



**MESO AMERICAN - CARIBBEAN SEA  
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**



March 31, 2022.

MACHC Letter 4/2022

To: Chair, IHO Inter-Regional Coordination Committee

Subject: **Change of the Area of Coverage of the MACHC**

References: Statutes of the MACHC

IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended (“Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions”)

IHO Publication S-4 (“Regulations for International (INT) Charts and Chart Specifications of the IHO”)

IHO Publication S-11 (“Guidance for the Preparation and Maintenance of International (INT) Chart and ENC Schemes and Catalogue of International (INT) Charts”)

Dear Mr. Thomas Dehling,

I hope you are doing well.

On behalf of the Meso American-Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC), I would like to inform you that the MACHC decided, at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference held from November 30 to December 3, 2021, that the geographic boundary between the MACHC and the South-West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (SWAtHC) Regions, respectively, IHO International Charting Regions B and C1, would be moved from 0° (Equator) to 01° South. This means that the Amazon basin is now fully included in the MACHC Region.


As a result, the Statutes of the MACHC have been updated according to this decision. No changes to the INT Chart and ENC schemes will be necessary. The Brazilian Hydrographic Office will maintain the cartographic scheme of the Amazon basin in conformity with the INT Chart and ENC schemes of MACHC and SWAtHC.

The MACHC’s decision followed the SWAtHC’s decision to approve a new border with the MACHC at 01° South at the 2021 SWAtHC Meeting; this is in compliance with paragraph 8 of the IHO Resolution 2/1997 (as amended).

In view of the above, I would like to request the following actions from the IHO: the update of the diagram of paragraph A-204.8 of the IHO Publication S-4; the update of the diagram of the IHO International Charting Regions in French on the IHO Publications Standards and Specifications webpage; and, the update of the line that defines the geographic boundary between MACHC and SWAtHC Regions on the Catalogue of INT Charts and ENC Schemes (S-11 Part B) and on the ENC Coverage Catalogue. I also take this opportunity to suggest the rewording of paragraph A-204.8 of the IHO Publication S-4 and the modification of its diagram, removing the names of the countries responsible for coordinating the international chart schemes in the IHO International Charting Regions, as they are subject to change by the Regional Hydrographic Commissions.

I thank you for your attention and I remain at your disposal for any questions.

Sincerely,



Renato Garcia Arruda  
Vice Admiral  
Director of Hydrography and Navigation, Brazil  
Chair, Meso American - Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission

Copy:

Chair, South-West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission – Commodore Valentín Alejandro Sanz-Rodríguez

IHO Director Luigi Sinapi

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MACHC Vice Chair – Rear Admiral Rhett Hatcher