



# 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee

## Report of IHO-IAG Advisory Board on the Law Of the Sea (ABLOS)

### Agenda Item 6.1



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## **PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

International  
Hydrographic  
Organization

1. The 26th Business Meeting of ABLOS was held at the IHO Secretariat in Monaco on 7 and 10 October 2019.
2. The 10th ABLOS Conference, titled ‘Opportunities and Challenges in the Governance of the Planet Ocean’ took place from 8 to 9 October 2019 also in Monaco. The Conference was attended by 70 delegates from 25 different States.
3. The ABLOS members from Australia, Brazil, Chile, Denmark, France, Republic of Korea and United Kingdom (UK) were present in both activities. United States and Sweden sent observers and there were representatives from Qatar and Japan.



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4. ABLOS members and observers discussed notable topics from the various conferences, seminars and workshops that they had attended and undertaken since the previous business meeting.
5. The meeting also discussed the ABLOS capacity building training course, the revision of the material and its ownership and a small group was established to lead this work.
6. The creation of ABLOS web site, to increase its visibility and provide information regarding its activities and the C-51. The ABLOS fund will partially support the web site maintenance.



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7. Edition 6.0.0 of the TALOS Manual - C-51 – Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea finalized (HSSC11 action). IHO CL 61/2019 dated 9 December published with a response deadline of 28 February 2020. 33 Member States responded, 32 voted to approve Edition 6.0.0, which has been adopted, one voted against.
8. French and Spanish translations of Edition 6.0.0 are being produced by the French and Chilean members.
9. It was agreed to start a holistic review of the C-51 in preparation for an Edition 7.0.0.



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10. ABLOS agreed to investigate the legal status of Crowdsourced Bathymetry (CSB) with respect to UNCLOS. It is the hope that opinion papers can be developed for publication and supporting presentations made at appropriate events to help clarify the status of CSB and potentially gain wider national acceptance for the activity.



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12. The planning for the next Conference, the 11th ABLOS Conference had already begun. A Conference organizing committee has been formed and the keynote speaker is already invited – Mr. Larry Mayer - Director Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping - University of New Hampshire.



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## **PROBLEMS OR OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

International  
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1. It is noted that 2 of the 4 IHO appointed ABLOS members are now serving their second term and due to complete their appointments in 2021; the same for one IAG appointed member. An IAG Observer has been appointed. Those members were requested to advise whether they would be available for re-nomination by their respective host organizations or whether they were aware of suitable candidates to fill the forth coming vacancies.
2. It is noted that 1 of 4 IAG members has not yet been appointed, but finding a suitable candidate is in full process in coordination with the Secretary General of IAG.



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3. The last BM (27BM) would be in Niterói/Brazil, however due to the restrictions imposed by COVID the meeting was virtual from 06-09 OCT 2020.
4. The regional seminar that would be with the BM was canceled.





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## **ACTIONS REQUESTED FROM HSSC**

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1. Note this report
2. Note excellent IHO Secretariat support to ABLOS
3. Endorse the continuation of ABLOS to pursue its work under its Terms of Reference
4. Review and endorse the work program of Annex B