

16<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

## Report of the Advisory Board on Law of the Sea (ABLOS)

ABLOS is a joint board established by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the International Association of Geodesy (IAG)

<b>Submitted by:</b>	Chair, ABLOS
<b>Related Documents:</b>	C-51
<b>Related Projects:</b>	None

<b>Chair:</b>	Juan Carlos Báez Soto, Chile (IAG Member)
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Fiona Bloor, UK (IHO Member)
<b>Secretary:</b>	Leonel Manteigas, IHO
<b>Members IHO:</b>	Brazil, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, Italy
<b>Members IAG:</b>	Canada, Chile, Denmark, France,
<b>Ex Officio:</b>	UN DOALOS and IHO
<b>Observers:</b>	Australia, India, Sweden, Qatar, Ecuador and USA

**Meetings Held During Reporting Period**

ABLOS 30 10 & 13 October 2023 IHO, Monaco

**Future Meetings**

ABLOS 31 7 - 9 October 2024 DHN, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Work Program**

The 30<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting (BM) of ABLOS was held at the IHO Secretariat in Monaco on 10 and 13 October 2023. The ABLOS members and observers from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Italy, the United Kingdom (UK) and United States were present. The meeting was chaired over the Chair Dr Juan Carlos BÁEZ (IAG – Chile) and, with Fiona BLOOR (IHO – UK) Vice-Chair.

The BM opened by the IHO Secretary-General with a reflection on the role and relevance of the work of ABLOS; it was noted that beyond the traditional technical advice provided by the group, activities such as Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), the 30 by 30 Initiative, Marine Scientific Research (MSR) provisions under UNCLOS and their relevance to Crowdsourced Bathymetry, to name but a few, necessitated consideration. Engineering is evolving and needs to be reflected in TALOS (*A Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*, C-51). Engagement with DOALOS (Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations) is actively encouraged. The list of national experts was a list that needed to work effectively to be an asset.

At the 2022 BM, it had been decided that the 11th ABLOS Conference would be postponed; it was held during this BM, 11 to 12 October. The participants of the BM further discussed final arrangements for the conference 'Ocean Geosciences and Law of the Sea: Setting the Course for the Next Century'. The list of abstracts submitted for the

previous call were invited to be presented during this year. A good list of abstract was also received and the program are very well organized by the committee: The final list of session topics are:

- Technical Aspects of Article 76 and the delineation of the outer limits to the continental shelf
- Addressing technical challenges and emerging technologies
- Special Session: “ Resolving the World’s Longest Maritime Boundary and how We Ended the Whisky War”
- Addressing challenge related to baseline, limits and boundaries.
- Marine governance and legal considerations.
- Advance in maritime boundary dispute resolution.
- Challenges in defining rules, standards and guidelines in the face of environmental and technical change.
- Empowering women in Ocean Geosciences and Law of the Sea

All details of the program, as well as the abstracts presented at the event, can be found on the site ABLOS websites (<https://www.ablos.org/conferences/>)

The participants reflected on the publication of C-51 – *A Manual on Technical Aspects the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - 1982* – Edition 6.0.0. It was agreed that the draft text for Ed.7.0.0 would be developed in time for BM31 and onward submission to HSSC17 in 2025.

#### **Problems Encountered**

The members of IAG and IHO draw attention to the need to have new nominations from both organizations, in order to continue the operation of ABLOS. An new IHO nomination was received with effects from 18 March 2024, Dr. Virginie Tassin Campanella but on the part of IAG it has been difficult to nominate a new representative, given the administrative and financial difficulty that falls on the nominated candidates.

Although ABLOS maintains its own website to disseminate the organization's events and information, the official documents are published on the official IHO website.

The main purpose of ABLOS is the interface with DOALOS and the provision of technical advice. ABLOS work and output support technical aspects of law of the sea (LoS) by producing a document, and advising on technical aspects of LoS. Chair has received seven questions on technical aspect referred to chapter in ABLOS. ABLOS needs a formal mechanism to handle questions. The Chair indicated that new version of TALOS should include new technologies which don't have a default chapter.

#### **Any Other Items of Note**

Nil.

#### **Conclusions and Recommended Actions for IHO**

N/A

#### **Justification and Impacts**

N/A

### **Action Required of HSSC**

The HSSC is invited to:

- a. **Note** this report
- b. **Endorse** the continuation of ABLOS to pursue its work under the Terms of Reference
- c. **Review and endorse** the work program at Annex B

## 12. ABLOS WORK PLAN 2022-23

### 12.1 ABLOS Tasks

A	Organise the ABLOS Seminar 2024 and 12 <sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference in 2025 (IHO Task 2.7.1)
B	Maintain IHO Publication C-51 “Technical Aspects of the Law of the Sea (TALOS) Manual” (IHO Task 2.7.2)
C	Deliver a standard training program on the hydrographic aspects of maritime delimitation (IHO Task 3.3.11)
D	Provide advice and guidance on the technical aspect of the Law of the Sea to relevant organizations, bodies and Member States (IHO Task 2.7.2)
E	Organize and prepare ABLOS business meetings in 2024 and 2025 (IHO Task 2.1.2.8)

### Work items

Task	Work item	Priority H-high M-medium L-low	Next milestone	Start Date	End Date	Status P-planned O-ongoing C-completed	Contact Person(s) * indicates leader	Related Pubs / Standard	Remarks
A1	Organise ABLOS Seminar (Brazil) 2024	H	Date Venue Program	2023	2024	O	Izabel King J. All members of ABLOS through Committee	N/A	
A2	Organise 12 <sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference	H	Begin advertising Identify and invite key note speaker Confirm conference title Attract presentation abstracts	2023 2023	2024 2024 2025	P P O O	All members of ABLOS through Committee		
A3	Conference support and outreach	H	Develop and maintain ABLOS website	2019	On going	P	Niels Andersen		
B1	Prepare draft 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition of C-51 (TALOS Manual) for adoption by Member States	H	Review initial Spanish translation and propose amendments	2018	2023	C	Juan Carlos Báez Soto*	IHO Publication C-51	

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B2	Commence 7 <sup>th</sup> Edition	H	Confirm Format and Content	2019	2024	O	Editorial Board John Ells	IHO Publication C-51	
		H	Study the conversion to digital format and create an executive summary to non-specialists use	2021	2024	O	Editorial Board John Ells		
		M	Review contents of chapters and identify areas requiring revision	2021	2025	O	Editorial Board		
		M	Develop draft revised chapters and seek ABLOS consensus	2023	2025	P	Editorial Board		
		M	Submit to HSSC for endorsement and circulation to IHO MS and AIG EC for approval and adoption	2023	2025	P	ABLOS Chair		
		M	Progress French and Spanish translations	2023	2025	P	Marie-Françoise Lequentrec-Lalancette*/ Juan Carlos Báez Soto*	IHO Res. 2/2007, as amended	
C1	Deliver standard training programmes for the CBSC	H	Develop and maintain core training material	2011	Continuous	O	Izabel King Jeck Fiona Bloor Juan Carlos Báez Soto	IHO Publication C-51	Training Needs Analysis needed to be undertaken.
D1	Provide advice and guidance on the technical aspect of the Law of the Sea	H		Continuous		O	All members of ABLOS through the Chair		

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E1	Confirmation of place	H	Confirmation of Brazil	2023	2024	O	Izabel King Jeck		
		H	Confirmation of Qatar/Ecuador/Chile	2023	2024	O	Chair/all Members		

## Meetings (Tasks A & E)

Date	Location	Activity
6 - 8 October 2020	Remote VTC	ABLOS 27
5 - 6 October 2021	Remote VTC	ABLOS 28 and Webinar
3 - 6 October 2022	IHO, Monaco	ABLOS 29
10 – 13 October 2023	IHO, Monaco	ABLOS 30 and 11th ABLOS Conference
7 – 10 October 2024	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	ABLOS 31 and ABLOS Seminar
?? - ?? October 2025	Qatar?, Ecuador, Chile, Monacp?	ABLOS 32 and 12 <sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference

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