



6th Meeting of the IHO Council

Report and proposals from IRCC

Agenda Item C6-04.2A

C-6, VTC, 18 – 20 October 2022



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IRCC REPORT

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The 14th meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC-14) was held in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia, in a hybrid format from 6 to 8 June 2022, hosted by Pushidrosal, the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Centre of the Indonesian Navy.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Thomas Dehling (Germany) and attended by 95 registered participants, 39 in person and 56 by VTC, from 39 Member States. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Luigi Sinapi and Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas in-person.

The IRCC reviewed the reports and activities of its subordinate bodies and the RHCs. IRCC also considered the outcomes of the 5th meeting of the IHO Council (C-5). IRCC-13 was held as vtc 23-25 June 2021



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Difficulties and challenges yet to be addressed

IRCC, RHCs and the subordinate bodies are still affected by CoVID-19 in the conduct of their work.

The capacity building activities are very much constraint by the very limited funds available, especially the funds not earmarked to specific activities.



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IRCC REPORT – RHC AND HCA -1-

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The main concerns were related to

- the need to complete the IHO Strategic Plan gap analyses
- the determination of SPI values at regional level
- the collaboration and coordination in the implementation of the S-100 Roadmap.

Some RHCs' Chairs mentioned the

- progress in the GEBCO programme and
- the need to increase the Capacity Building fund at regional level and the inter-regional cooperation to benefit from the IHO CB activities.



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IRCC REPORT – RHC AND HCA -2-

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SWPHC Chair was requested to investigate possibilities to organize a workshop on environmental emissions from shipping (COP26 outcome) and on Cyber Security, and to liaise with the HSSC to provide contents.

IRCC noted the proposal by HCA regarding the recognition of the Southern Ocean by means of an IHO resolution to be proposed to A3, and invited HCA to initiate the debate on how the climate change related activities can be further investigated and what can be the role of the IHO.



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IRCC REPORT - MSI

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WWNWS-SC Chair informed on the approval of the IMO NAVTEX Manual for submission to NCSR 9.

SPI 3.1.1 at the end of 2021 was at 62%(target 90%), based on how many Coastal States provided information internally to the NAVAREAs (143 Coastal States out of 230).

New version of the joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on MSI is expected in January 2024. The endorsement of S-124 Ed. 1.0.0 is expected by September 2022 with a subsequent submission to HSSC for approval.

It has to be noted that MSI providers, should they implement Iridium SafetyCast services, are compelled to bear the burden of all additional costs, as a consequence of the approval by IMO Member States of the Iridium SafetyCast as an RMSS. This causes concerns for Coastal States.



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IRCC REPORT – CAPACITY BUILDING

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Capacity Building Management

- CBSC Chair presented the CB Work Program
- The generous financial contributions from Republic of Korea and Nippon Foundation from Japan were recognized, as well as the contribution of Canada to the Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH) project.
- The progress of the IHO e-learning center at KHOA was presented. The Committee recognized the significant effort from CB coordinators to assess the needs



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IRCC REPORT – CAPACITY BUILDING



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CB Fund

The total funds for CBWP non-earmarked projects limits the attribution of funds to the activities submitted by the RHC's.

The funds attributed by the IHO in the last years had a tendency to decrease that was in part compensated by the contributes from ROK to also this kind of funds.

However, in the end of 2021 the activities funded with non earmarked funds not executed presented a value of 420,942.78 euros that were carried over to 2022 due to the accumulation of the non executed projects related with the COVID Pandemic.



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IRCC REPORT – CAPACITY BUILDING

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CB Strategy

The revised Capacity Building Strategy was approved by IRCC.

The Council is invited to endorse the revised CB Strategy and forward it to the 3rd Session of the IHO Assembly for adoption. (Annex A);



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IRCC REPORT – CAPACITY BUILDING



Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH)

- The 1st year EWH project's activities were presented, as well as the ones planned for the 2nd year.
- CL to be informed on the percentage of employees of Hydrographic Offices that are female and the percentage of women currently in leadership roles.



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IRCC REPORT – WEND WG

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Worldwide ENC Database Working Group (WENDWG) Chair reported on the S-101 Scheming guidelines, noting that the consensus for a Global Common Grid Scheme was not reached yet.

WENDWG agreed on the proposed way forward on the development of INTToGIS III which will use S-128, to allow hydrographic offices and other users to visualize S-1xx product coverage in the future.

A WEND-100 Product Matrix to help ensure that UN-GGIM framework pathway principles are being considered as new S-1XX products become available.



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IRCC REPORT – WEND WG

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It was recommended that a S-1xx Coordinator role is established in the RHCs, either as separate from the Chart Coordinator's role or as a combined one.

The first iteration of the 'Guidelines on the implementation of the WEND-100 principles' version 1.0 has been presented. IRCC approved the Guidelines as an appendix to Annex 3 of the Roadmap for the S-100 Implementation Decade (2021-2030).

Council 6 is invited for endorsement.



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IRCC REPORT - MSDI

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Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group (MSDIWG)

- Joint IHO-Singapore Innovation and Technology Laboratory launch in October 2021 along with a Webinar Series on Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management.
- MSDIWG 13 meeting organized as a joint meeting together with the Marine Domain Working Group (MDWG) of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) and the UN-GGIM Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information (WG-MGI), combined with an International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management in May 2022.
- Importance of FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Re-usable) for HOs were enhanced and the MSDIWG intends to provide guidance on how IHO MS can use the FAIR principles in their work and develop an HO MSDI FAIR principles check list.



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IRCC REPORT - MSDI

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- The concept of Maritime Digital Twins was included in the MSDI WG work plan that intends to provide recommendations on how MSDI and HOs can be part of Digital Twins in the future.
- The process to update the IHO Publication C-17 to have a better alignment and integration with IGIF and IGIF-H was initiated.
- MSDI WG Chair Jens Peter Hartmann stepped down as he left the Danish Geodata Agency.



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IRCC REPORT – IHO-EU NETWORK



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The IHO-EU Network Working Group (IENWG) reported on

- the 10th Anniversary of the signature of IHO-EC MoU celebrated on 6 May 2022,
- the interoperability between EMODnet and the IHO standards,
- the Maritime Spatial Planning-MSP becoming a major topic interesting Europe and
- the EU Directive on Public Sector Information with potential impact on the resources of the HOs



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IRCC REPORT – STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE

STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE
FOR CATEGORY "A" HYDROGRAPHIC
SURVEYORS

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FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) report

- at IBSC45 meeting 13 submissions were received, 3 were recognized and for the remaining 10, the Board offered 10 inter-sessional revisions.
- Need to improve the quality of initial submissions
- Revised IBSC ToR with 2 more members from the ICA were approved.
- The Board mentioned that 3 Interns from the EWH-project participated in the IBSC45 successfully.



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IRCC REPORT – CROWD SOURCED BATHYMETRY



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The Crowdsourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG) Chair reported on the last meetings and on the achievements of CSBWG and DCDB.

The WG approved the IHO Publication B-12 - Guidance on Crowdsourced Bathymetry Edition 3.0.0. The new edition was endorsed by IRCC and will be submitted to IHO Member States for approval.

The RHCs were invited to encourage all Member States to respond to IHO CL 21/2020 to enable provision of CSB data collected from ships within waters subject to their national jurisdiction into the public domain.

CSBWG will investigate the establishment of a Seabed 2030/CSB Coordinator Collaboration Team within the CSBWG.



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IRCC REPORT – OCEAN MAPPING AND GEBCO

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The GEBCO Guiding Committee Chair reported on the status of Seabed 2030 in May 2022 and on the creation of a new GEBCO Sub-Committee on Education and Training – SCET, the GEBCO Governance Review Project Team led by IHO and IOC as GEBCO parent organizations, and GEBCO Strategic Plan Drafting Team to align GEBCO to the IHO Strategic Plan. The two biggest challenges of GEBCO remain “To share more existing bathymetric data” and “How to get the remaining 77% of our planet’s unmapped ocean seafloor mapped”. The Committee encouraged the RHCs to actively contribute with new data to GEBCO.



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IRCC REPORT – STRATEGIC PLAN

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- The IRCC Chair presented a proposal to measure the SPI allocated to IRCC. This proposal is a result of the discussions on SPI, taking into account the various contributions and describes the best way forward. The proposal was approved by the IRCC. The IHO Secretariat, RHCs and IRCC subordinate bodies were invited to derive figures on the SPI allocated to IRCC. The approved proposal is attached to this report (Annex C). Council-6 is invited to endorse the proposal.



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IRCC REPORT - IRCC WORKSHOPS

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- First Workshop in 2021 on Strategic Plan (reported at C-5)
- Second Workshop in April 2022 on SPI
- Plans to have regular Workshops on important topics
- Following the proposal from SWPHC, next Workshop planned for December on how to engage with international and regional agencies, development partners and coastal states to support knowledge and understanding of hydrography and the value associated with open data policies in respect of marine geospatial information.



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Actions required of the Council -1-

The Council is invited to:

- a) note the report of the IRCC;
- b) note the concern of MS that MSI providers, should they implement Iridium SafetyCast services, are compelled to bear the burden of all additional costs, as a consequence of the approval by IMO Member States of the Iridium SafetyCast as an RMSS;
- c) endorse the revised CB Strategy and forward it to the 3rd Session of the IHO Assembly for adoption (Annex A);



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IRCC REPORT

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Actions required of the Council -2-

The Council is invited to:

- a) endorse the Guidelines on the implementation of the WEND-100 principles' version 1.0 as an appendix to Annex 3 of the Roadmap for the S-100 Implementation Decade (2021-2030).
- b) note the approbation of the revised IBSC Terms of Reference with the increase of 2 more members from the International Cartographic Association (ICA)
- c) endorse the IRCC approved “proposal regarding SPI allocated to IRCC” (Annex C)
- d) take any other action considered appropriate.