



7th Meeting of the IHO Council

Report and proposals from IRCC

Agenda Item C7-04.2A



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IRCC REPORT

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15th meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC-15)

Tokyo, Japan, from 12 to 14 June 2023, hosted by JHOD, the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department of the Japanese Coast Guard.

Chaired by Mr Thomas Dehling (Germany) and attended by 47 registered participants from 19 Member States.

IHO Secretariat: Director Luigi Sinapi and AD Leonel Manteigas



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Difficulties and challenges yet to be addressed

None, if the funding issue raised at C-6 and A-3 is considered being addressed by Decision 20 of A-3.



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IRCC15 had a particular focus on the 3rd Session of IHO Assembly's Decisions affecting IRCC prior to C-7 in order to be more efficient.

The relevant Decisions are dealt with in the respective topic in this report.



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IRCC REPORT - HSSC

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Hydrographic Standards and Services Committee (HSSC)

An ISO Cell was set up after HSSC13 to experiment with ISO 9001 in the development of S-101 Product Specifications.

On this, HSSC invited IRCC to consider mirroring such an ISO Cell on S-101 via the RHCs.

IRCC recommended RHCs to start producing S-101 and other S-100 Products by focusing on a specific part of the region.

HSSC endorsed the proposal from the UK for the IHO to consider the creation of a new annual award “champion of hydrography” across HSSC and IRCC (WGs, SCs and PTs).

IRCC also supported this proposal to be presented to C-7.



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IRCC REPORT - RHC

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Regional Hydrographic Commissions

The RHC Chairs main concerns were related to

- the need of collaboration and coordination in the implementation of the S-100 Roadmap,
- the need to increase the Capacity Building activities at regional levels,
- the lack of participation in the RHCs' activities and meetings

Good progress in the inter-regional cooperation and successful partnership with industry and stakeholders, especially in CB and new technology.

RHC Chairs were requested to discuss how HO's can assume a geo-coordinating role to help ensure provision of data on a regional level.



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IRCC REPORT - HCA

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Hydrographic Commission on the Antarctica

IRCC recommended RHC Chairs to ask their MS and potential contributors to consider the extended activities in the implementation of the S-100 Roadmap for the HCA region.

IRCC recommended RHCs and Subordinate Bodies to consider to open the debate on future engagement in climate change related activities in reference to strategic goal 3.

Decision A3-17



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IRCC REPORT - MSI

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Maritime Safety Information, WWNWS-SC

- had a joint meeting with WMO Worldwide Met-Ocean Information Warning Service,
- focused on S-124 progress and Iridium SafetyCast Implementation
- provided feedback on IHO SPI 3.1.1 assigned to WWNWS. 2023, WWNWS assessed MSI capacity to be 87% (target 90%).
- presented demo on C-55 GIS project that will be evaluated to be incorporated into the INTToGIS III.
- Reported that NCSR10 approved the joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information.
- IRCC recommended RHCs to encourage relevant MS to report to IMO and Chair of EGC Coordinating Panel on the progress of implementation of newly recognized mobile satellite services by MSI providers.



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IRCC REPORT – CAPACITY BUILDING

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- Generous financial contribution to Capacity Building namely from ROK, Nippon Foundation and Canada:
 - ✓ 1st IHO-ROK Cat. A Alumni Workshop was held in Busan, Republic of Korea from 12 to 14 September 2023, and
 - ✓ 3rd JCBP/IHO-Nippon Foundation CHART Project/IHO-Nippon Foundation GEOMAC Project Alumni Seminar will be held in London (UK) on 25-27 Oct. 2023.
- e-Learning Center: Guidelines finalized, composition of the Steering Committee proposed. IHO Secretariat informed MS via an IHO CL 24/2023. First meeting of the Steering Committee was held virtually on 25 Sep. 2023 with the following outcomes:
 - ✓ Chair and ViceChair were nominated
 - ✓ Need to identify or find a way to fulfil the role of the General Manager (GM)
 - ✓ Development of the Centre would be in phases with phase 1 focusing on the Centre being a catalogue of existing eLearning material or signposting to other eLearning Courses



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IRCC REPORT – CAPACITY BUILDING

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- C-55 publication improvement: survey status in countries based on CATZOC provided via the RENCs directly to the IHO Secretariat. Additional information from Seabed 2030.
- IRCC tasked CBSC to liaise with the RENCs and the IHO Secretariat to investigate which Member States are currently not contributing CATZOC data to the IHO Secretariat via the RENCs



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IRCC REPORT – GENDER EQUALITY

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A way-ahead for the EWH project was developed by Canada and supported by IHO Secretariat and IRCC.

It is proposing how the project could evolve into a programme and the possible ways to support, financially and in-kind.

The one-pager “Empowering Women in Hydrography: From Project to Program” is attached as Annex A.

Council is invited to discuss this proposal and to consider the implementation of a program called Gender Balance in Hydrography (GBH)



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IRCC REPORT – GENDER-INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

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Regarding the gender-inclusive language (Decision 9b of Assembly 3), IRCC asked the subordinate bodies to review the respective ROP and TOR on gender-inclusive language and encouraged RHCs with a similar recommendation. To monitor the evolution of the respective figures, the IHO Secretariat was asked to issue a questionnaire on gender balance via Circular Letter every 3 years before the Assembly.



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IRCC REPORT – WEND

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The WG completed a WEND-100 Product and Service Matrix using IGIF pathway principles to assist RHCs and MS. Responses to the Matrix were received from 8 of the RHCs resulting in an average total score of 45.85. The WG considered the WEND-100 Principles and S-1xx Implementation Guidelines to be in “maintenance mode” and included them as part of the regular agenda to consider updates as S-100 Products and Services mature.

IRCC commended KHOA for leading the INTToGIS III development, noting its importance for sharing S-100 product coverage into the future, encouraging submission of S-128 datasets for use in INTToGIS, and thanked NGA for the updates on NGA World Port Index and Global Maritime Traffic Density Service.

IRCC tasked WENDWG to liaise with HSSC on how to mirror the HSSC ISO Cell on S-101 with the following scope: RHC S-101 production/coordination/distribution in the near future.



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IRCC REPORT – MSDI

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The Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group (MSDIWG) embarked on an update of the C-17 publication (version 3.0)

- with a cookbook for HOs on also advancing existing MSDIs and addressing all levels of MSDI maturity - leaving no one behind;
- an “IGIF-aligned MSDI implementation”, explaining the bridge between the MSDI 4 pillars to the UN-GGIM IGIF 9 strategic pathways.

IRCC approved the application of ISO 9001- 7 Quality Management Principles from MSDI Perspective and for inclusion into IHO C-17 version 3.0, which was approved by IHO Member States (cfr. IHO CL 33/2023).

In accordance with A-3 Decision 8 point c), IRCC tasked MSDI to **not** invest in another portal, but to focus on the existing global thematic layers already available on the INTToGIS.



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IRCC REPORT – IHO EU NETWORK

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The IHO-EU Network Working Group (IENWG) and DG MARE discussed new opportunities for collaboration, covering also EU policies of interest for the IHO, projects and strategy.

The strategy for the IENWG is under review and the way forward under discussed, highlighting Maritime policies in order to continue to monitor and influence the EU policies, focusing on

- the development of the S-100 hydrographic products and services, in order to promote them across the European Commission;
- the IHO CB programme, in order to promote the development of hydrographic capacity within and outside the EU, in particular for safe sea lines with East Asia and Africa, in connection with IRCC initiatives to extend CB funds,
- the data collection.

The involvement of the IHO secretariat was recognized as an asset for the promotion of activities at high level in the EU Commission (Denmark via DMA and the IENWG are investigating for the active participation of the IHO S-G or his representative at the EMD 2024 in Svendborg – Denmark).



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IRCC REPORT – IBSC

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FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) reported on number and quality of submissions. A high number of inadequate submissions cause additional workload to the Board.

The Board decided to develop a pathway to recognize Subjects of the S-5 Standards S-5A & S-5B in addition to the recognition of full programmes.

The Board discussed the need to update the Standards and potentially create a new standard for Marine Spatial Data Professionals.

IRCC tasked the IBSC in liaison with the IHO Secretariat to organize an online IRCC workshop to provide clarifications for the institutions on the preparation of submissions to the Board.



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IRCC REPORT – CROWD SOURCED BATHYMETRY

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Crowdsourced Bathymetry within IHO has been matured and is looking ways to foster and facilitate contributions from data providers.

IRCC tasked the CSBWG in liaison with the IHO Secretariat to organize an online IRCC workshop on the benefit of Crowdsourced Bathymetry and how to expand data contribution.



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IRCC REPORT – DCDB

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Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB) reported on SPIs 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 in a way that allows better understanding on the evolution on the amount of data and number of contributors to DCDB who are not Hydrographic Offices.

Nearly 30 surveys from the ARHC region were added to the DCDB database since June 2022. For the next reports, DCDB would cooperate with RHCs to produce annual regional breakdowns of data holdings as part of SPI reporting.



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IRCC REPORT – GEBCO

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GEBCO Guiding Committee has been working on

- the celebrations of GEBCO 120th years of ocean discovery (the GEBCO week and *Map the Gaps Symposium* will be held in Monaco – 6-10 November 2023),
- a new GEBCO strategy,
- a GEBCO Code of Conduct, endorsed by IRCC and
- a GEBCO Governance review

High activity and intense cooperation with Seabed 2030

A new GEBCO Sub-Committee on Education and Training was established.



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IRCC REPORT – AD HOC PT ON FUNDING

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Decision 20 of A-3: The Assembly:

- a) recognized the important global maritime issues facing the hydrographic community worldwide and that addressing these issues will require expanded global hydrographic capacity.
- b) approved the proposal to establish an ad hoc Project Team under IRCC to explore the possible establishment of reliable alternative funding for activities including capacity building and GEBCO.
- c) authorized Council via IRCC to review progress reports from the Project Team at least annually and provide guidance to the Project Team in preparation to report out to 4th Assembly (A4).



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IRCC REPORT – AD HOC PT ON FUNDING

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Establishment of an ad hoc Project Team to explore the possible establishment of reliable alternative funding for activities including capacity building and GEBCO.

IRCC established a “Scoping Team for Fund Generation of IHO’ Project Initiatives PT” under the lead of Dr John Nyberg (IRCC Vice-Chair) to investigate potential additional sources of funding and the Project Team’s objectives for the following presentation to C-7.

The results of the Scoping Team are:

- Desired Project Team Participant Skill Sets
- Draft Project Terms of Reference



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IRCC REPORT – AD HOC PT ON FUNDING

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Draft Project Terms of Reference (excerpt)

1. Objectives; The PT will explore the possible establishment of alternative funding for activities including capacity building and a sustainable structure for IHO to manage S-100.
 - a) Identify the main IHO projects which would benefit from additional funding from alternative sources
 - b) Identify and evaluate options for tactical recurring funding opportunities for each of the projects identified under (a). Consideration will be given to funding sources such as RENCs as well as external sources such as multilateral organisations, commercial partners, philanthropic organisations, etc
 - c) Investigate and identify organisational, functional and resource requirements and gaps for the various types and/or sources of external funding.
 - d) Investigate and identify alignment and deviations from IHO rules, regulations and remit for the various types and/or sources of external funding.
 - e) Investigate and identify organisational, reputational, financial, legal and other risks to the IHO, Member States, beneficiaries and funders
 - f) Finalize an agreed report of recommendations for A4.



Draft Project Terms of Reference (excerpt)

2. The PT's authority is under the IRCC. Its work is subject to IRCC approval.

3. Composition and Chair

- a) The PT shall comprise representatives of IHO Members or non-Members (on invitation and without voting rights), RENC representatives, and representation as required from the IHO Secretariat. It may include industry participation or other subject matter experts (SME) as determined by the PT Chair by invitation only...
- b) The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be a representative of a MS. The election of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be decided at the first meeting of the PT and shall be determined by vote of the MS present and voting.
- c) If a secretary is required, it should normally be drawn from a member of the PT.

...

4. Procedures

1. The PT should work by a combination of correspondence, teleconferences, group meetings, and workshops. ...
2. Decisions ...
3. The PT should liaise with the CBSC and HSSC on a regular basis to ensure the relevance of its work for capacity building and standards development.
4. The PT must report to IRCC on its activities annually.



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IRCC REPORT – AD HOC PT ON FUNDING

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Next steps:

- Council is invited to note the IRCC activity related to decision 20 of A-3 and to give further guidance if appropriate
- IRCC will finalize and adopt TORs
- IHO Secretariat in liaison with IRCC Chair will call for nominations (via IHO CL) and subsequently install the ad hoc PT
- IRCC will report at C-8 on the progress and provide a final report at C-9



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Elections

The IRCC re-elected

Mr Thomas Dehling as IRCC Chair

and elected

Ms Jennifer Jencks as IRCC Vice-Chair

for the next 3 years by unanimity.



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IRCC Workshops

IRCC defined two new workshops for the intersessional period:

1. Workshop on IBSC submissions
2. Workshop on the benefits and the extension of contributions to CSB

The organization is on the respective subordinate bodies in liaison with IHO Secretariat.

The workshops will be open online events.



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Actions required of the Council

The Council is invited to:

- a) note the report of the IRCC;
- b) note the activities launched by IRCC regarding the decisions from A-3 related to WP 3;
- c) give further guidance on these activities if considered appropriate;
- d) consider the implementation of a program called Gender Balance in Hydrography (GBH);
- e) note the planned workshops on Standards of Competence and Crowd Sourced Bathymetry;
- f) take any other action considered appropriate.