

**15TH MEETING OF THE SOUTH WEST ATLANTIC
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (SWAtHC)
VTC, 30 August and 1 September**

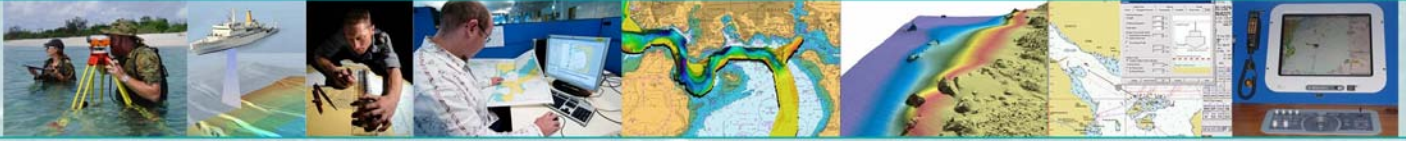
Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2021	
Task 3.2.1.13	Prepare for and report meetings of the South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (SWAtHC)

The 15th Meeting of the South West Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (SWAtHC15) initially planned to take place on 13-14 March 2021 in Montevideo, Uruguay, was held on 31 August and 1 September 2021 by VTC, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 34 delegates attended the meeting, chaired by Commodore Valentín Alejandro Sanz Rodríguez (Argentina). All IHO Member States of the Commission (Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay) were represented, as well as the Associate Member State, Paraguay and the Observer State, Bolivia. The meeting was also attended by the IHO Council Chair, Geneviève Bécharde. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Luigi Sinapi and Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas.

The SWAtHC15 meeting was preceded by a Workshop on Hydrographic Awareness, held on 30 August. The Workshop was opened by Captain José Domínguez, Director of the Uruguay HO and had several participants.

The SWAtHC15 meeting was opened by the Chair, Commodore Valentín Alejandro Sanz Rodríguez (Argentina), who welcomed the participants, regretted the fact that was not possible to have an in-person meeting and highlighted the fact that this was the first VTC meeting of the Region. IHO Director Luigi Sinapi mentioned the importance of the meeting, stressing that this was the first meeting after the 2nd Session of the IHO assembly, the 4th meeting of the Council and IRCC13. Several initiatives involving the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC), such as the participation in international initiatives for ocean mapping, the implementation of the IHO Strategic Plan and the S-100 Implementation Roadmap were mentioned.

Director Sinapi reported on IHO and SWAtHC membership and on the outcomes of the 4th Council and 2nd Session of the IHO Assembly (A-2). The revised IHO Resolution 2/1997 – Establishment of RHC, the new IHO Strategic Plan and the Roadmap for the implementation of the IHO Universal Data Model (S-100) was highlighted. A-2 approved two new IHO CB projects, one proposed by Canada on Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH) and the other on the establishment of a new IHO E-learning Center sponsored by Republic of Korea. The establishment of a joint IHO-Singapore Innovation and Technology Laboratory in Singapore was also approved by the A-2. Director Sinapi invited SWAtHC to examine their respective instruments to ensure compliance with the recommendations of the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended by A-2. He also provided an overview on the IHO Capacity Building Programme, Maritime Safety Information Services, Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry, GEBCO and Seabed2030, IHO GIS and Database and, finally, IHO Outreach, highlighting



the IHO Centenary celebrations and the recent launch of the new IHO website of the International Hydrographic Review (IHR).



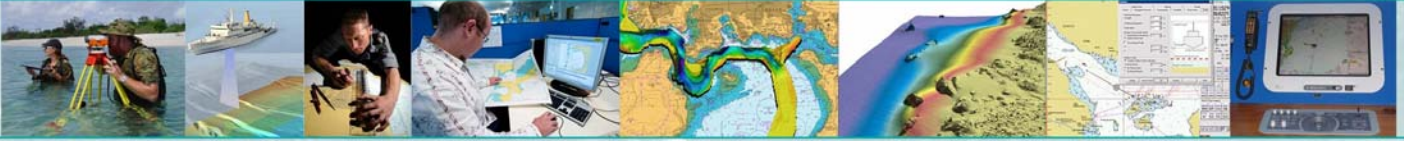
Participants of the SWAtHC15 meeting.

The meeting proceeded with the update on the outcomes of the 4th Council and IRCC13 where, in addition to the topics mentioned in the IHO Secretariat Report, it was highlighted that all the RHC (including SWAtHC) were invited by the IHO Council to participate in the development of a definition of hydrographic interest and the Guideline related to the S-100 Products implementation.

The Regional Capacity Building Coordinator, Captain Helber Carvalho (Brazil) reported on the most recent CB activities, mentioning the establishment of a Project Team (PT) to revise the CB Strategy. He also provided an overview on the status of the CB Work Programme, the report of the PT E-learning related to the future IHO E-learning Center and its Guideline. The presentation provided by Spain on the courses for students coming from other Countries, the executed activities in 2020 and the projects planned for 2021 and 2022 were also mentioned .

During the meeting an update on the activities of the Crowd Source Bathymetry WG, the Sub-Committee on the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service (WWNWS-SC), including an analysis on the evolution of the navigational warnings and the use of SafetyNETII and the related costs with the Iridium SafetyCast was provided.

All Members, the Associate Member and the Observer State, briefed the participants on achievements, challenges, lessons learned and opportunities achieved during the COVID pandemic. The representative of Bolivia mentioned that Bolivia started the internal process to



become an IHO Member State and stated the expectation that the Technical Visit planned in 2021 – and now moved to 2022 – will help to identify recommendations and necessary actions to increase the hydrographic capacity.

Brazil presented a proposal from MACHC International Chart Coordinator to adjust the northern limit of the SWAtHC by one degree, in order to allow the MACHC Region to extend its southern limit by one degree south and include all the River Amazonas Basin. As the proposal was approved, the need to amend the SWAtHC Statutes was identified. The revision of the Statutes should not only incorporate the change of the northern limit of the Region, but also adopt the recommendations of the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended by A-2, and then clarify some articles and terms used.

The Planning Committee briefed the Commission on INT and ENC Nautical Cartographic coverage, recognized courses, the procedure to exchange Nautical Publications and the respective Work Plan. The meeting was also updated on the S-100 Implementation Roadmap and the dual-fuel concept.

The next SWAtHC meeting will take place in April or August 2022 in Montevideo, Uruguay.