

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER BULLETIN

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COMMITTEES - COMMISSIONS

9th MEETING OF THE IHO COMMISSION ON THE PROMULGATION OF RADIO NAVIGATIONAL WARNINGS (CPRNW) IHB, 11-14 September 2007.



The 9th meeting of the IHO Commission on the Promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings (CPRNW9) was held at the IHB from 11 – 14 September 2007 and was attended by 17 representatives from 13 Member States, including 9 NAVAREA Co-ordinators, 2 of the 3 new proposed NAVAREAS for the Arctic. Observers from IMO, IMSO and the WMO also attended. The Chairman Peter DOHERTY from the USA was re-elected as Chairman for the period 2008 – 2012.

The principal topics discussed were: the review of WWNWS documentation; expansion of the WWNWS into the Arctic; reports from the NAVAREA Co-ordinators; alternative means of MSI distribution; MSI Capacity Building training courses; and the reorganisation of the IHO committee structure. A more detailed CL has been sent to Member States and the full report will be available from the IHO website when approved by the Commission members.

83rd SESSION OF THE IMO MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE (MSC)
Copenhagen, Denmark, 3-12 October 2007.



The 83rd session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) was held in Copenhagen, Denmark from 3 – 12 October 2007, hosted by the Danish Government due to the extended refurbishment of the IMO Headquarters Building in London. The President and PAH represented the IHO.

MSC83 took, amongst others, the following actions:

- Approved the establishment of new NAVAREA in the Arctic;
- Approved COMSAR Circulars on NAVAREA Coordinators and improving the quality of MSI transmitted via the EGC SafetyNET system;
- Approved the revised Assembly resolution on the Provision of Mobile Satellite Communication Systems in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS);
- Adopted the new Traffic Separation Schemes (TSS), amendments to existing TSS, new mandatory ship reporting systems and amendments to existing mandatory ship reporting systems proposed by NAV and decided that these should be implemented at 0000 UTC on 1 May 2008 or 0000 UTC on 1 July 2008;
- Approved SN Circulars on RCDS/ECDIS and the maintenance of ECDIS software;
- Established a new high-priority work programme item for NAV and COMSAR for the “Development of Procedures for updating shipborne navigation and communication equipment”; and
- Agreed an implementation schedule for Long Range Identification and Tracking.

The full report of MSC 83 (MSC83/28), when issued, will be available from the IHO web site.

8th TIDAL COMMITTEE MEETING (IHOTC)
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada – 23-26 October 2007.

The 8th meeting of the IHO Tidal Committee (IHOTC) was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, from 23 to 26 October 2007. Representatives from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, UK and the USA attended the meeting. Representatives from the IHB, IOC/GLOSS, the Canadian Hydrographic Service and Mr. Dan PILLICH of BMT Asia Pacific attended as observers.

The meeting opened with welcoming addresses by Mr. Steve FORBES, Director of the Atlantic Region of the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS), Mr. Charlie O'REILLY, Canadian member of the IHOTC and Commander John PAGE, RN, Chairman. The Chairman particularly welcomed new representatives from Brazil, France, Norway and Spain who were attending an IHOTC meeting for the first time. The first session of the meeting was devoted to the traditional IHOTC seminar and on this occasion there were presentations on Vertical Datum transformation programmes from the UK and USA.



The following matters were discussed:

- Report of and matters arising from the XVIIth IHC, held in Monaco in May 2007, including the revised committee structure and the development of revised Terms of Reference;
- Update on the list of Tidal Constituents, available from the IHO web site;
- The XML schema for the Exchange of Harmonic Constants which, at the request of the IHOTC, was being developed by a TSMAD WG;
- The development of standards for digital tide tables as authorised by the IHC;
- The presentation of Secondary Port Data in tide tables;
- A naming convention for vertical datums;
- Vertical Reference framework developments;
- Update on the IOC / GLOSS programme;
- Changes in the range of tides as opposed to the generally accepted rise in MSL;
- Capacity Building;
- Review of tidal related IHO Technical Resolutions (M-3) and their agreement with IHO Charting Specifications (M-4);
- Progress on the translation, French to English, of the Manual on Tides written by the former IHOTC member from France, Mr Bernard SIMON.

The Chairman reported that this would be his final meeting as he would be retiring from the UKHO on 1 June 2008. The Committee elected Mr Stephen GILL of the USA (NOAA) as its Chairman for the period 2008 - 2012.

It was agreed that, pending formal agreement from Brazil, the 9th meeting should take place at the Brazilian Hydrographic Office in Niteroi, Brazil, in April 2009.

The full report will be available from the IHOTC section of the IHO web site (www.iho.org > Committees > TC).

The meeting concluded with a workshop and visit to the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, home of the Atlantic Region of the CHS.

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON
WORLDWIDE ENC DATABASE (WEND)**

IHB, 30 October 2007.



An Extraordinary Meeting of the Committee on WEND (X-WEND) met at the IHB on 30 October 2007 under the Chairmanship of Captain Abri KAMPFER (South Africa) to examine the status of production of ENCs and the possible problems that are connected with this and to discuss and decide the actions that are required for the IHO to fulfill its commitments to achieve adequate coverage, availability, consistency and quality of ENCs by 2010, in accordance with the relevant Resolutions approved at the 17th International Hydrographic Conference. The meeting was attended by representatives from 31 Member States, both RENCs, a number of accredited Non-Governmental International Organizations (NGIOs), and the Directing Committee of the IHB.

Various presentations were made to the X-WEND, including estimates on the current global coverage of ENC and the reported ENC coverage forecasts for 2010. Areas where there is limited or no current ENC production plans were identified. Information related to ENC consistency and ENC pricing was provided.

The Committee was briefed on the discussions at this year's meeting of the IMO Sub-Committee on the Safety of Navigation (NAV) regarding carriage requirements for ECDIS. The WEND Committee was briefed on the arguments raised at that meeting and on the significant importance to the IHO of ensuring that it presents a comprehensive and persuasive report of the status of global ENC coverage and availability at the next meeting of NAV. A decision on mandatory carriage requirements for ECDIS will be made at the next meeting of NAV in July 2008.

The Committee then drew up a list of topics that IHO and its Member State HOs must address to ensure that the IHO can provide an appropriate report to IMO NAV at its next meeting. Principal amongst these topics was a priority to ensure adequate ENC coverage for the world's major trading routes and ports, improving the consistency of ENCs, and acknowledging that the price of ENCs is a factor in the uptake of ECDIS.

The Committee also strongly encouraged HOs to follow the IHO guidelines on consistency of ENC data, especially the use of SCAMIN and noted that RENCs and RHCs have a vital role to play in ensuring consistency of ENCs.

The Committee agreed that ENC producer nations should take account of the comments made during the meeting regarding mariners' feedback on ENC pricing when they next consider their ENC pricing and distribution policies.

The Committee also provided outline guidance to the IHB on how the IHO's position should be presented at the next meeting of NAV.

MEETING OF IHO MEMBER STATES

IHB, Monaco, 31 October 2007.

A meeting of IHO Member States was held at the IHB on 31 October 2007 to consider the outcomes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Committee on WEND (X-WEND) held the previous day. The meeting was attended by the representatives from 31 Member States who had attended the Extraordinary Meeting of the Committee on WEND and the Directing Committee of the IHB.

The UKHO provided a detailed brief on its proposals to help increase the rate of ENC production and ENC consistency in those areas around the world where the major trading routes will otherwise not be adequately covered by ENCs in the near future. The UKHO has identified that 90% of the world's international shipping trades between 800 ports – of which 107, together with certain areas along the routes between the ports are likely to require some form of production assistance if continuous ENC coverage is to be achieved relatively quickly. The meeting agreed that the UKHO proposal has some merit and should be brought to the attention of all Member States for comments. This will be done by Circular Letter.

The meeting discussed the outcomes of the X-WEND meeting and then added more detail to those outcomes. Specific actions required prior to the next meeting of the IMO Sub-Committee on the Safety of Navigation (IMO NAV) were identified. These included that the IHO report to IMO NAV should include:

- ENC coverage progress and predictions;
- the various IHO and other plans and initiatives that are in hand for ENC coverage;
- illustrations of some example routes that are or will soon be covered by ENC;
- practical examples of the progress and improvements that have lately been made in harmonizing data;
- an explanation of ENC pricing policies including pricing trends and history;
- the increasing take-up rates for ENCs.

The meeting identified some specific actions that Member States could undertake including:

- participation in regional assistance programs;
- ensuring that their national maritime administrations were well informed on ENC and ECDIS.

The meeting agreed that the IHB should arrange an IHO information session/seminar at NAV (supported by UKHO, RENCs and others) prior to discussion in plenary. This should take a similar form to ones delivered to earlier sessions of NAV.

25th ISO/TECHNICAL COMMITTEE 211 WORKING GROUP AND PLENARY MEETINGS

Xi'an, China, 29 October - 2 November 2007.

The ISO Technical Committee 211 on Geographic Information/Geomatics held its 25th Plenary and Working Group Meetings in Xian, China, from 29 October to 2 November. Barrie GREENSLADE (UKHO) and Anthony PHARAOH (IHB) attended relevant working group and plenary meetings. In addition to the IHO, many other international and national standards development organizations participated in these meetings and the TC211 standards and technical specifications are being widely used for the development of geospatial standards.

Some of the resolutions passed during the plenary meeting included:

- The establishment of a new Working Group (10) for Ubiquitous Geographic Information - Ubiquitous Public Access.
- The establishment of a control body for the register of geodetic codes and parameters.
- The establishment of new projects for Dynamic Position Identification Schemes; revision of Quality Principles; Location Based Services and the revision of the conceptual schema language.

During a "Standards in Action" workshop, presentations on the following subjects were made:

- Geomatics Standardization in China.
- Geo-spatial Data Sharing and Interoperability Standards and Application in China.
- Metadata Standardization Activities in China.

- Metadata Activities with the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific.
- The Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure/GeoBase Interoperability Project.
- Ucode: An Efficient Tag-based Location Identification System for Ubiquitous Geographic Information.
- Building a Profile of TC211 Standards for the National System for Geospatial-Intelligence.

Further information on the ISO/TC211 work activities and documents is available from the TC211 web site at <http://www.isotc211.org/>

14th ABLOS BUSINESS MEETING
Dubrovnik, Croatia, 30-31 October 2007.



The 14th ABLOS Business Meeting was held in Dubrovnik, Croatia on 30-31 October 2007. The IHO members from Croatia, Japan and the UK and the Swedish representative from the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) attended. Apologies were received from the IHO member from Pakistan and the IAG member from Australia. Observers from Brazil, Croatia, Japan and the UK were also present. The IHB was represented by Lt.Cdr. S. SHIPMAN (PAH). Mr. Ron MACNAB, former IOC member from Canada, also attended the meeting, at the invitation of ABLOS, as he had offered to assist in organising the 5th ABLOS Conference in 2008.

ABLOS expressed concern that IAG had still not informed the Board of the names of the new IAG representatives but expressed its gratitude to the delegate from Sweden for attending, thereby allowing the Board to take its business forward. IAG would be consulted urgently on this matter. At its 13th Business Meeting in 2006, there being no IAG candidate for the position of Vice Chairman, ABLOS had appointed Dr. Zvonko GRŽETIĆ of Croatia as the acting Vice Chairman. There still being no IAG candidate ABLOS agreed that Dr. GRŽETIĆ should be confirmed as the Vice Chairman. The Board hoped to return to the normal position of having the Chairman and Vice Chairman from different parent organizations when Dr. GRŽETIĆ took over as Chairman from Mr. Shin TANI, at the conclusion of the 5th ABLOS Conference in 2008.

The principal matter discussed at the meeting was the 5th ABLOS Conference. It was agreed that this should be held at the IHB, in Monaco, on 16 and 17 October 2008 with the 15th Business meeting, also at the IHB, being held on 14 and 15 October. The title of the Conference will be "Difficulties in Implementing the Provisions of UNCLOS". An Organising Committee was established and a timescale for the activities to bring the Conference to fruition agreed. The details of the Conference will be shortly given a wide distribution.

The meeting also considered: the maintenance of the TALOS Manual, IHO publication S-51; reports from members who had attended conferences of relevance to ABLOS; and received presentations from Brazil, Canada and Japan on new developments relating to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS).

The minutes of the meeting will be placed on the IHO web site when available. The IHB is grateful to Croatia for the excellent arrangements made to host this meeting.

CHRIS 19 AND ECDIS STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 5 - 9 November 2007

The Committee on Hydrographic Requirements for Information Systems (CHRIS) met in Rotterdam from 5 to 9 November 2007 for its 19th Meeting (CHRIS/19). The meeting was held in two parts, with an ECDIS Stakeholders' Forum being held on 7 and 8 November. The CHRIS meeting was preceded by the usual Chair Group coordination meeting comprising the chairs of the various CHRIS subordinate bodies.

The CHRIS meeting, held at the site of the Europort Maritime 2007 exhibition, was chaired by the newly elected Chairman of CHRIS, Captain Vaughan NAIL (UK), and co-hosted by the Netherlands Hydrographic Office and the UKHO. 21 Member States and five Non Governmental International Organizations were represented. Dr Mathias Jonas, currently Chairman of the Colours and Symbols Maintenance Working Group, was elected unopposed as the Vice Chairman of CHRIS.

The Committee reviewed the CHRIS work program and the progress made by its various subordinate working groups. A conceptual model of the hydrographic geospatial information infrastructure (GII) that is now supporting the development, maintenance and extension of IHO digital data standards and specifications was presented. This was accompanied by a demonstration of the data registry application now being used to develop and extend S-57 and S-100 (more details at: www.iho.int – *Committees- TSMAD*).

Three new Working Groups (WG) were established. The Data Quality Working group was re-established to consider, among other things, how ISO Quality standards and specifications should be applied to hydrographic data. A Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures WG will prepare a report identifying the level and nature of the IHO's role in assisting Member States in their support of national spatial data infrastructures. A Hydrography and Cartography in Inland Waters WG will prepare a report on the level and nature of IHO involvement in the hydrography and cartography of inland waters.

The Committee was briefed on various measures now in hand to ensure better consistency in ENCs produced by adjacent States and in particular endorsed the conclusions made by the recent Extraordinary WEND meeting encouraging compliance with the IHO guidelines, especially the use of SCAMIN and the observation that RENCs and RHCs have a vital role in ensuring consistency of ENCs. The Committee endorsed a revised version of "*Recommendations for Consistent ENC Encoding*" and agreed that it should be included as an Annex to S-65 – *ENC Production Guidance*. A revised version of S63 – *IHO Data Protection Scheme* was endorsed and will now be recommended to IHO Member States for formal approval.

Full details of the meeting and outcomes will be included in the minutes of the meeting which will be published no later than early December.

An ECDIS Stakeholders' Forum (ESF) was convened on 7-8 November 2007. The ESF was chaired by Captain Robert WARD, Director IHB and was attended by over 40 representatives from a range of stakeholder groups including equipment manufacturers, data distributors, shipping managers and GIS software developers.

The work being undertaken by the CHRIS WGs, particularly in relation to the current ECDIS specifications S-57 and S-52 and its impact on existing systems was presented. The meeting also considered the future S-100 hydrographic geospatial data standard and the development of the S-101 ENC product specification. Stakeholders were invited to actively participate in the further development of these standards. As a result, it was decided to convene an S-101 User Requirements Workshop in early 2008 at the IHB in Monaco which will be attended by a number of Expert Contributors drawn from the stakeholders attending the ESF.

REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS

8th MESO-AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION CONFERENCE (MACHC)

Niteroi, Brazil, 8-10 October 2007.



The 8th Meeting of the Regional Hydrographic Commission of Meso-America and the Caribbean Sea (MACHC) was organized by the “Diretoria de Hidrografia e Navegação” of Brazil and held at its premises in Niteroi.

Representatives from Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, France, Guatemala, Mexico, The Netherlands, Norway, Suriname, UK, USA, IHB and commercial companies attended the meeting, that was chaired by Cdr. Mario GÓNGORA on behalf of Rear Admiral DEL ANGEL (Mexico).

The Chairman summarized the work carried out since the 7th meeting. He mentioned the need to amend the statutes to include a Vice-Chairman and other items that required updating, such as the limits of the Commission. It was decided to create a Working Group with France, Mexico, UK, USA, with Brazil as Chairman to revise the statutes and to propose amendments. The final draft should be approved at the next meeting of the Commission.

He also reminded that only four members of the Commission, Cuba, Mexico, Netherlands and UK had ratified the Amendments to the IHO Convention approved by the IHO Extraordinary Conference in 2005.

Capt. GORZIGLIA summarized the results of the 17th IH Conference and presented the decisions related to the new structure of the organization.

The following reports were tabled:

- 1) ISPW, working group set up by the 17th IH Conference to re-draft the IHO Strategic Plan. Work.
- 2) Reports from the MACHC INT Chart Committee and the Electronic Chart Committee. The reports included information about the status of regional production of INT charts and ENC's and were endorsed by the Commission.

No report was submitted by the Commission's Capacity Building Committee (Chair:Venezuela).

- 3) The CPRNW Chairman, the representative of Guatemala and Mr. VILLALOBOS presented reports respectively on the MSI Course held in Jamaica, the present status of the Gulf of Honduras project and the Multibeam Standard Operating Procedures Operational Workshop.Colombia recommended continuing these activities with adequate funding provided by the CBC Fund.

- 4) The representative of the UKHO provided a report about Radio Navigation Warning Broadcast and a proposal from USA/NOAA on "International Marine Environmental Protection Products Specification was also considered by the Commission for its submission to CHRIS.
- 5) The representative of Land Surveys Association of Jamaica presented a report about the Workshop on National Spatial Reference Systems also held in his country.

Following a proposal from Brazil and the previous agreement to extend zone B through C1 towards the equator, it was agreed to liaise with CHRIS to have the necessary changes made to the IHO publication M-11.

Due to the absence of the representatives from Venezuela, the confirmation of this country as the host for the 9th Meeting could not be achieved. The Chairman will contact Venezuela and inform the Commission of the availability of this country. The representative of Suriname kindly offered to host the next meeting as an alternative.

The decision will be taken by the Commission at a later date.

Brazil was nominated as the future Vice-Chairman of the Commission, following approval of the amendment.

REPORT OF THE 15th MEETING OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEAS REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (MBSHC)

Malta , 22-24 October 2007.



The 15th MBSHC Meeting was held at the Hotel Phénicia in Malta, hosted by the Hydrographic Offices of Malta and the UK, under the Chairmanship of Spain.

Delegates from Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Norway, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, UK, Ukraine , USA, and the IHB attended the meeting.

The following Decisions and Recommendations were adopted:

15th MBSHC Decisions and Recommendations agreed on 24 October 2007

Decision/ Recommendation	Details	Deadline
Decision MBSHC15-1	Italy to draft the procedure of MBSHC's representatives designation to the Council.	Italy to send first draft asking for comments and a further draft to be approved by correspondence.
Decision MBSHC15-2	MS to update Italy (as MBSHC's Rep to ISPWG) on the progress of Convention amendments ratification process.	By 1 st Dec. 07
Recommendation MBSHC15-1	MS are kindly requested to comply with M-11 guidance when proposing changes to MEDINTCHART catalogue.	If there are disputed problems with regard to INT charts production, the members concerned should solve the problems in the first place, through MEDINTCHART Coord.
Decision MBSHC15-3	MS to send current status of surveys to Spain.	Every year by 1 st Feb
Recommendation MBSHC15-2	MS HOs to consider liaison with research organisations to complement the status of surveys in MBS.	
Decision MBSHC15-4	MS and AMS to provide MBSHC Chairman and IHB with national reports in standardized format.	At least 2 months prior to conferences
Recommendation MBSHC15-3	MS and AMS are encouraged to contribute to regional sea level observation projects as part of the MBSHC response to IHO CL 89/2005.	
Recommendation MBSHC15-4	IT/SI/HR to consider co-operative survey project pending on SI request, and to report to MBSHC's Chairman for submission to IHO/CBC.	Submission to IHO/CBC by end of March 2008
Decision MBSHC15-5	Reworded statutes approved, with the inclusion of amended wording of Article 5.a. Chair to circulate new version and request IHB to place on IHO website.	
Decision MBSHC15-6	IHB to circulate report of final meeting of EUMEDIS MEDINTCHART project held in Trieste to MBSHC Chair for circulation to the Commission members.	IHB MBSHC Chair
Decision MBSHC15-7	Following allocation of funding by 5 th CBC meeting to support MBSHC activities, Tunisia as the new Chair to send Circular Letter to all MBSHC members requesting whether technical visit is appropriate for their country and to identify others.	Tunisia by end of January 2008
Decision MBSHC15-8	Following allocation of funding by 5 th CBC meeting to support MBSHC activities, Tunisia as new Chair to send Circular Letter to all MBSHC members asking whether MBSHC members are able to provide staff to accomplish these visits.	Tunisia by end of January
Decision MBSHC15-9	Following allocation of funding by 5 th CBC meeting to support MBSHC activities, Tunisia as new Chair to send Circular Letter to all members seeking volunteers to attend CPRNW MSI Course in 2008 to be held in Cadiz (Malta alternative).	Tunisia by end of January 2008

Decision/ Recommendation	Details	Deadline
Recommendation MBSHC15-6	All Members and Associate Members with requests for CBC funding should forward them through MBSHC Chairman.	All members by end of February 2008
Decision MBSHC15-10	Spain as NAVAREA III Coordinator to send letter to the states bordering the Caspian Sea requesting opinions with respect to the creation of new Sub- Area in that region.	Spain by end of December 2007
Decision MBSHC15-11	The Commission approves the resulting document summarizing the outcome of the MEDINTCHART working session held during MBSHC15, as annexed to minutes.	
Recommendation MBSHC15-7	Member States who consider it appropriate are requested to send ENC soundings data to IBCM-II 0.1' grid.	Member States
Decision MBSHC15-12	Italy will issue CL to MBSHC members to consider the way forward for VRENC.	Italy by end of January 2008
Decision MBSHC15-13	Italy, as official MBSHC representative at the Seapower Symposium, will circulate a draft to the Chairman and Member States in advance of meeting and report after these meetings.	Italy
Decision MBSHC15-14	BASWG to continue its work and WG Chair to distribute CL to members of this group and MBSHC Chair the latest status of this group announcing the next meeting to be held in Kiev in 2008.	Turkey/Ukraine will coordinate in preparation for this meeting.
Decision MBSHC15-15	16 th MBSHC meeting to take place in Kiev, Ukraine, in September 2009.	Ukraine to identify specific dates by end of 2007.

Tunisia was elected as the new Chairman of the Commission.

The 16th Meeting will be held in Kiev (Ukraine) in 2009 and the dates will be agreed by correspondence. It was also agreed to schedule a meeting of the Black and Azov Seas Working Group in Kiev in 2008 to examine the new Terms of Reference and objectives of that group.

CAPACITY BUILDING

NIOHC AND RSAHC WORKSHOP ON PHASE 1 CAPACITY BUILDING Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 13-14 November 2007.



The above workshop was held at the offices of the Protection of the Environment in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from 13 to 14 November 2007. The workshop was attended by 23 representatives from Bahrain, Djibouti, Jordan, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen. Two representatives from the UK, two from the USA and Lt. Cdr. S. SHIPMAN (PAH) from the IHB also attended the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Rear Admiral Ian MONCRIEFF, UK National Hydrographer and Chairman of the NIOHC.

The meeting was opened by welcoming addresses from Professor Ziad Abu GHARARAH, the Secretary General of PERSGA, Rear Admiral Al-SHEHRI, Director of the Hydrographic Department of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Rear Admiral Ian MONCRIEFF, Chairman of the NIOHC. The first day included briefings on "The Importance of Hydrography", "The IHO Capacity Building Strategy – The 3 Phases of Development", "Maritime Safety Information and the GMDSS", "S-55 Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide" and "The Importance of Accurate Nautical Information, Liabilities". These were followed by briefings from the representatives on the status of hydrographic activities in their countries and an open discussion forum.



The second day commenced with presentations on "Hydrographic data and the reduction of navigation risks/maritime pollution in the PERSGA region: status and initiatives" by Dr. Ahmed KHALIL of PERSGA and "GIS for hydrographic data in the Red Sea" by Dr. R ABDALLAH of the King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah. The UK then provided information regarding IHO technical visits in the region, highlighting the benefits that could be gained from such visits.

The meeting concluded with a round table discussion on regional initiatives and opportunities and final statements from the Chairman and the Director of the Hydrographic Department of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

WORKING GROUPS

3rd MEETING OF THE S-44 WORKING GROUP

Helsinki, Finland, 18-21 September 2007.

The WG established to prepare a draft 5th Edition of the IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys (S-44) held its 3rd meeting in Helsinki from 18 – 21 September 2007 at the invitation of the Finnish Maritime Administration.

The meeting was attended by 14 representatives from 9 Member States and the IHB. The meeting reviewed the full text of the draft 5th Edition and, other than some editorial amendments, achieved its objective of finalising the draft text of the 5th Edition which will be circulated to IHO Member States for adoption. The full report of the meeting is available from the IHO web site.

OTHER BODIES

6th FIG REGIONAL CONFERENCE

San José, Costa Rica, 12-15 November 2007.

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA, IHB Director, attended the 6th FIG Regional Conference - "Coastal Areas and Land Administration – Building the Capacity" which was held in San José, Costa Rica, from 12 to 15 November 2007.

Approximately 300 delegates from over 30 countries, essentially from Costa Rica and Central America, attended the meeting. The event was organized by FIG, the "Colegio de Ingenieros Topógrafos de Costa Rica" (CIT) and the "Colegio Federado de Ingenieros y de Arquitectos de Costa Rica" (CFIA) and was officially opened by the Costa Rican Minister of Housing and the President of FIG.

The coastal zone is recognized as being constantly under pressure and requires concentrated governmental action to properly manage it. Great investments are being made but regulations are far from being established and/or applied as regards the exploitation of the coast. A capacity building project is urgently required to ensure better management.

FIG decided to prepare a document called "Costa Rica Declaration" to cover the main aspects related to the subject of the Conference, highlighting the social aspects and the so-call pro-poor strategies. A group was established and the text shall be approved at the next Working Week, which will be held in Stockholm, 14-19 June 2008.

Around 100 presentations were made. Some general conclusions were:

- a) Coastal zone demarcation is an issue of great concern;
- b) Cadastral cartography is needed to move ahead any CZM activity;
- c) Capacity building does not only cover education, research and professional practice.
- d) In Costa Rica, the official authority in charge of determining the coast line (as well as producing nautical charts) is the "Instituto Geográfico Nacional" but, unfortunately, cannot provide any solution due to the lack of human, technical and financial resources;
- e) In the region there is no university or programme that includes hydrography or nautical cartography disciplines as defined by IHO.

The Conference included a Workshop on "Economic Benefits of Hydrography", with four presentations: "The economic benefit of hydrography and ocean mapping"; "Marine Geospatial software: Generating economic benefits from hydrographic data and calculation of maritime boundaries"; the "Cost/economic benefits of hydrographic education" and "The value of hydrographic information and its influence in the decision -making process", the last presentation was made by

Capt. GORZIGLIA. The workshop was attended by over 120 people and was considered a great success of the FIG Commission 4 “Hydrography”.

During the Conference, the IHB Director held several meetings with Mr. Max LOBO, Director of the “Instituto Geográfico Nacional”, the national agency that is, amongst other things, responsible for hydrography and nautical cartography, to discuss matters of common interest.

Mr. LOBO was reminded of the effort the IHO has made to capture the attention of Costa Rica, with regard to hydrography, nautical cartography and marine safety information, without success. He noted a change in his government’s attitude and confirmed his country’s interest in receiving a high level visit by the IHB and its willingness to become an associate member of the MACHC and to start participating in their meetings and work.

A similar meeting was held with the President and Executive Secretary of the “Colegio de Ingenieros Topógrafos” de Costa Rica (CIT). This is a government recognized body that maintains good relations at the political level with various ministries, at the technical level with the “Instituto Geográfico Nacional” and at the academic level with the main universities. They also expressed a keen interest in learning more about the IHO in order to be able to advise the governmental authorities on Costa Rica’s possible relation with the IHO.

As usual, the Chairman of FIG Commission 4 “Hydrography” and the IHB Director took advantage of this Conference to meet and discuss matters of common interest. The main issue was the analysis of the workshop held at the Conference. It was confirmed that the subject – economic benefits of hydrography – provoked much interest and that more time should be allowed to further develop this topic which is considered of strategic importance. In fact, the FIG Working Week next year in Stockholm might well include this subject as a key note presentation in plenary and a workshop.



From left to right: Gordon JOHNSTON, Max. A. LOBO, Andrew LEYZACK and Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA

25th IMO ASSEMBLY
London, 19-30 November 2007.

The 25th session of the IMO Assembly was held at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, in London, from 19 – 30 November 2007. The IHB was represented by the President and by the Professional Assistant in Hydrography (PAH).

Welcoming addresses were made by Admiral MITROPOULOS, IMO Secretary General, Mr Jim FITZPATRICK, United Kingdom Shipping Minister and His Excellency Zha PEIXIN of China, the outgoing President of the 24th Assembly. His Excellency Mr Gehad MADI of Egypt was elected as President for the 25th Assembly. The Ambassadors of Greece and Chile were elected as Vice Presidents.

The Assembly established two Committees to consider 1) Administrative, Financial Legal and Technical Cooperation Matters and 2) Technical Matters. Matters relating to the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) were considered by Committee 2 and their decisions were subsequently approved by the Plenary. The reports of the 81st, 82nd and 83rd sessions of the Maritime Safety Committee were accepted. In its consideration of the "Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme" the Assembly welcomed the completion and circulation of an Auditors' Manual. This Manual includes a questionnaire, based on the IHO S-55 questionnaire, prepared by the IHO.

The following IMO Assembly Resolutions, inter alia, were adopted:

A.999(25) : "Guidelines on Voyage Planning for Passenger Ships Operating in Remote Areas", to which the IHO contributed during the debate within the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation (NAV);

A.1001(25): "Criteria for the Provision of Mobile Satellite Communication Systems in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)" (*Formerly Resolution A.888(21) and MSC.Circ.1077*).

Both resolutions will be posted on the IHO web site when published by the IMO.

The Assembly endorsed the decision of the IMO Council to confirm Admiral MITROPOULOS as IMO Secretary General for a second 4-year term from 2008 to 2011.

TRAINING

“SECOND MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (MSI) TRAINING COURSE”

Maputo, Mozambique, 13-15 November 2007.

The 2007 IHO Capacity Building Work Programme includes a Maritime Safety Information (MSI) Training Course for the benefit of countries in the Southern Africa and Island Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC).

The objective of the Course is to provide practical guidance for those who are concerned with drafting radio navigational warnings or with the issuance of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) for the high seas under the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).

The justification for the Course is that there is only limited availability of MSI in the Southern Africa and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC) region where GMDSS has been implemented for less than 10% of this area. Furthermore, NAVTEX and SafetyNet messages are practically non-existent. The limited availability of MSI compromises the SOLAS objective whereby mariners should be assured of receiving information of vital concern to all vessels in a form that they understand, at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Course was held at the “Escola Superior das Ciências Náuticas”, Maputo, Mozambique, from Tuesday 13 to Thursday 15 November 2007, with direct support provided by Mozambique, Republic of Korea, Republic of South Africa, USA and UK, as well as by the CPRNW Chairman and his Team who developed the Course content.

The participants were the following:

Host Country Coordinator:

Mr. Humberto MUTEVUIE INAHINA - Head of Hydrographic Department.

Instructors:

Mr. Guy BEALE (UKHO); Ms. Erin CONWAY (NGA/USA); Mr. Dan BOILEAU (NGA/USA) and Mr. Nelson MALCOM (SANHO).

Participants:

Mr. Nyamwawi MWAJOTO	Kenya
Fetra RANIRIHARISON (*)	Madagascar
Mr. Tasiyana W. KAMANGA (*)	Malawi
Mr. Michael MZUNZU (*)	Malawi
Mr. Govinden MOOTYEN	Mauritius
Mrs Carlota ALFREDO FILIMONE	Mozambique
Mr. Juma Saide NTAMWENDE	Mozambique
Mr. David ZUNGUZA	Mozambique
Mr. Pedro JULIASSE	Mozambique
Mr. Belarmino Alcino NHATAVE	Mozambique
Ms. Yvonne MULUNDU	Namibia
Cdr. T.J. VAN NIEKERK	South Africa
Mr. Ignatious K. NHNYETE	Tanzania

Unfortunately, two representatives from Angola, two from Seychelles and one from Uganda who had registered for the course in advance did not attend.

The Course Leader, Mr Guy BEALE, reported to the IHB that the course was every bit as successful as the inaugural one in Jamaica earlier this year. All the instructors achieved the objectives of the course to raise awareness and increase the knowledge of the WWNWS in the SAIHC Region in order to initially guarantee an increase in the flow of MSI to the NAVAREA VII Co-ordinator and ultimately to have the confidence and expertise to fulfil the role of National Co-ordinators within their NAVAREA.

Under the auspices of INAHINA, the host country provided first class facilities and administration for the course.

The IHB Directing Committee and the CBC Chairman take this opportunity to thank the Local Co-ordinator, Instructors and their institutions for the support provided, and congratulate the participants for the results achieved.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE “ISTITUTO IDROGRAFICO DELLA MARINA” (Recently established a level II Master in Marine Geomatics)

“135 years at the service of the Country”

With this banner proudly displayed in the Captains’ Hall in St. Georges’ Palace in Genova – the seat of the Port Authority – the Istituto Idrografico della Marina celebrated its anniversary on Monday 8 October, in the presence of the highest local authorities, Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS, President of the International Hydrographic Bureau, and the Director of the Institute, Rear Admiral Pierpaolo CAGNETTI, who, having completed a five-year term of office, has now handed over his post to Rear Admiral Federico SOLARI.

Founded in 1872, the Istituto Idrografico della Marina, which is a Naval body and State cartographic agency, has always been located in St. Georges’ Fort. As far back as 1903 all of the Italian coasts were surveyed, followed by the publication of 229 charts, including the first national chart of the Gulf of Genova (1:4000), published in 1884. From then on hydro-oceanographic surveys have been undertaken on a permanent basis in the metropolitan waters to update the nautical documents published by the Istituto Idrografico della Marina, to safeguard navigation and protect human life at sea.

The Hydrographic flotilla includes three ships (“Ammiraglio Magnaghi”, “Aretusa” and “Galatea”), which gather marine data for studies and research at sea and for the production of about ten new editions and 100 reprints of nautical charts per year, constantly updated through the bi-weekly *Avvisi ai Naviganti*, complemented by many subsidiary publications.

A recent initiative of great professional potential, in cooperation with the University of Genova, is the institution of a level II Master in Marine Geomatics, open to both Italian and foreign citizens holding a University degree.

VISIT OF THE DIRECTING COMMITTEE TO THE CITY HALL OF BEAUSOLEIL 2 November 2007.



On Friday 2nd November 2007, the IHB Directing Committee was invited by the Major of Beausoleil, Mr. Robert VIAL, a former employee of the IHB, to visit his Offices. Beausoleil is a small town located to the north of Monaco and is encompassed by Cap d’Ail, Monaco and Roquebrune Cap Martin.

Mr VIAL welcomed the IHB Directing Committee, introduced his staff and commented the satisfaction of Beausoleil for receiving at its hotels, many delegations attending various IHB meetings, due to the proximity to the venues in Monaco and the quietness of its neighbourhood.

The Directors, after having had the opportunity to brief the staff about the role of IHO and the work that is being handle at the IHB, were requested to sign the Visitor's Book. The IHB President Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS and the two Directors, Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA and Captain Robert WARD, were presented with the town's Crest. Mr. Robert VIAL was in turn presented with the Organisation's Crest. Afterwards, Mr. VIAL offered a lunch.

NATIONAL DAY OF MONACO – 19 NOVEMBER 2007

An important part of the National Day festivities which include a Thanksgiving Mess and gala evening at the Opera House is the conferring of honours and decorations by His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco.

The IHB was particularly honoured this year as Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS, President of the IHB, received the Order of St. Charles in recognition of services rendered to the Sovereign Prince and the Principality of Monaco and two members of staff, Mrs. Renée CAUDOUX and Mr. Rachid SEMLALI, were awarded long service medals for their 20 years' loyal service at the I.H. Bureau.

Congratulations to all!



VAdm. A. MARATOS, President
Mrs. Renée CAUDOUX &
Mr. Rachid SEMLALI