

12TH 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)

Submitted by:	Chair, ABLOS
Related Documents:	C-51
Related Projects:	None

Chair:	Izabel King Jeck, Brazil (IHO Member)
Vice-Chair:	Juan Carlos Báez Soto, Chile (IAG Member)
Secretary:	David Wyatt, IHO
Members IHO:	Australia, Brazil, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom
Members IAG:	Chile, Denmark, France,
Ex Officio:	UN DOALOS and IHO
Observers:	Australia, India, Sweden and USA
<i>see Annex A for full details</i>	

Meetings Held During Reporting Period

ABLOS 26	7 & 10 October 2019	IHO, Monaco
ABLOS 10 Conference	8 – 9 October 2019	IHO, Monaco
ABLOS 27	6 - 8 October 2020	video teleconference (VTC)

Future Meetings

ABLOS 28	4 - 6 October 2021	IHO, Monaco
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Work Program

The 26th Business Meeting of ABLOS was held at the IHO Secretariat in Monaco on 7 and 10 October 2019. The 10th ABLOS Conference, titled '*Opportunities and Challenges in the Governance of the Planet Ocean*' took place from 8 to 9 October 2019 and also was held at the IHO Secretariat.

The ABLOS members and observers from Australia, Brazil, Chile, Denmark, France, Republic of Korea the United Kingdom (UK) and United States were present; the appointed observers from Sweden (IAG) and India (IHO) sent apologies; representatives from Qatar and Japan also attended both events. The Chair, Professor Niels Andersen (IAG – Denmark), welcomed all Board members and observers to the business meeting.

The first session of the business meeting completed final preparations for the 10th ABLOS Conference.

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. 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.

During the 2nd session of the Business Meeting the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the ABLOS and the Conference Fund Guidelines were reviewed and a number of editorial amendments were identified. The ABLOS noted that two IHO appointed members and one AIG appointed member were due to end their terms in 2021. All 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 forthcoming vacancies.

The final actions to complete 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 - 1982* – were agreed, noting the action placed on the ABLOS by HSSC11. In addition the French and Chilean members of the ABLOS provided progress reports on the French and Spanish translations of Edition 6.0.0. It was also agreed to start a holistic review of the C-51 in preparation for an Edition 7.0.0.

The ABLOS also identified the main resultant output and action from the 10th Conference and the ABLOS agreed to investigate the legal status of Crowdsourced Bathymetry (CSB) with respect to UNCLOS. It was hoped that opinion papers could 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.

The meeting then considered the theme, title and keynote speaker for the next Conference, the 11th ABLOS Conference, which was planned to be held in Monaco in 2021. It was agreed that there was a need to maintain the momentum generated at the 10th Conference and therefore dates (05 and 06 AUG2021), the title and keynote speaker (Prof. Larry Mayer). A Conference organizing committee was formed to undertake these tasks.

The 10th ABLOS Conference was attended by 70 delegates and 25 different States were represented, (Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Faeroes Islands, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Kuwait, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom and USA). The Conference included 20 presentations covering a wide variety of topics and issues in relation with the theme “*Opportunities and Challenges in the Governance of the Planet Ocean*”. IHO Secretary-General, Dr Mathias Jonas, welcomed the delegates on behalf of the IHO. The opening key note address was given by Professor Ronán Long, Director of World Maritime University-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute. The general theme of the conference was the growing recognition that the oceans are crucial to global sustainability and play a key equilibrating role in global climate as the primary sink for excess heat and carbon present in the global climate system and represent a vital repository and supporter of global biological diversity. Noting coastal and ocean areas are the drivers for the global economy, especially through sea-borne trade as well as via a rising ‘Blue Economy’ around the world, and play a crucial and increasingly important role in global food security. These areas are therefore of critical importance across scales, from the global to the regional, national and sub-national coastal community levels. Acknowledging that the oceans are also increasingly under threat, notably as a result of enhanced competition for coastal and marine resources, and intense and diverse uses of coastal and marine spaces, threatening their sustainability. All too frequently this competition leads to friction and tension among marine users and incompatible spatial and temporal overlaps between uses of ocean space. The impacts of climate change on the oceans further compound these issues. Governing our ‘Planet Ocean’ therefore represents a vital and pressing opportunity and challenge. The conference provided an opportunity to reflect on, principally, legal and technical aspects relating to a range of these themes. The presentations on various aspects of the Law of the Sea generated numerous questions and comments in plenary and much discussion in the margins during the breaks

On completion of the ABLOS Conference, Mrs Izabel King-Jeck (IHO-Brazil) assumed the role of Chair and Dr Juan-Carlos Báez (IAG – Chile) was elected as Vice-Chair.

It had been agreed that the next Business Meeting (BM27) and Seminar would be in Niterói however due to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 the meeting was held by VTC, 6-8 October, and the Seminar was cancelled. The ABLOS members and observers from Australia, Brazil, Chile, Denmark, France, India, Republic of Korea, Sweden the United Kingdom and United States were present; as well as representatives from DOALOS, Colombia and Qatar. The Chair, Ms Izabel King Jeck (IHO – Brazil), welcomed all Board members and observers to the business meeting.

Among other subjects the BM27 decided postpone the 11th ABLOS Conference until 2022 due to the possible restriction imposed by COVID-19 still in 2021, but also decided to held a one-day online seminar in 2021 to promote the IHO100, the launching of the UN Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable and the work of ABLOS. This webinar will be held together with ABLOS BM28, in Monaco.

Another decision was the development and maintenance of ABLOS website (<https://www.ablos.org/>), hosted at the Danish Technical University (DTU). In the website information about the group, the forthcoming events, past events, and relevant information regarding Law of the Sea is available.

It was decided commence TALOS 7th Edition. It was discussed the possibility of changing its the format, making it a digital publication (e-book), in addition to creating a simplified version of its content, so that it covers professionals from other areas besides geosciences.

Progress on HSSC Action Items

HSSC 11/65 - IHO Secretariat to issue an IHO CL seeking the approval of IHO Member States for C-51 Edition 6.0.0:

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, and one voted against. 6 Member States provided additional comments, which were considered by the Chair and Vice-Chair and appropriate replies were provided in collaboration with the IHO Secretariat. It was highlighted that a holistic review of the entire document was appropriate and that this task would be commenced immediately by the Editorial Board to prepare an Edition 7.0.0.

Problems Encountered

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.

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; an IAG Observer has been appointed.

Any Other Items of Note

The creation of ABLOS web site, supported by the fund, in order to increase its visibility and to provide information regarding its activities and the C-51 publication.

Conclusions and Recommended Actions

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



Joint IAG-IHO Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea



MEMBERS OF ABLOS

IHO representatives:

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12. ABLOS WORK PLAN 2020-21

12.1 ABLOS Tasks

A	Organise the 11 th ABLOS Conference in 2022 (IHO Task 2.12.2)
B	Maintain IHO Publication C-51 "Technical Aspects of the Law of the Sea (TALOS) Manual" (IHO Task 2.12.3)
C	Deliver a standard training program on the hydrographic aspects of maritime delimitation (IHO Task 3.5.2)
D	Provide advice and guidance on the technical aspect of the Law of the Sea to relevant organizations, bodies and Member States (IHO Task 2.12.3)
E	Organize and prepare ABLOS business meetings in 2021 and 2022 (IHO Task 2.12.1)

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 11 th ABLOS Conference	H	Begin advertising Identify and invite key note speaker Confirm conference title Attract presentation abstracts	2019 2019 2019 2019	2022 2021 2021 2022	O O O PO	All members of ABLOS through Committee	N/A	
A2	Conference support and outreach	H	Develop and maintain ABLOS website	2019	On going	P	Niels Andersen		

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
B1	Prepare draft 6 th Edition of C-51 (TALOS Manual) for adoption by Member States	M		2013	2019	C	Grant Boyes*	IHO Publication C-51	
		H	Review contents of chapters and identify areas requiring revision	2014	2019	C			
		M	Review initial French translation and propose amendments	2018	2020	C	Marie-Françoise Lequentrec-Lalancette*		
		M	Review Spanish translations of animations	2018	2019	C	Juan Carlos Báez Soto*		
		M	Review initial Spanish translation and propose amendments	2018	2020	O	Juan Carlos Báez Soto*		
B2	Commence 7 th Edition	H	Confirm Format and Content	2019	2020	O	Grant Boyes* Editorial Board	IHO Publication C-51	
		H	Review contents of chapters and identify areas requiring revision	2020	2021	P	Grant Boyes* Editorial Board		
		M	Develop draft revised chapters and seek ABLOS consensus	2021	2023	P	Grant Boyes* Editorial Board		
		M	Submit to HSSC for endorsement and circulation to IHO MS and AIG EC for approval and adoption	2023	2024	P	ABLOS Chair	IHO Res. 2/2007, as amended	
		M	Progress French and Spanish translations	2023	2024	P	Marie-Françoise Lequentrec-Lalancette*/ Juan Carlos Báez Soto*		

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
C1	Deliver standard training programmes for the CBSC	H	Develop and maintain core training material	2011	Continuous	O	Hyunsoo Kim* Grant Boyes Isabel King Jeck Fiona Bloor Juan Carlos Báez Soto	IHO Publication C-51	No workshops planned in 2020 in the CBSC Work Plan.
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		

12.2 ABLOS Meetings (Tasks A & E)

Date	Location	Activity
1 - 6 October 2012	IHB, Monaco	ABLOS 19 and 7 th ABLOS Conference
28 - 29 October 2013	Muscat, Oman	ABLOS 20
21 - 22 October 2014	Copenhagen, Denmark	ABLOS 21
19 - 23 October 2015	IHB, Monaco	ABLOS 22 and 8 th ABLOS Conference
26 - 28 October 2016	Seoul, Korea	ABLOS 23
9 - 12 October 2017	IHO, Monaco	ABLOS 24 and 9 th ABLOS Conference
22 – 25 October 2018	Qatar	ABLOS 25
7 - 10 October 2019	IHO, Monaco	ABLOS 26 and 10 th ABLOS Conference
6 - 8 October 2020	Remote VTC	ABLOS 27
4 - 6 October 2021	IHO, Monaco	ABLOS 28 and Webinar
3 - 6 October 2022	IHO, Monaco	ABLOS 29 and 11 th ABLOS Conference

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TERMS OF REFERENCE
For the Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea (ABLOS)
of the
International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and
the International Association of Geodesy (IAG)
(as amended 25 October 2018)

Ref: 1st HSSC Meeting (Singapore 2009)
11th HSSC Meeting (Cape Town 2019)

OBJECTIVE:

To provide information and advice on technical aspects of the Law of the Sea.

1. Terms of Reference

- 1.1. To provide information and advice with regard to the technical aspects of the Law of the Sea to:
 - a) the parent Organizations (IHO/IAG) or to other organizations; and
 - b) to their Member States.
- 1.2. To review State practice and jurisprudence on Law of the Sea matters which are relevant to the work of ABLOS so as to be in a position to provide expert advice when needed.
- 1.3. To study, promote and encourage the development of appropriate techniques in the application of the technical concepts contained within certain provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- 1.4. To review and update IHO Special Publication C-51 "A Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations' Convention on the Law of the Sea - 1982" (TALOS Manual).
- 1.5. To prepare, review and update other ABLOS publications as required by the parent organizations (IHO/IAG).

2. Rules of Procedure

- 2.1. ABLOS shall be composed of eight voting Members, preferably chosen with wide geographic representation. Each parent Organization (IHO/IAG) shall appoint four members. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (DOALOS), and the IHO Secretariat shall have representatives in an ex-officio capacity without voting rights.
- 2.2. ABLOS should normally take decisions by consensus. Should a vote be necessary then a simple majority of those present and voting is required, subject to a minimum of 4 voting

- members being present. In the case of a tied vote the Chair shall have a casting vote.
- 2.3. The Member States of the IHO, the IAG and ABLOS through its Chair may appoint observers to ABLOS. Observers may participate in correspondence and attend meetings but may not vote.
 - 2.4. Appointed Members and Observers shall serve for a term of four years, renewable by a recommendation of the Board for one additional four-year term and with the approval of the corresponding parent organization. Observers may be reappointed with the approval of the ABLOS for further terms. The Chair shall inform the relevant parent organization of any foreseeable vacancy in a timely manner. Members and Observers are expected to attend every meeting of ABLOS. Where a Member or Observer fails to attend two consecutive meetings the Chair should raise the matter with the parent Organization (IHO/IAG) with a view to rectifying the situation.
 - 2.5. Whilst Members of ABLOS are appointed by their parent Organizations (IHO/IAG), to whom they are accountable, Members are expected to serve as individual experts in their own right. No statements or publications may be issued in the name of ABLOS without ABLOS's prior approval.
 - 2.6. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected by ABLOS and should normally come from different parent Organizations (IHO/IAG) on a rotational basis. They will serve for a two-year period, after which the Vice-Chair becomes Chair and a new Vice-Chair is elected. If the Chair is not present or available, the Vice-Chair shall act in this capacity until the next meeting. Should the Vice-Chair not be available to take office as Chair when required, a new Chair and Vice-Chair should be elected.
 - 2.7. ABLOS may establish Working Groups to carry out specific tasks.
 - 2.8. ABLOS will have its permanent Secretariat at the IHO Secretariat, Monaco. The Secretariat will publish the documents and publications produced by the Board as required.
 - 2.9. Members and Observers of ABLOS are expected to be supported by their own host organizations or governments for travel expenses and work. Exceptionally, an ABLOS appointed Observer may be supported by ABLOS for a specific task.
 - 2.10. ABLOS will normally meet once a year at a venue and time that minimizes cost and conducts business by correspondence between meetings.
 - 2.11. ABLOS may organise conferences and seminars. A biennial technical conference will normally be held in Monaco in conjunction with an ABLOS meeting. ABLOS may operate a fund to cover the receipts and expenses of running such a conference. Guidelines for the operation of this fund are appended to these terms of reference.
 - 2.12. The Chair or his/her nominated representative shall report on the activities of the Board to the annual meeting of the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) and to each ordinary session of the Assembly through the Council. The Chair or his/her nominated representative shall also provide an annual report on ABLOS's activities to the IAG and a report covering the inter-sessional period to the General Assembly of the IAG.
 - 2.13. These TOR should be reviewed by ABLOS as required and not less frequently than every 4 years. Amendments, recommended by ABLOS, are to be submitted to the parent Organizations (IHO/IAG) for approval.

ABLOS CONFERENCE FUND GUIDELINES

(As amended 27 October 2016)

Reference: IHO resolution 1/2014, as amended

1. Introduction

1.1 The Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea (ABLOS) is formed by four representatives from each of the following bodies: The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the International Association of Geodesy (IAG). Secretarial support for ABLOS is provided by the IHO Secretariat. The parent organizations (IHO/IAG) approve the Terms of Reference (TOR) for ABLOS. The Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs and the IHO Secretariat attend ABLOS meetings in an ex-Officio capacity.

2. Biennial Conference

2.1 The TOR invite ABLOS to organise seminars and technical conferences and permit the operation of a fund to support such activities.

3. Income

3.1 The primary source of income for the fund will be from the registration fees of delegates attending such seminars / conferences. ABLOS should set the level of registrations fees in order to provide a modest excess of income over expenditure given an estimated attendance.

4. Expenditure

4.1 The primary expenditure for the fund will be to cover the costs of running the seminars / conferences. Expenditure may include but is not limited to: assistance to speakers / tutorial leaders, conference equipment, documentation, proceedings, staff overtime, reception and tea breaks.

4.2 ABLOS may use any funds in excess of 3000 Euros remaining after all expenses for a seminar / conference have been settled, to fund other activities conducted by ABLOS. Limited support for travel / subsistence in connection with production of a new edition of C-51 'A Manual on Technical Aspects of the Law of the Sea' might be considered such an activity. Such expenditure must be approved by a simple majority of the ABLOS Membership.

4.3 Routine expenditure in support of a seminar / conference may be transacted by the IHO Secretariat and reported in the fund accounts.

5. Operation

5.1 The fund will be operated by the IHO Secretariat on behalf of ABLOS. A copy of the fund accounts will be provided to the Annual Business Meeting of ABLOS and immediately after finalising the accounts following a seminar / conference.

6. Review

6.1 This guidance should be reviewed, and amended as necessary, by ABLOS at intervals not exceeding 4 years.