**HSSC-16.XX.**

**16th 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)

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

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| *Chair:* | Juan Carlos Báez Soto, Chile (IAG Member) |
| *Vice-Chair:* | Fiona Bloor, UK (IHO Member) |
| *Secretary:* | Leonel Manteigas, IHO |
| *Members IHO:**Members IAG:**Ex Officio:* | Brazil, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, Italy Canada, Chile, Denmark, France,  UN DOALOS and IHO |
| *Observers:* | 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 30th 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:

1. **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**

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| A | Organise the ABLOS Seminar 2024 and 12th 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 12th ABLOS Conference | H | Begin advertising  Identify and invite key note speaker  Confirm conference title  Attract presentation abstracts | 2023  2023  2023  2023 | 2024  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 6th 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 |  |
| B2 | Commence 7th Edition | H  H  M  M  M  M | Confirm Format and Content  Study the convertion to digital format and create an executive summary to non-specialists use  Review contents of chapters and identify areas requiring revision  Develop draft revised chapters and seek ABLOS consensus  Submit to HSSC for endorsement and circulation to IHO MS and AIG EC for approval and adoption  Progress French and Spanish translations | 2019  2021  2021  2023  2023  2023 | 2024  2024  2025  2025  2025  2025 | O  O  O  P  P  P | Editorial Board  John Ells  Editorial Board  John Ells  Editorial Board  Editorial Board  ABLOS Chair  Marie-Françoise Lequentrec-Lalancette\*/  Juan Carlos Báez Soto\* | | IHO Publication C-51  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 | |  |  |
| E1 | Confirmation of place | H  H | Confirmation of Brazil  Confirmation of Qatar/Ecuador/Chile | 2023  2023 | 2024  2024 | O  O | Izabel King Jeck  Chair/all Members | |  |  |

**Meetings** (Tasks A & E)

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| **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 12th ABLOS Conference** |

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