

15TH 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:	Juan Carlos Báez, Chile (IAG Member)
Vice-Chair:	Fiona Bloor, UK (IHO Member)
Secretary:	Sam Harper, IHO
Members IHO:	Brazil, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, Italy
Members IAG:	Canada, Chile, Denmark, France,
Ex Officio:	UN DOALOS and IHO
Observers:	Australia, India, Sweden and USA

Meetings Held During Reporting Period

ABLOS 29 4 - 6 October 2022 Hybrid – IHO, Monaco

Future Meetings

ABLOS 30 10 - 13 October 2023 IHO, Monaco

Work Program

The 29th Business Meeting of ABLOS was held at the IHO Secretariat in Monaco on 4 - 6 October 2022 in hybrid format. The ABLOS members and observers from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Italy, the United Kingdom (UK) and United States were present. . During the meeting, the Chairpersonship was handed over to the current Vice-Chair Dr Juan Carlos BÁEZ (IAG – Chile), with Fiona BLOOR (IHO – UK) elected to Vice Chair.

The BM opened 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.

At the previous BM, it had been decided that the 11th ABLOS Conference would be postponed until October 2022, however this was further deferred until October 2023 in order to deconflict with other events being held in Monaco and to ensure there was enough participation. The participants of the BM further discussed arrangements for the conference and agreed the working title of 'Ocean Geosciences and Law of the Sea:

Setting the Course for the Next Century'. It was decided that the provisional list of session topics would remain the same at this stage:

- Advances in the definition and management of maritime space
- Divisions between land and sea
- Developments in the division of the Oceans (maritime delimitation issues)
- UNCLOS in a digital age: evolving technologies, fresh challenges, digital charting, new surveying techniques, VMS etc.
- Going Deep or Mining the Deep or Plumbing the Depths
- BBNJ and innovations in protecting marine resources and preserving the marine environment
- Defining and regulating the outer continental shelf
- Setting future agendas in oceans governance: scientific and technical considerations
- Empowering women in Ocean Geosciences and Law of the Sea

Further details regarding the conference will be released in due course by the organising committee and published on the IHO and ABLOS websites.

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 BM30 and onward submission to HSSC16 in 2024. **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:

Problems Encountered

Organising of the 11th ABLOS Conference has been complicated by the increase expense of hosting (Travelling) in Monaco. However, this has largely been mitigated by moving the traditional period where this event is hosted to de-conflict with other external events in the area.

It is noted that care needs to be taken to ensure that the external ABLOS Website and the IHO ABLOS page are consistent and do not duplicate material. This was a topic of conversation at BM29 and it was agreed that IHO Page should remain the storage location of formal documents, and the external Website used primarily for the ABLOS Conference.

Any Other Items of Note

Nil.

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

12. ABLOS WORK PLAN 2022-23

12.1 ABLOS Tasks

A	Organise the 11 th ABLOS Conference in 2023 (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 2023 and 2024 (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 Attract presentation abstracts	2022 2022 2022	2023 2023 2023	O O O	All members of ABLOS through Committee	N/A	
A2	Conference support and outreach	H	Develop and maintain ABLOS website	2019	On going	O	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 7 th Edition of C-51 (TALOS Manual) for adoption by Member States	H	Review contents of chapters and identify areas requiring revision	2021	2023	O	John Eills* Editorial Board	IHO Publication C-51	
		H	Update by individual chapter	2021	2023	O			
		H	Develop draft revised chapters and seek ABLOS consensus	2021	2023	P			
		M	Submit to HSSC15 for endorsement and circulation to IHO MS and AIG EC for approval and adoption	2024	2024	P			
		M	Progress French and Spanish translations	2024	2025			IHO Res. 2/2007, as amended	
C1	Deliver standard training programmes for the CBSC	H	Develop and maintain core training material	2011	Continuous	O	Fiona Bloor* Juan Carlos Báez Soto	IHO Publication C-51	No workshops planned in 2023 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 - 9 October 2020	VTC	ABLOS 27
4 - 6 October 2021	VTC	ABLOS 28 and ABLOS Webinar
4 – 6 October 2022	Hybrid, IHO Monaco	ABLOS 29
10 – 13 October 2023	IHO Monaco	ABLOS 30 and 11 th ABLOS Conference

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