

**20<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE NORTH INDIAN OCEAN  
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
Video-conference, 13, 14 & 15 July**

<b>Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2021</b>	
Task 3.2.1.9	Attendance of the North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission Conference

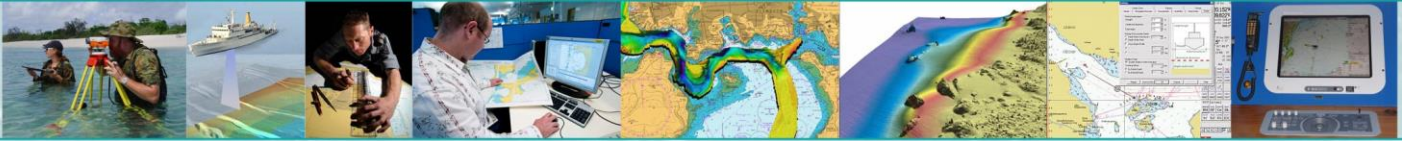
The 20<sup>th</sup> Conference of the North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC), originally planned to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, was held in a virtual format on 13, 14 and 15 July 2021, under the chairmanship of Rear Admiral Y. N. JAYARATHNA, Chief Hydrographer of the Sri Lanka Navy.

NIOHC Member State representatives from Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the United Kingdom attended the meeting together with representatives of Associate Members from France, Mauritius, Oman, Seychelles and USA. Jordan, Maldives and Yemen were represented as Observer States. Representatives of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), International Centre for ENC (IC-ENC) and three industry stakeholders also attended as invited observers. Director Abri Kampfer represented the IHO Secretariat.

The NIOHC20 meeting was preceded by the INT Chart Coordination Working Group (NICCWG) that held a meeting on 12 July after which a report was prepared for the NIOHC20 conference.

The NIOHC received reports from Member States, Associate Member States and Director Kampfer briefed the Commission on the outcomes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the IHO Assembly, the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IHO Council and last meetings of the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee and the Inter Regional Coordination Committee. The meeting also received reports on progress and issues related to the work of the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group, the Worldwide ENC Database Working Group, and reports from the NAVAREA VIII and NAVAREA IX coordinators.

The Capacity Building (CB) work plan for 2021 to 2023 was presented and the Commission was informed of the Empowering Women in Hydrography project and invited to participate. In relation to CB funds, almost all 2020 CB projects were moved to 2021 and 2022. The IHO e-Learning Center Project Team established TOR and ROP, with good expectations to receive contents from some Working Groups (WG) and Institutions. It is expected that the Guidelines will be finished by next September, in order to start the operational tests with the IHO Member States in 2022. The NOIHC Statutes Working Group reported on the review of the NIOHC



statues and recommended revisions and amendments that were accepted by the Commission.

The NIOHC CSB/Seabed 2030 Coordinator (India) provided feedback on the progress of CSB. The Circular Letters (IHO CL 21/2020 and IRCC CL 1/2020) that requested MS to indicate their positions on the provision of CSB data received 30 positive replies so far. The quality of data has grown considerably in the last years and the Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB) has received CSB data from 185 contributing vessels. The DCDB has implemented a geographic filter considering MS positions on the collection of CSB data in the areas of jurisdiction. The result is that data from only 13 CSB-supporting countries are currently discoverable and accessible via the DCDB viewer that allows to discover the archived data.

The meeting received presentations from the industry representatives. These highlighted new technologies and the role of industry in the introduction of S-100 and its related products. Industry representatives were keen to emphasise their willingness to engage with the NIOHC and its members to assist the development of hydrographic and cartographic capability within the region.

Indonesia, the current Vice-Chair of the NIOHC, will assume the Chair of the NIOHC within the next four months in accordance with the Statutes of the Commission. There were no nominations for the Vice-Chair position. The next meeting venue and date will be decided once there is more certainty on the available options.



Some participants of the NIOHC20 Conference.