

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ON
THE LAW OF THE SEA (ABLOS)**

University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, N.B., 2-3 September 1998

Attendees

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|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Professor Petr Vanicek | Chairman (IAG) | Canada |
| Mr Chris Carleton | Vice-Chairman (IHO) | UK |
| Mr Bjorn G. Harsson | (IAG) | Norway |
| Dr Tadahiko Katsura | (IHO) | Japan |
| Mr Jack Weightman | (IAG) | UK |
| Professor Chris Rizos | (IAG) | Australia |

Apologies

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| Rear Admiral Neil Guy | (IHO) | IHB |
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Observers

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--------|
| Mr Ron Macnab | (IOC) | Canada |
| | Geological Survey of Canada | |
| Mr David Monahan | Canadian Hydrographic Service | |
| Mr Dick Gent | UK Hydrographic Office | UK |
| Dr Louis DeVorse | University of Georgia | USA |

WELCOME

1. The Chairman welcomed the members and observers to the meeting and thanked the authorities of the University of New Brunswick for providing the venue and arrangements for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. The agenda was approved with one amendment tabled by Professor Rizos. It was agreed that an additional item concerning the handling of digital data would be added under item No. 11 –Other Business.

3. It was further agreed that the Agenda should remain flexible. Those present formally agreed the Agenda. A copy is enclosed as **Enclosure 1**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 4th ABLOS MEETING

4. Concern was expressed by all members that the minutes of the 4th ABLOS meeting, held in Monaco on 13 April 1997, were not forwarded to the members of ABLOS in a timely fashion. Copies of the minutes were only forwarded to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman a few days before the 5th meeting was due to take place.

5. It was further considered that the content of these minutes did not fully reflect the content of the meeting, and were poorly presented. It was agreed at the meeting, subject to the approval of the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB), that the day to day secretariat task for ABLOS would be carried out by Professor Rizos rather than the IHB. This would include the production of minutes, the formation of agendas and the maintenance of a database detailing the contact addresses of the ABLOS members and Corresponding Members. The IHB and eventually the IOC would remain responsible for the dissemination of information, regarding ABLOS to their member States and to forward requests for advice from their member States to the Chairman and Secretary of ABLOS for action as necessary. The members gratefully accepted Professor Rizos' generous offer to take on this task. **Action: Chairman, & Professor Rizos.**

Post Meeting Note

6. Rear Admiral Neil Guy (IHB) has agreed to this suggestion.

7. Mr Jack Weightman highlighted several typographical errors. These were agreed and corrected.

8. Under Item No. 3 of the minutes, New Item 15 should have read – “The North Sea Group on Geodetic Transformations”.

9. A copy of the Minutes of the 4th Meeting of ABLOS is enclosed as: **Enclosure2.**

MATTERS ARISING

a) TALOS Manual

10. It was agreed that the Geodetic Commentary should be incorporated into the Manual when the next new edition was published. The Chairman stated that he had forwarded a formal letter to Rear Admiral Neil Guy (IHB) indicating the IAG's acceptance in participating in the incorporation of the Geodetic Commentary into the TALOS Manual. However, no reply had been received from the IHB to date.

11. It was agreed that the Chairman should write to the IHB requesting the planned publication date for the next new edition of the TALOS Manual, which would include the incorporation of the Geodetic Commentary. It was further agreed, that once the planned publication date of the new edition was known, ABLOS could plan suggested updates for the manual to be inserted at the next new edition. This may include paragraphs on the handling of digital data and should include a chapter, or part chapter on the use of VECTOR and RASTER chart products. **Action: Chairman.**

12. It was agreed that this item should be discussed at the next ABLOS meeting, once the publication plans for a new edition of the TALOS Manual were

known. It was further agreed that should an update to the contents be considered necessary before the publication of the next new edition, this would also be addressed at the next meeting with the intention of recommending amendments to the IHB in time for incorporation at the next new edition. **Action: ABLOS Secretary.**

b) Continental Shelf Book

13. Mr Carleton outlined the present position regarding the IHO/IOC sponsored book on the outer limits of the continental shelf. The book is entitled "Continental Shelf Limits: The Scientific and Legal Interface". Oxford University Press, New York will publish it. It was hoped to have the manuscript to the publisher by the end of October 1998, with the intention for publication during the latter half of 1999. An outline of the book was presented to members present and a copy is enclosed with the minutes as: **Enclosure 3.**

c) Future of Carrera's Geodetic Draft for the TALOS Manual

14. A general discussion took place on any further action required concerning the draft geodetic text prepared by Galo Carrera for the TALOS Manual. It was considered that the Geodetic Commentary, already written by the IAG and published by the IHB, fulfilled the TALOS Manual requirements placed on ABLOS. No further action was required on this topic.

d) Errors in Boundaries

15. Mr Harsson stated that he had recommended to the Swedish granting agency to fund a study of this problem. It is hoped that Dr L. Sjoberg will receive funding for this project in the near future. The IAG Working Group GALOS will discuss this at their meeting in Fredericton, immediately following the ABLOS meeting.

16. The Chairman stated that Dr L Sjoberg had written a paper on the subject, which was to be published in the next edition of Marine Geodesy.

17. The Chairman also reported that Galo Carrera had stated that the upgrade to his program DELMAR would **not** be available for general release to the scientific community.

18. The Chairman also stated that he had presented a paper on boundary errors in Lima, Peru. This paper would be published in Spanish and had already been published in the IHO Hydrographic Review, although the author had not received any off prints.

STRUCTURE OF ABLOS AFTER IOC JOINS

19. Although the IHB, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had all made a considerable effort to make contact with the IOC regarding their nomination for IOC members to join ABLOS, no names were forthcoming. At the very last

minute, the IHB secured a nomination for an observer to attend the meeting and the members warmly welcomed Mr Ron Macnab in his capacity as the IOC observer.

20. In view of the lack of nominated IOC members to the ABLOS Board, it was agreed that until these members had been nominated a discussion on the future structure of ABLOS would be postponed until the next meeting in Monaco, where it was hoped that the IOC would be fully represented. **Action: ABLOS Secretary.**

21. It was agreed that the Chairman should write to the Executive Secretary of the IOC informing him of the outcome of this ABLOS meeting and to request an early nomination of IOC members for ABLOS. **Action: Chairman.**

ABLOS CONFERENCE 1999

22. It was agreed that an ABLOS conference should be organised either immediately before or immediately after the next ABLOS meeting to be held at the IHB in Monaco. Convenient dates should be agreed with the IHB between the period June to October 1999. **Action: Chairman.**

23. The theme of the conference would be "Multidisciplinary Approach to Maritime Boundary Delimitation with Particular Emphasis on Continental Shelf Implications". It was agreed that it would be of great benefit to all if members of the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) could attend and hopefully present papers. The Chairman was requested to invite the Chairman of the CLCS Mr Yuri Kazmin to this conference, to liaise on dates and to recommend it to the members of his Commission. **Action: Chairman.**

24. It was also agreed that it would be of benefit to the international community if the IHO/IOC book could be published in time for this conference. Mr Carleton explained that although the two Co-Chief Editors of the book, himself and Dr Peter Cook, could explain the importance of publishing the book in time for this conference, they had no direct control on the publishing schedule. Even if the book was not published in time, it was hoped that the publishers could use the conference to advertise the book. It was also considered a valuable opportunity for the authors of the book and the members of the Commission to exchange ideas and to foster over co-operation and scientific understanding of the problems involved. This has not been apparent to date, largely because of reluctance on the part of the members of the CLCS to discuss their work prior to the completion of the various administrative procedures that have had to be completed.

25. Once the dates of the conference have been finalised, the arrangements will be actioned by the IHB. **Action: IHB.**

26. Agreement on the title of the conference will be decided by the members of ABLOS. **Action: Vice-Chairman.**

27. Once the title of the conference has been decided, a call for papers and the publicity leaflets for the conference will be actioned by ABLOS, calling for assistance from IHB, IAG and possibly the IOC as appropriate. **Action: ABLOS Members**

COMMISSION ON THE LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF (CLCS)

28. The Chairman introduced a report on the work carried out by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), prepared by UN Commission member Mr Galo Carrera. The ABLOS members thanked the Chairman for this report and requested he convey their thanks to Mr Carrera. **Action: Chairman.** Copy enclosed as: **Enclosure 4.**

29. ABLOS members were interested in how the members of the CLCS regarded their relationship with ABLOS. Mr Harsson stated that the Norwegian member of the CLCS, Mr Harald Brekke, considered ABLOS to be very important and the relationship should be very harmonious. Mr Katsura stated that Mr Kazuchika Hamuro, the Japanese member of the Commission, is a diplomat, but that he liaised with the Continental Shelf Surveys Office of the Hydrographic Department, MSA, for technical advice. Both Mr Daniel Rio and Mr Iain Lamont are corresponding members of ABLOS as well as members of the Commission. It was agreed that every effort should be made to ensure that the members of the Commission and the members of ABLOS should endeavour to work together in the furtherance of knowledge in this very complicated area. **Action: All.**

RELATIONSHIP WITH UN DOALOS

30. It was agreed that the Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) should remain an ex-officio member of ABLOS and that the Division should continue to be invited to the ABLOS meetings. The Chairman suggested that a meeting at the UN in New York might encourage a closer relationship between DOALOS and ABLOS. It was agreed that the Chairman should write to the Director, DOALOS and suggest such a meeting, perhaps the 2000 meeting of ABLOS. **Action: Chairman.**

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Relationship between ABLOS/GALOS/IOC/DOALOS and CLCS

31. An extremely useful diagram was presented by Mr David Monahan, depicting the relationship between the various organisations concerned with the technical aspects of the law of the sea. This diagram helps to show that there is

no conflicting interest between these organisations, but does show the areas where co-operation should take place.

b) INSMAP 98

32. The Chairman stated that Mr Galo Carrera was chairing a session in this conference on the continental shelf and had invited members from ABLOS and GALOS to present two papers. Mr Harsson was definitely attending this conference and agreed to present a paper on the work of ABLOS as it related to the continental shelf. It was agreed that this type of paper should be an ABLOS corporate paper, which could be presented by any member of ABLOS at any conference. **Action: Mr Harsson**

33. The Chairman agreed to present this request to the GALOS meeting with the possibility of another paper being presented by a GALOS member. **Action: Chairman & Mr Harsson (Chairman GALOS)**. A copy of the request from Mr Galo Carrera is enclosed as: **Enclosure 5**.

c) Digital Information

34. Professor Rizos introduced this subject topic and stated that there was a requirement, both in the TALOS manual and in the ABLOS work in general for a better understanding of the benefits available, and the managerial and technical aspects that needed to be understood in the fields of geospatial data, metadata and GIS methodology.

35. The basic requirements and uses, such as electronic books, web sites etc. and the management of these data should be incorporated into the TALOS manual in the form of a How too? Section. The best practice should be laid down in simple form so that law of the sea specialists had an introduction to this form of data management and were introduced to the correct way to use and benefit from this type of database.

36. It was agreed that this subject should be addressed at the next meeting with the intention of adding this subject to the TALOS manual update. **Action: Professor Rizos.**

37. The lack of modern communication between ABLOS members and the IHB was also highlighted.

Post Meeting Note:

38. It is understood from Rear Admiral Neil Guy (IHB) that the problem experienced by members concerning e-mail with the IHB has now been resolved.

39. Professor Rizos suggested that a web site should be set up for ABLOS. This would require IHB approval. The positioning of this site was discussed and it was agreed that as wide an access as possible should be considered. It was also

important that the site be managed efficiently. Professor Rizos volunteered to be the web manager, if approval was forthcoming. Action: Professor Rizos.

40. The Vice-Chairman was requested to make a verbal request to the IHB in the first instance. Action:Vice-Chairman.

41. The Chairman closed the meeting at 1800 on 2 September 1998.

42. The following day an excellent presentation was given by Mr David Monahan and by Mr Ron Macnab on the preparations for a continental shelf claim beyond 200nm by Canada and the progress being made in the co-operation of scientific data gathering in the Arctic Ocean.

43. This was followed by an impressive demonstration of the capabilities of a GIS program, being developed by the Department of Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering at the University of New Brunswick.

Enclosures:

1. Agenda of the 5th ABLOS Meeting.
2. Minutes of the 4th ABLOS Meeting.
3. Outline of the Book“ Continental Shelf Limits: The Scientific and Legal Interface”.
4. Report on the Work of the CLCS by Galo Carrera.
5. Request for Papers for INSMAP 98 from Galo Carrera.