

IHO File No. S3/0104

CIRCULAR LETTER 30/2020
31 August 2020

**12TH MEETING OF THE INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
(IRCC12) VTC meeting, 6-7 October 2020**

References:

- A. IHO CL 45/2019 dated 25 September – Outcome of the 11th meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC11)
- B. IHO CL 10/2020 dated 10 February – 18th Meeting of the Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC18) Gdansk, Poland, 3 - 5 June 2020 and 12th Meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC12) Gdansk, Poland, 8 - 10 June 2020
- C. IHO ACL 19/2020 dated 21 April – Approval of the scenario on the postponement of the 2nd Session of the IHO Assembly and associated activities resulting from exceptional circumstances due to COVID-19
- D. IHO CL 22/2020 dated 04 June – 12th Meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC12) Gdansk, Poland, 6 - 8 October 2020

Dear Hydrographer,

1. In accordance with Reference D, the IHO Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) IRCC12 meeting was planned to be held in Gdansk, Poland from 6 to 8 October 2020 under the condition of an acceptable level of safe circumstance with regards to the global COVID-19 impact.
2. Taking into account the evolution of the pandemic and after careful considerations by the host country in liaison with the IHO Secretariat, it has been concluded that, due to the unpredictable evolution of the pandemic in the world and its consequences for Member States, it is no longer a viable option to conduct the IRCC12 meeting in Poland. As a result, it was decided to conduct the IRCC12 meeting by video teleconference (VTC) from 6 to 7 October 2020.
3. Having considered the limitations of video conference meetings, the Agenda and timetable have been reduced and as a consequence it is intended to focus on the most priority and critical issues. The draft agenda and timetable of the IRCC12 VTC meeting are provided in Annex-A.
4. All documents for the meeting will be posted on the IRCC web page as soon as they are available. The IRCC Members and Member States are invited to consult the IHO website regularly.
5. As was indicated in reference D, the Chair of the IRCC, Dr Parry Oei, expressed his intention to step down from his role at the end of the IRCC12 meeting. The current Vice-Chair of the IRCC, Mr Thomas Dehling, has indicated his availability as candidate for the IRCC Chair position. In this respect, election of the Chair and Vice-Chair positions will be held at the end of the IRCC12 VTC meeting. Member States are invited to nominate suitable candidates for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the IRCC and inform the IRCC Secretariat

(dcoord@iho.int and copy to adcc@iho.int) at their earliest convenience and no later than 30 September 2020. Nominations will remain open until the first day of IRCC12 VTC meeting.

6. The list of the IRCC members is provided in Annex-B and also maintained on the IRCC web page under the Basic Documents. Regular IRCC meetings are normally attended by the IRCC members and also open to all Member States who may wish to participate. However, due to the video meeting circumstance and technical restrictions, it is required to limit the number of participants. In this respect, the IRCC12 VTC meeting will be only for IRCC Members and a limited number of representatives from the IHO Member States who wish to participate in the VTC meeting which will be based on advance registration.

7. Members of the IRCC and representatives of the Member States who wish to attend the meeting are requested to register in the IHO Online Registration System using the address <https://iho.int/en/online-registration> preferably not later than 25 September 2020. The list of participants will be available on the IRCC12 web page.

8. Instructions for joining the meeting through VTC will be posted on the IRCC12 web page and a test session will be planned for the week before the event and announced by email.

9. According to arrangements outlined at the IRCC11 meeting, the IRCC13 meeting is planned to be held at the IHO Secretariat in Monaco in June 2021, in conjunction with the Peak Day of the IHO Centenary Celebrations (21 June 2021). The IRCC14 meeting is scheduled in Ecuador or Japan in 2022 (to be confirmed). Proposals for hosting the meeting in 2023 (IRCC15) are welcome at any time and preferably at IRCC12.

On behalf of the Secretary-General

Yours sincerely,



Mustafa IPTES
IHO Director

Annex-A: Draft Agenda and Timetable of IRCC12 VTC meeting.

Annex-B: List of IRCC Members.

**12th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC12
VTC, 6-7 October 2020**

DRAFT AGENDA AND TIMETABLE (Version 1)

Note: Presenters of papers in parentheses ().

| Time CEST UTC+1 | DAY ONE OF IRCC12 VTC– Tuesday 6 October | Action |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| 10h00 | Opening of the Online System | All |
| 10h30 | <p>1. Opening Remarks and Administrative Arrangements <i>Docs: IRCC12-01A List of Documents (Secretariat)</i> <i>IRCC12-01B List of Participants (Secretariat)</i> <i>IRCC12-01C List of IRCC Members (Secretariat)</i></p> <p>Opening of the meeting and welcome. Chair will give the opening remarks and then invite the IHO Secretary-General / Director to address the participants. Documents are presented and updated as necessary.</p> | Chair/ Rep. of IHO Secretariat |
| 10h45 | <p>2. Approval of Agenda <i>Doc: IRCC12-02 Agenda and Timetable (Secretariat)</i></p> <p>Participants are invited to comment on the agenda and timetable in case updates are necessary. Agenda is adopted.</p> | Chair |
| 10h50 | <p>3. Matters arising from Minutes of IRCC11 Meeting <i>Docs: IRCC12-03A Minutes of IRCC11 (Secretariat)</i> <i>IRCC12-03B Status of Action List from IRCC11 (Secretariat)</i></p> <p>Approval of the IRCC11 Minutes. List of Actions from IRCC11 is reviewed and updated.</p> | Chair / Secretariat |
| 11h10 | <p>4. Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) 4.1 RHC Reports (General summary from the IRCC Secretariat)</p> <p>Secretary of the IRCC will summarize the important parts of the reports of the RHCs submitted to the A-2, regarding the achievements, challenges faced and lessons learned.</p> | Secretary |
| 11h30 | <p>5. The consequences of the pandemic on RHC activities and business continuity of the IRCC Subordinate Bodies 5.1 The consequences of the pandemic on RHC activities and IRCC Subordinate Bodies in terms of business continuity will be discussed and considered.</p> | Chairs of the RHCs and IRCC subordinate bodies |
| 12h00 | Group Photo (screen capture) followed by Break | Secretariat |
| 13h00 | <p>6. Capacity Building, IHO Education Requirements and E-Learning 6.1 The level of CB activities will be presented and considered. 6.2 The education requirements and difficulties for hydrographic surveying and nautical cartography trainings will be discussed. 6.3 The use of online courses, seminars and potential e-learning activities will be discussed. IHO E-Learning Center proposed by ROK to A-2 (Pro 3.3) will be presented to the participants.</p> | Chair, Chair of the CBSC, Secretary |

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| 14h00 | <p>7. MSDI and update on UN-GGIM activities</p> <p>7.1 Importance of MSDI activities</p> <p>The increasing importance of the MSDI will be considered. It has been observed how digital data has played an important part in the current global pandemic. Nations have been able to use digital data to map out and track people, resources at national, regional and international levels. It is considered that there is a great opportunity for member States to be able to capitalize on the digital data that have been developed and have been implemented some standards for users in their study on global impact such as climate change, natural disasters and carrying out pre-emptive work to protect marine resources.</p> <p>7.2 Update on UN-GGIM activities</p> <p>The Update on UN-GGIM activities will be presented. The IHO is collaborating at a UN level under UN-GGIM to address and integrate between marine and land digital data. The IHO has global standards for a wide range of marine digital data and working with OGC on this issue to make data available for wider use.</p> | <p>Chair, Chair of the MSDIWG</p> <p>Chair, Secretary</p> |
| 14h30 | END OF DAY ONE | Chair |
| Time | DAY TWO OF IRCC12 VTC – Wednesday 7 October | Action |
| 10h30 | <p>8. Ocean Mapping Activities</p> <p>8.1 Crowd Sourced Bathymetry</p> <p>The increasing level of engagement to support the CSB by member States will be discussed. The CSB data could be used not only to address navigation safety but can also be used for other purposes such as natural disasters, hydrodynamics and climate change. The CSB could help build up IHO's digital data base and these could be shared and support the Seabed 2030 project.</p> <p>8.2 Update on Seabed 2030 project</p> <p>Developments of the Seabed 2030 project will be presented</p> <p>8.3 Update on the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030</p> <p>IHO relationship with UN Decade of Ocean Science will be discussed. UN Decade of Ocean Science presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to deliver scientific knowledge, foster technological innovation, and build capacity to achieve the 2030 Agenda and reverse the decline of ocean health. This will be a truly global effort based on inclusive partnerships flourishing in a global research and innovation ecosystem.</p> | <p>Chair, Chair of the CSBWG</p> <p>Chair of the GGC / Director of SB2030 Project</p> <p>Chair, Secretariat, All</p> |
| 11h30 | <p>9. WEND-100 principles</p> <p>9.1 Progress on WEND-100 principles will be presented and discussed.</p> | Chair, Chair of the WENDWG |
| 12h00 | Break | |
| 13h00 | <p>10. Next IRCC Meetings (Venue and Date)</p> <p>Definition of the dates and venue for IRCC13 and confirmation of the dates and venue for IRCC14. Participants are expected to offer to host IRCC15. The current status is:</p> | Chair / Secretariat |

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|-------|--|---------------------------------|
| | IRCC13: 22-24 June 2021 – Monaco IRCC14: May / June 2022 – Ecuador or Japan-TBD IRCC15: May / June 2023 – TBD | |
| 13h15 | 11. Any other business Participants are invited to present other business items (if any). | Chair / Secretariat |
| 13h30 | 12. Review of the Actions and Decisions <i>Docs: IRCC12-12A Draft List of Actions from IRCC12 (Secretariat)</i> <i>IRCC12-12B Draft List of Decisions from IRCC12 (Secretariat)</i> <i>IRCC12-12C Draft List of Recommendations to RHCs (Secretariat)</i> Review of the actions, decisions and recommendations agreed during the meeting. Documents <i>IRCC12-12A</i> , <i>IRCC12-12B</i> and <i>IRCC12-12C</i> will be drafted during the meeting. | Chair / Secretariat / All |
| 13h45 | 13. IRCC Work Programme Management <i>Docs: IRCC12-13A IHO Work Programme for 2021-2023 (Secretariat)</i> <i>IRCC12-13B Draft IRCC Work Programme (Secretariat)</i> Discussion to build the IRCC Work Programme for 2020-2021 considering the impact of the IHO Work Programme 2020 and 2021-2023. Draft Document <i>IRCC12-13B</i> will be uploaded on the web before the meeting. | Chair / Secretariat / All |
| 14h00 | 14. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair <i>Doc: IRCC12-14A Election of Chair and Vice-Chair (IHO Sec.)</i> | Chair, Secretariat |
| 14h15 | 15. Closure Chair ends the meeting. | Chair |
| 14h30 | END OF THE MEETING | Chair |

LIST OF IRCC MEMBERS**IRCC Chair and Vice Chair**

Chair: Dr Parry S.L. OEI (Singapore) parry_OEI(*)mpa.gov.sg
 Vice Chair: Thomas DEHLING (Germany) thomas.dehling(*)bsh.de

Secretariat

IHO Director Mustafa IPTES (until 31 August 2020) mustafa.iptes(*)iho.int
 IHO Director Luigi SINAPI (after 1 September 2020) luigi.sinapi(*)iho.int
 IHO Assistant Director Leonel MANTEIGAS leonel.manteigas(*)iho.int

RHC Chairs:

| RHC | Chair | e-mail |
|--------|--|-----------------------------------|
| NHC | Mr Arni Thor VESTEINSSON (Iceland) | arni.vesteinsson(*)lhg.is |
| NSHC | Mr Koen VANSTAEN (Belgium) | koen.vanstaen(*)mow.vlaanderen.be |
| MBSHC | Capt J. Daniel GONZALEZ-ALLER | ihmesp(*)fn.mde.es |
| BSHC | Dariusz KOLATOR (Poland) | d.kolator(*)ron.mil.pl |
| USCHC | Dr Geneviève BECHARD (Canada) | genevieve.bechard(*)dfo-mpo.gc.ca |
| EAHC | Dr Yukihiro KATO (Japan) | ico(*)jodc.go.jp |
| EAtHC | Cdre CE OKAFOR (Nigeria) | info(*)nnho.ng |
| SEPRHC | RAdm Juan Francisco Herrera (Colombia) | dimar(*)dimar.mil.co |
| SWPHC | Mr Adam Greeland (New Zealand) | agreenland(*)linz.govt.nz |
| MACHC | Mrs Kathryn RIES (USA) | kathryn.ries(*)noaa.gov |
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| RSAHC | Mr Nader PASANDEH (Iran, IR of) | pasandeh(*)pmo.ir |
| SWAtHC | Capt José DOMINGUEZ (Uruguay) | sohma(*)armada.mil.uy |
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Subordinated bodies:

| | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| HCA | Dr Mathias JONAS (IHO) | mathias.jonas(*)iho.int |
| WWNWS- | Mr Peter M DOHERTY (USA) | peter.m.doherty(*)nga.mil |
| CBSC | Mr Evert FLIER (Norway) | evert.flier(*)kartverket.no |
| WENDWG | Mr John Nyberg (USA) | john.nyberg (*)noaa.gov |
| MSDIWG | Mr Jens Peter WEISS HARTMANN | jepha(*)gst.dk |
| IENWG | Mr Pierre-Yves DUPUY (France) | pierre-yves.dupuy(*)shom.fr |
| CSBWG | Ms Jennifer JENCKS (USA) | jennifer.jencks(*)noaa.gov |
| IBSC | Mr Ron FURNESS (Australia) | ron.furness.ibsc(*)gmail.com |
| GEBCO | Mr Shin TANI (Japan) | soarhigh(*)mac.com |

Rule of Procedure 1: The Committee shall be composed of the Chairs of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions; the Chairs of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA), the Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC), the Worldwide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS-SC), the Worldwide ENC Database Working Group (WENDWG), the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group (MSDIWG), the IHO-EU Network Working Group (IENWG), the Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG), the International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) and the IHO-IOC General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) Guiding Committee. Committee Meetings shall be open to all Member States of the IHO. International Organizations and accredited Non-Government International Organizations (NGIOs) may attend Committee Meetings.