

11th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

IRCC11 Genoa, Italy (3-5 June 2019)

MEDITERRANEAN & BLACK SEAS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

MBSHC report to IRCC11

1. Chair

Chair: Rear Admiral Luigi SINAPI, (Italy), since July 2017

Vice-Chair: According to MBSHC Statutes (article 6), in a MBSHC Conference the vice-Chairman is the representative of the host Country.
At the end of the Conference, the Vice-Chairman becomes Chairman, and there is no inter-sessional Vice-Chairman.

2. Membership

Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine.

Associate member(s): Israel, Palestinian Authority, United Kingdom, United States of America.

Observers: Albania, Germany, Lebanon, CIESM, IOC, IC-ENC, PRIMAR.

3. Meetings:

The gap between two conferences is usually two years.

The previous conference, the 20th, was organized in Herceg Novi, Montenegro, July 4-6th 2017.

The next conference, the 21st, will take place in Cádiz, Spain, 11-13 June 2019.

4. Current MBSHC Working Groups:

a) International Charting Coordination WG for the charting region F (F-ICCWG), chaired by France – operates mainly as a correspondence WG;

b) Black and Azov Seas WG (BASWG), chaired by Turkey.

5. Status of IRCC actions (relevant for the MBSHC):

N.	Action (Agenda item)	Responsible	Deadline	Status
3	to submit draft IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended (Annex C) to the RHC Members for comments and report back to IRCC (6.2)	RHC Chairs	October 2018	Done See MBSHC CL 08/2018

6. Agenda Items:

The MBSHC agenda is built according to the IHO work programme.

IHO Work Programme 1– “Corporate affairs”

Cooperation with International Organizations

Information Management (IHO web site, WMS, CBMS, ENC Catalogue etc.)

Cooperation with the European Union

MBSHC member states are active in participating to the IHO-EU network working group (IENWG). Greece is the MBSHC focal point for the IENWG and has provided an updated list of maritime related events, projects and tenders of interest for the MBSHC, as requested. Several MBSHC Member States took part in European Commission’s flagship maritime projects EMODNET and are active in the revision of EU Directive on Re-use of public sector information.

Cooperation with CIESM

Cooperation with IOC

Cooperation with International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)

Mediterranean Initiatives relevant to the Commission

Cooperation with IMO

IHO Work Programme 2 – Hydrographic Services and Standards

Technical Programme Coordination – HSSC

Development of technical standards

IHO Work Programme 3 –Inter Regional Coordination and Support

IRCC meetings

Cooperation with Member States

National reports

Activities of WENDWG

Regional ENC Coordination Centre (RENCs) Operations

Hydrographic survey status in the MBSHC

Region F ICCWG

Activities-MEDINTCHART Catalogue

Maritime Safety Information (MSI)

Maritime Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI)

Italy, acting as MBSHC Chair and ambassador of MBSHC at the MSDIWG, sent to MSs a questionnaire with the intention of conducting a study on the relative level of advancement of various countries of the MBSHC in the development of their own MSDI.

Capacity Building activities within MBSHC

Turkey represents the MBSHC at the CB Sub-Committee and is in charge of updating the MBSHC 3 year CB work plan. CB activities since IRCC-10:

- “Port & Shallow Water Survey Course” (Sept 2018): 6 participants;
- MSI Training (Sept 2018): 8 participants;
- Technical Visit to Georgia (Oct 2018).
- Technical Visit to Lebanon (May 2019).

MBSHC Three-year Capacity Building Work Plan

7. MBSHC cooperation with stakeholders (organizations, industry, etc.):

- The *Commission Internationale pour l'Exploration Scientifique de la Méditerranée* (CIESM – Mediterranean Science Commission) took part in the last MBSHC Conference, and has been invited to the next.
- Both RENCs and Industry took part in the last MBSHC Conference, and have been invited to the next.

8. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed:

- The main difficulties faced by the MBSHC are in the coordination of the INT chart schemes and ENC coverage.
- The MBSHC and the ICCWG of region F are playing a strong part in the setting up of an adequate INT scheme in order to meet the needs of international shipping, as well as in the promotion of INT standards, with most national maps produced in the region now conforming to the S-4 standard. Despite a consolidated small scale INT scheme and a growing large scale coverage, midscale schemes development have been slowed down by several long-lasting issues.
- With the issuing of the IHO Resolution 1/2018, for the elimination of overlapping ENC data in areas of demonstrable risk to the safety of navigation, this tool has started to be implemented in the Region. Therefore, bilateral discussions are a prerequisite for the solution of ENC overlapping issues and, very often, is the only pragmatic way forward.
- Discrepancies between new ENCs and existing INT charts are raising new difficulties regarding consistency of nautical information provided by different producers.

9. Achievements and lessons learned Conclusions:

- Capacity building plays a key role in the Region and the enlargement, not only of the MBSHC, but also of the number of IHO Member States is beneficial. Bulgaria has become an IHO Member State, and joined MBSHC in 2018. Albania has been asked to consider signing the MBSHC Statutes, to become an Associate Member State. Lebanon, having a strong support from Italy in establishing a National Hydrographic Service, is also considering the possibility to join the IHO.
- The MBSHC is developing liaison with States bordering the Caspian Sea: MBSHC Chair attended the BASWG14 meeting in Romania in May 2018.
- The coordinating role of IENWG to present several national European HOs in a joint consortium body has proved successful for winning contracts (e.g. EMODNET Bathymetry HRSM): Greece, as the MBSHC focal point for the IENWG, provided an updated list of maritime related events, projects and tenders of interest for the MBSHC (see MBSHC CL 06/2018).
- Since the IRCC10 conference, progress has been made in the Region F concerning the solution of some ENCs overlaps. Effective tools for detecting these overlaps put in place by the RENCs and the implementation of the recent IHO resolution 1/2018 will help to raise awareness among ENC producers about these overlaps and MS in solving them.
- Italy, as MBSHC Chair and ambassador of MBSHC at the MSDIWG, sent out a MBSHC CL 4/2018 (03/05/2018), in order to seek information from MBSHC MS about their MSDI implementation at a national level.
- Italy attended the MGIWG (UN-GGIM) as required by A-1, C-1 and IRCC-9. The MBSHC Region has been represented in the highest world forum on Marine Geospatial matters.
- All the action items from IRCC10 were completed.

10. Actions required from IRCC:

The IRCC is invited to note the report.

Rear Admiral Luigi SINAPI

Chair of the Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission