHO is to create a global environment in which States provide adequate, standardized and timely hydrographic data, products and services and ensure their widest possible use.
- 2.2 Hydrographic offices (HO) everywhere are facing significant and rapidly developing challenges. Some challenges impact the mission of the IHO and shape the context by which the Organization develops its strategy to fulfil its vision. To face these challenges, the IHO structured its [Strategic Plan for 2021-2026](#) into three overarching goals. Under the three goals, the Organization identified targets to be reached by 2026. The progress towards these targets is measured by strategic performance indicators (SPI).
- 2.3 The first strategic goal seems to align the most the WWNWS terms of reference. The first goal is to evolve the hydrographic support for safety and efficiency of maritime navigation, undergoing profound transformation. Further, the IHO associated this goal with its mission objective to improve global coverage, availability and quality of hydrographic data, information, products and services and to facilitate access to those.

2.4 To achieve the IHO’s three Goals, the IHO Secretariat and the two IHO Committees – the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) and the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) – will deliver and pursue the respective Work programmes, using the following means:

- Standardization
- Coordination & Cooperation
- Capacity Building
- Communication.

2.5 One effective method to support the IHO’s Strategic Plan and its Phase 1 capacity building objective (Phase 1: the collection and circulation of nautical information, necessary to maintain existing charts and publications up to date) is through attendance and participation at Regional Hydrographic Committee meetings.



2.6 The NAVAREA Coordinator’s role is to engage and collaborate with national coordinators to ensure that standards and policy are properly implemented and adhered to. NAVAREA Coordinator contact with coastal states is predominantly conducted by email with few opportunities for in person, direct engagement. NAVAREA Coordinator attendance at an RHC meeting is one way to increase coordination, cooperation and capacity. Another alternative is to establish a Maritime Safety Information Working Group (MSIWG), which can provide an avenue for coastal states to not only participate in their RHC, but participate in the MSIWG and the WNWNS’s modernization to support S-100.

2.7 The following table details NAVAREA Coordinator attendance at RHC’s. The highlighted rows indicate that there was no report or presentation from the NAVAREA Coordinator or it could not be determined from the meeting report or meeting agenda if no meeting report was available.

Regional Hydrographic Commission (RHC)	NAVAREA/Sub-area(s) in the RHC	NAVAREA/Sub-area attendance/participation
Nordic HC (NHC67)	I, Sub-area I, XIX	NAVAREAs and Sub-area referenced in the National Reports from Sweden and Norway
North Sea HC (NSHC37)	I, XIX	North Sea MSI Working Group (NSMSIWG) report

Mediterranean and Black Seas HC (MBSHC24)	III	NAVAREA III Coordinator submitted report and provided a presentation
Arctic HC (ARHC13)	XVII, XVIII, XIX, XX, XXI	NAVAREAs referenced in the National Reports from Canada, Norway, and the United States
Baltic Sea HC (BSHC29)	I, Sub-area I	Sub-area 1 coordinator plans to attend and provide a report on the Baltic Sea MSI Working Group (BSMSIWG)
US/CAN HC (USCHC47)	IV, XII, XVII, XVIII	NAVAREAs referenced in the National Reports from Canada and the United States
East Asia HC (EAHC SC 10)	XI, XIII	NAVAREA XI Coordinator provided a presentation
Eastern Atlantic HC (EAtHC18)	II	NAVAREA II provided a presentation on MSI and NAVAREA coordination
South-East Pacific RHC (SEPRHC15)	XII, XV, XVI	NAVAREA XV attended by NAVAREA XV Coordinator, MSI presentations by administrations
South West Pacific HC (SWPC21)	X, XIV, XI	NAVAREA X, XI, and XIV Coordinators attended and provided presentations
Meso American and Caribbean Sea HC (MACHC24)	IV, V, XII	NAVAREA IV/XII Coordinator attended and provided a presentation
Southern African and Islands HC (SAIHC19)	VII	NAVAREA VII Coordinator attended and provided a presentation
North Indian Ocean HC (NIOHC23)	VIII, IX	NAVAREA VIII and IX Coordinators attended and provided presentations
ROPME Sea Area HC (RSAHC9)	IX	NAVAREA IX Coordinator attended and provided a presentation
South West Atlantic HC (SWAtHC18)	V, VI	WWNWS listed as an agenda item

### 3. Actions requested

- 3.1. Encourage NAVAREA Coordinators to attend the Regional Hydrographic Commission meetings in their NAVAREA and, if practicable, establish a Maritime Safety Information Working Group.
- 3.2. Note the report