

21st Meeting of the Meso American & Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC21)

Video-teleconference (VTC), 30 November to 3 December

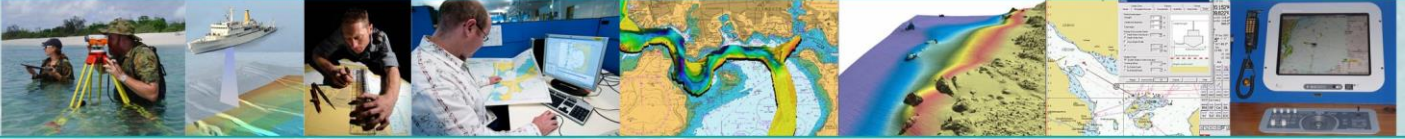
Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2020	
Task 3.2.1.5	Prepare for and report meetings of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions: MACHC

The 21st Meeting of the Meso American & Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC21), initially planned to be held in New Orleans (USA), was held in a VTC format due to the COVID-19 pandemic from 30 November to 3 December 2020.



Some participants at the MACHC21 Meeting

The conference was organized in two parts, a pre-conference that was constituted by an intensive group of 4 webinars related to Seabed 2030 and four meetings: the MACHC International Charting Coordination (MICC) WG; the MACHC Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MMSDI) WG; the Capacity Building(CB) and Crowd Source Bathymetry; and, the Capacity Building Committee. The second and last parts formed the main conference which were divided into 4 days with 8 sessions of 1.5 hours each.



This region has fifteen members, thirteen associate members and two observers. A total of ninety-seven participants attended the meeting. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Luigi Sinapi and Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas.

The meeting commenced with welcome words by the MACHC Chair Ms Kathryn Ries (USA), followed by the address of the representatives from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), RAdm Tim Gallaudet, the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, RAdm John Okon, and VAdm Robert Sharp, the Commander of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). IHO Director Luigi Sinapi then also provided his opening remarks.

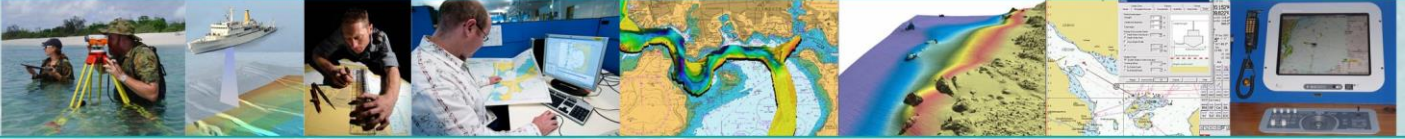
The meeting proceeded with the approval of the agenda and the matters arising from the previous MACHC 20 Meeting and the respective list of actions.

Director Sinapi provided an overview of the MACHC membership enhancing the fact that in the region there are many non-member States. He reported on the IHO Work Programme and the Organization's activities during the previous year, the future IHO Outreach and about the outcome of the 2nd Assembly (A-2) and the 4th meeting of the Council (C-4). He specified the approval by the A-2 of the new IHO Strategic Plan and S-100 Roadmap and the task to the Council to proceed with their implementation. Furthermore, the Assembly approval of two new IHO CB projects was reported, one proposed by Canada on Empowering Women in Hydrography and one on the establishment of a new IHO E-learning Center hosted by the Republic of Korea. Director Sinapi also invited MACHC to examine their respective instruments to ensure compliance with the recommendations of the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended by A-2.

The Meeting proceeded with the update on the outcomes from the IRCC12 and HSSC12 meetings, mainly focused on the actions and recommendations relevant to MACHC. Then a presentation of the IMO/IHO World-Wide Navigational Warning Service NAVAREA IV / XII was provided, enhancing the fact that, after the MSI course in 2019, an additional 11 Countries started to provide MSI information.

During the session dedicated to Nautical Charts and Publications, the MACHC International Charting Coordination (MICC) WG presented a report on the developed activities, and the schemes of ENC's and INT charts. The rest of this session was dedicated to S57 to S-101 conversion, with the example of France and some solutions from Industry.

With regards to Capacity Building, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the CB work program and the plan for 2021-23 were explained. The Caribbean Regional Track of the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) Programme was presented, followed by the new IHO CB project proposed by Canada on Empowering Women in Hydrography and supported by the USA. Finally, representatives of the Industry presented their solutions on CB support.



The following session was dedicated to the MACHC Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure. A presentation related to Risk Assessment and Mitigation Measures of Maritime Navigation in the Caribbean Sea and an overview on the Caribbean geospatial development initiative were presented. In the end, representatives of the Industry presented their views and solutions on MSDI.

Due to their large number, Members and Associate Members were divided into three different groups to present their national reports.

The last day started with the Survey and Risk initiative. The MACHC - IOCARIBE Seabed 2030 strategy for 2021-2030 was presented along with the three goals. The International Bathymetric Chart of the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico (IBCCA) – a regional cartographic project of great importance for the region, sponsored by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO – was presented. This session ended with a presentation on the Economic Assessment of Risks in Maritime Navigation across the Greater Caribbean Region, and a presentation of a representative of the Industry, proposing solutions to support the Survey and Risk initiative.

The Disaster Response session started with a presentation of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, followed by some presentations related to disaster response to practical situations, such as an oil spill in Brazil and hurricanes in USA and Colombia.

At the end of the meeting, VAdm Edgar Barbosa (Brazil) was elected as the new MACHC Chair, and RAdm Rhett Hatcher (United Kingdom) as the new Vice-Chair, both taking over on 1 March 2021.

The draft List of Actions and Decisions was reviewed and it was decided that the next meeting will be hosted by the U.S.A. in Miami - Florida or in New Orleans – Louisiana, from 29 November to 3 December 2021.