

XIII MEETING OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEAS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION.

The XIII Meeting of the MBSHC took place in Brest, France between 1st and 4th of June under the Chairmanship of the Director of the Italian Hydrographic Service Radm Pierpaolo Gagneti. In the meeting participated fifty representatives from Turkey, Tunisia, Greece, Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, Spain, Cyprus, Monaco, Algeria, Italy, Slovenia, Morocco, Ukraine, France, Israel, USA, Romania, Germany, UK, Norway, Bulgaria, IOC and IMA Trieste. The President of the IHB Vadm A. Maratos represented the IHB.

1 Chairman's opening

Ingénieur général Jean-Marc Chimot, director of SHOM's Main Establishment in Brest, welcomes the participants in the name of Ingénieur général Yves Desnoës, director of SHOM who has been invited to present at the same time the marine cartography and the hydrography at UNICOPLOS in New-York and has taken this opportunity to propose recommendation concerning capacity building and co-operation between IHO and UNO.

The MBSHC chairman, Rear-Admiral Pierpaolo Cagnetti director of Italian Hydrographic Institute welcomed at his turn the participants and informed them that Cdr Paolo Lusiani would lead the debates as his spokesman.

2.1 Adoption of the agenda

An item 7b was added concerning the up-dating of S55. Some changes in the order of the agenda will occur, depending of the effective presence of the participants (item 16: status of the SPWG, item 18 c: sea level in MBS area). The report of the WG on safety of navigation in Black Sea (item 15) was also delayed between items 21 and 22.

2.2 Chairman's report

This report is given in annex A

3 Status and implementation of the action list of the previous meeting

The list of decisions and recommendations of the XIIth MBSHC is given in annex B. Decisions 2,3,4,5,6,7,9 and recommendation 2 are closed: the other decisions will be considered during the agenda items dealing with related matters.

Concerning recommendation 1, France observed that it was a recommendation of Turkey and not a MBSHC recommendation. The order of the countries is for the XIIIth Conference the alphabetic French order, not an order according to the juridical position within the Commission: Member States – Associate Members – Observers – Organisations. If the MBSHC wants to set a new type of order, a decision of the Conference should be taken. The adopted order appears unanimously convenient.

4 IHB President's report

This report addressed following points:

- SPWG led a considerable work since the 16th IHC : its directing board met in Monaco, Goa and Lima, and two other meetings before the 3rd Extraordinary IHC are scheduled in Singapore (or Australia) and Japan. The chair of the SPWG will report in details on the first conclusions (see item 16).
- An important work has been carried out by the Bureau in order to have a status of the production and of the programmes of production of ENC's. Some work has still to be done in order for instance to harmonize the questionnaire, but the results are already available on the web site of IHO.
- WEND met two weeks ago in Lima. There are two operational RENC's, the construction of a virtual Mediterranean RENC, and several national distribution systems. Agenda Item 9a will deal with the description of these existing RENC's and the future VRENC.
- The Capacity Building Working Group will take over, inter alia, the work dealt with in the TACC which has been disbanded. Capacity building is of major concern for IHO. Also during this conference, Capt Mike Barrit (UK) will present the initiative of IHO to up-date the S 55 publication.
- The centenary of GEBCO has been celebrated in Monaco in April.
- Cooperation of IHO with other International Organizations like IMO (MSC, SOLAS, ..), IALA or IMA is to be underlined.

5 Report of Medintchart coordinator (France).

Medintchart circular letter 32 of 7 May 2003 gives a report on the ongoing and in abeyance actions concerning the cartography of INT area F. It was presented by the coordinator, and the discussions following this report are summarized hereafter:

- TR informed they had not received Medintchart CL 31 of January 2002, nor CL 32 of May 2003, and said they were not able to answer to the proposal of co-production with Greece. Turkey stressed that they are ready to negotiate all possible proposals and options bilaterally with Greece in order to find a solution as soon as possible (see recommendation 1).
- SI indicated that they are producer of INT 3469 (Bay of Koper) and not IT (to be corrected)
- HR and ES gave up-dating information on existing scheme in their contributions
- GB indicated that INT 3551 of Bur Said should be replaced by two new charts to provide coverage of the new port which is being developed to the East of Port Said.
- TN indicated that co-edition with IT for INT 3210 and 3212 was agreed but that some technical problems were still to resolve, that co-edition with Algeria was in very good way, and that the first contacts with Lybia were positive.
- The new medium scheme in the Aegean Sea, with the addition of a chart covering the Corynthian Gulf, was considered satisfactory by FR and GB which intend to be printers of the INT charts. Turkey opposed the proposal because of their non reception of Medintchart CL 31 and requested time for official answer. Turkey reiterated their willingness to have bilateral discussions with Greece (See recommendation 2).
- The new medium scheme along the coasts of Albania was adopted. The responsibility of producing large scale INT 3489 was clarified. To a question of GR concerning a possible INT chart of Vlore Bay and Sarranda Bay, it was agreed that it was too early and due analysis of the international traffic of these areas should be considered.
- Concerning the proposal to use national charts for the INT charting at medium scale of the coasts of Spain, ES recognised that the proposed scheme is not perfect, but remarked that the scheme proposed in the MEDINTCHART catalogue is also not perfect. Later ES, FR

and GB held further discussions during which ES suggested they would review the proposed scheme and produce a revised version by the end of 2003 for further consideration. (See recommendation 3).

- TN proposed to consider the allocation of an INT chart number for Zarzis harbour. This port appears to be rather important and the proposal was adopted.
- SI proposed to use standard acronyms (ISO) for the names of the countries to avoid confusion. FR answered that they normally use these bigrammes for identifying the countries, but of course if there are mistakes they will correct them.

Introducing the Spanish proposal for a scheme of ENC's at small scale with an attribution of production responsibility, France made the observation that this proposal was fully in line with the conclusions of the last WEND meeting in Lima. This meeting has set up a task group in charge of studying the way to define, in relation with the RHCs, a set of small scale ENC's in order to foster the availability of official data worldwide. Furthermore the way the limits were defined was in accordance with the additional WEND principles (cf IHB CL 2002/58), for which the quorum of votes was not reached (33 yes on 36 needed!) but with very few opposition (33 yes on 34 answers).

GB said they supported the Spanish proposal because the limits were clearly in line with the producers as well as with the INT charting, which make things easier. MA agreed the proposal but stressed that the western limit for Gibraltar Straight should be determined in conjunction with the ENC small scale charting in EAtHC area. MO, ES and FR already agreed with the scheme. The only remark was from TR due to the non reception of Medintchart CL 31 which announced the project for comments: some complementary studies have still to be made for the limits. It was stated that it was a general problem and that the neighbouring producers have to come to an agreement.

6. Adoption of the custodianship principle in MBSHC

France indicated that they had produced a report at the last conference, that this report has been debated and led to the decision 1 of the 12th MBSCH, that some discussions took place during the extraordinary IHC on that domain. NSHC, which was at the origin of the custodianship principle, decided during its 25th Conference in September 2002, to wind-up the principle, mostly because of the generalisation of the bilateral arrangements between NSHC Members. The matrix of ownership of data on the charts was however considered as very useful. Therefore France asked two questions: is it useful to continue in a principle which is abandoned in another RHC, and since the matrix of ownership is proven to be useful, is there any country volunteering to pilot its building up within MBSHC?

Italy expressed doubts on the possibility to do this in MBS area because it could be difficult to find the actual owner of the data, and this is an obstacle for the need of industry. France replied that, it has been set up following demands from the industry, and that some industrials still refer to it.

After an explanation about the custodian principle, the debate was closed with the decisions 1 and 2.

7 a) Status of the surveys

Spain presented this status as it is given in their national report and concluded that there is a sharp contrast between the quality of the surveys in the Northern part of Mediterranean Sea, and in its SW and Eastern parts.

Israel apologised for not having provided input on this item before this conference, but will correct the status for their coast at the next. They also pointed out that it is known that the French Institute Ifremer has carried out good quality surveys in Eastern Mediterranean. France confirmed, but it seems that these surveys in areas of depth greater than 200m have not been used by the nautical charting authorities.

Monaco indicated that new surveys complying with special S44 order have been carried out near the new jetty of the harbour: they will be passed to France for up-dating the charts. See recommendation n°4.

7 b) Revision of S55

Captain Mike Barritt presented the context of the need of a revision of the S55 : new SOLAS/V , M2, UN requirement for having a regular status of surveys and nautical charting, insufficiencies of the 2nd edition of S55 due in particular to a lack of good answers in consequence, probably, of a too complex questionnaire.

A new edition has to be prepared in close relationship with the RHCs. The first step is to elaborate a good questionnaire. An exemplar of the actual questionnaire, fulfilled for an imaginary country, is enclosed as annex C (see also IHB Circular Letter 23/03).

The chairman emphasised the particular situation of Mediterranean (no EEZ claim for example). Spain agreed adding that the boundaries problems are difficult ones and that it is necessary to go slowly. Monaco considers that the regional approach is however the best.

Spain added that it would be difficult to qualify official surveys and cartography in some zones.

The IHB President made a strong statement that S55 exists, despite such difficulties, and action to improve it needs full support and involvement.

See recommendation n°5.

8) Implementation of GMDSS in Navarea III

Spain presented the status of this implementation as it is given in their national report and concluded that the NAVTEX coverage is good in Mediterranean, even if there is a little gap near Tripoli in Lybia.

IHB President made a brief report on the last CPRNW meeting, indicating as an example of the remaining problems that a Mediterranean NAVTEX station can be received in Sweden!

Spain proposes to use Safetynet as an interim solution in Navarea III for the countries which haven't NAVTEX stations.

France indicated that they used Safetynet in their overseas dependencies in Caribbean, Indian Ocean or Pacific Ocean, and that they proposed to use Safetynet as an interim solution in Navarea II.

IHB President recalled that Safetynet can represent an alternative solution in other areas like in Navarea II, but that MBS has been defined by IMO as an area where the coverage of NAVTEX for navigational warnings should be complete (A2).

Monaco indicated that it is possible to share a NAVTEX station between states: for instance Monaco utilises La Garde Station in France for their warnings.

See decisions n° 3 and 4.

9 a) Progress in national ENC production

Serbia-Montenegro: Recently they had no longer any qualified personnel. Six people were trained in IMA, but they have currently no production capability.

Ukraine: has produced 46 ENC (non distributed as yet) and aim at having a portfolio of 165 ENC before 2006

TR : has produced 110 ENC (non distributed as yet) and expect to distribute them via its own distribution system, V-RENC and other possible distribution way.

TN : no progress due to lack of means

SI : 1st ENC produced on a global portfolio of 4 or 5 : envisage to distribute them via V-RENC or any other available RENC.

RO : 4 have been produced and 7 are proposed to be completed before the end of this year. The global portfolio is not defined yet.

IT : produce their ENC from paper charts, but prepare a production from digital databases. Will distribute via V-RENC.

FR : Priority has been given to International shipping in mainland France (75% of the goods and passengers traffic covered). Will share their future production between their overseas, their areas of international and historic responsibilities. Distribution (including E/R) is done via Primar Stavanger. France has not allowed SENC distribution due to reservations on the quality and integrity control of the ENC-SENC converters.

AL : No ENC production. All the charts are in digital form. Expect to be users of Medchartnet.

CY : No ENC production capacity, but has taken advantage of MEDA7 and hopes to use Medchartnet

HR : There are equipment (1 work station with dKart, other equipment expected in the frame of the North Adriatic Pilot Project) and people have been trained and qualified for ENC production. Work has started on nine cells which are not yet available on the market. Old hydrographic surveys will be an obstacle in the future ENC production (at least 50% of the sea areas need to be re-surveyed). They expect to solve distribution or overlapping problems through V-RENC or other international projects. For more details see HR national report.

ES: 75 ENC produced and distributed via IC-ENC.

GR : The production is carried out in association with private sector. The objective is 307 ENC in 2004.

IL : No ENC, no capacity for the time being: expects to use Medchartnet

MA : No ENC, no capacity for the time being: expects to use Medchartnet

MO: Production is made by France: an administrative arrangement between States with France and taking into account the SOLAS regulations is under preparation and could be a good example in similar cases.

USA : 3 types of electronic charts. 1/ NOAA ENCs (315 produced for a total of 1000 in the US waters): 1 up-date per month : distribution via Primar Stavanger and IC-ENC is under study. 2/ Inland ENC (rivers and waterways) 2000 miles already produced on Mississippi and Missouri rivers. 3/ NIMA DNC (5000 produced with monthly up-date), and DNC2 is under study. Presents in conclusion two co-operation projects for ENC in MACHC and PAIGH with 8MM\$ funding from World Bank

GB : 350 ENC produced of which 220 distributed by IC-ENC. 41 are under production for the areas of Malta, Gibraltar, Cyprus and Egypt. Data capture is contracted out to a company in India (IIC). All quality assurance and updating is done by the UKHO. The UKHO has

the capacity to produce about 20 ENC's per month and would be pleased to assist other nations in the region with the production of their ENC's.

9 b) Presentation of the RENCs

The short history of the V-RENC is quickly presented from the initial idea in 1999 to the first meeting of an emerging directing board in April 2003. The objective is to be able to begin experimental distribution at the end of 2003. IT, GR, Ukraine, HR, SI, TN, Serbia and Montenegro, MA have signed the MOU constituting the V-RENC.

Primar-Stavanger principles are presented including the VPN liaison, the distribution system via encryption and then private distributors, the Members and the possibilities to be linked without being a Member (eg V-RENC).

GB gave a brief presentation on IC-ENC and explained that there was a need for hydrographic offices and RENCs to work together to improve the ENC coverage, the consistency of ENC's and the availability of ENC's through "one stop shops".

The slides of these presentations are enclosed as annexes D and E.

France stated that it is fundamental to have a secure chain from the producer to the end-user at least for guaranteeing the official character of ENC and for being able to face the legal responsibility problems. It is also essential that the end-user has not to be confused by the products placed on the "market": with this regard, France recalled the creation of the WEND task force two weeks ago.

Monaco emphasised the recurrent questions of the mariners about the legal character of the ENC/ECDIS, and asked the MBSHC Members if they have officialised this character through legal texts. The IHB President said that there has been an initiative of the Bureau in that matter and recalled that the States have the obligation to inform the IMO about their national regulations. Answering the double question from Italy on the legal status of ENC/ECDIS and the obligation of the States to inform IMO, the IHB President cited SOLAS convention in its regulations V/2-9 and 19 which clearly states the satisfaction of carriage requirement with ENC/ECDIS and in its paragraph I5 which stipulates clearly the obligation of informing IMO.

10) Entry of new Member States and co-operation with non-member states.

IHB president indicated that eight integration procedures are currently in progress. He stressed the case of Romania, which presented its candidature in April 2002. For the time being, 31 member states voted for its acceptance but 47 votes were required. IHB president asked members of the MBSHC to consider their participation for this vote.

Some other States have shown an interest in admission procedures.

Slovenia pointed out that a correction should be made to its status, to note their being a full member of the IHO.

11) Training and education, activities and studies, new techniques and equipment.

IMA took stock of its training activities. A global report of IMA activities is available in their contribution. IHB president asked IMA if it would be possible to increase the number of students in their centre.

Monaco expressed their appreciation on the work carried out by IMA.

Slovenia indicated that 6 of their personnel have been trained in IMA. Israel said they were satisfied of the skills of cat B surveyors trained in IMA.

The UK gave a global description of their training programs and transmitted to the chairman a special contribution on this point, which is accessible as annex F to this report.

The USA gave a description of their A and B training programs and technical information about them (see annex G).

Spain, and France, both sent back to the report they gave the delegates before the conference for information on their training facilities.

Italy presented their training programs for surveyors in category A and B, as well as for cartographers. Italy also evoked their partnership programme with Italian universities to create a master on hydrography, which would be accessible to civilians.

Morocco drew an assessment of its personnel currently participating to training programs abroad, and evoked the lecture they are setting up at the moment.

Considering new techniques and equipments, Italy gave information on their software for MBES data processing.

12) Status of a co-ordinated maritime GIS of the MBSHC

IMA evoked its project for the creation of an inter-Adriatic information network, which could be a pilot project for the MBSHC, even if it only regards a reduced area. The funding come from the EU (50%) and the Adriatic region (50%), but due to administrative burden, the project has not yet started.

Monaco invited the delegates to note the Monegasque contribution related to the GIS being established within the frame of the RAMOGE project. Thanks to the intervention of the IHB the Hydrographic Services of France and Italy made available bathymetric data for a particular layer of that GIS related to the maritime and coastal environment.

13) Technical assistance and co-operations

IMA gave information about MEDA 7 which will be terminated with the last delivery of equipment before July 2003.

Medchartnet project is presented in the contribution of IMA : it concerns the interconnection of the MBS states for exchange of hydrographic and cartographic data. It is intended to contribute to the production of ENC via technical assistance and as support of the V-RENC. The project will create cartographic archives available for navigators for the project member states.

Monaco representative informed that during his participation in a REMPEC meeting held in February 2003 in Malta he met the Chief of the Lebanese Navy who manifested the interest of Lebanon to participate in developing projects like MEDA. This information was passed to the IHB for any action that may assist Lebanon.

Italy informed that they have prepared a "Medchartnet portfolio" of 600 charts from the information of various states and which is aimed at being the basis for digital production.

France asked to have access to this portfolio, and Italy replied that a web site is under construction.

Spain informed that they don't participate in Medchartnet.

The UK asked if Medchartnet was intended to be used to create the V-RENC, added that they were also interested in having access to the “Medchartnet portfolio” and indicated that they were ready to help the States that may have problems with ENC.

Italy confirmed that the states participating in the V-RENC can use Medchartnet facilities to support this participation.

France observed that the ENC are official products (SOLAS), and therefore the problem is not merely a problem of digitization of paper charts but a problem of cartography. Italy agreed.

14) Status of the MBSHC statutes proposed for amendment.

The chairman declared that a new version of the MBSHC statutes has been distributed. He agrees that some mistakes may occur, but this paper has to be considered as a draft paper. Being the current chairman of the MBSHC, Italy will correct this document as necessary.

15) Status and report of the working group for safety of navigation in the Black Sea

Turkey made a report of the 6th meeting of the Black and Azov Seas Working Group (BASWG) which took place on Wednesday before the first working session of MBSHC. The previous BASWG meeting had decided the increase of the charting capacity in this area. IMA is trying to find EU financing for this purpose, but this project has not started yet.

For the production of ENCs in the Black Sea, Turkey has proposed to take the EEZ limits as limits between cells.

The working group expressed concern about too frequent changes in S57 standard. To go from Ed3.1 to Ed 4.0 would cause trouble for everyone: seamen, OEMs, ENC producers. They proposed that the MBSHC endorse this statement. This was accepted and reflected in the recommendation 7.

The detailed report of the BASWG meeting is available as annex I.

16) Status of Strategic Planning Working Group

The chair and vice-chair of SPWG gave a presentation on the work carried out by the strategic planning working group (see annex I). This WG comprises a representative of each RHC and it is a part of the communication strategy to participate in the meetings of the RHC. Of course individual IHO Members can participate in the SPWG.

A 1st SPWG was created after the 2nd EIHC but with different TORs: this new one, created by the 16th IHC had to propose the best organisation to meet the objectives of the IHO, and if necessary to elaborate a new convention. For their work, the SPWG used an holistic approach, took into consideration the strengths and weaknesses of the IHO as identified after a consultation of the RHCs, looked at the structures of other International Organisations and kept in mind the necessary control of the costs. The result of the work after three plenary meetings (half-way) is to have a general assembly meeting every 2 or 3 years, with an intermediary body, the council, comprising ¼ of the Member States elected through a RHC model, controlling and orientating the functioning between two assemblies (if the interval between assemblies is 2 years there is a US alternative with no council), technical committees (techniques and standards, inter regional and regional co-operation, finances in the US proposal), a general secretariat supporting the work of the Organization, with a general secretary and two directors (elected) and Assistants to Directors, and a special link with Industry.

TR pointed out the structure of the organization and the costs generated by the higher frequency of the meetings of the various bodies for a same country. IMA insisted on the importance of training matters, on the relative position of IHO and UN bodies, and on the necessary implication of Industry. Morocco worried about a possible increase of the contributions of the Member States.

The chair of SPWG answered that capacity building was a vital point and had been taken in due consideration by the WG, that for industry the organisation had to be more proactive but that, as an intergovernmental Organisation, it was not acceptable it could just follow the standards of the industry, that the SPWG is currently studying a possible regulatory role of the future Organisation.

Answering to the question of Morocco, the Vice-chairman of SPWG presented a financial comparison of the costs during 30 years of an Organisation like the present one, with a model comprising a council and an other following the US proposal. The 2 first lead to comparable costs, the second being a little cheaper, while the third leads to significantly higher costs.

France observed that the objective is to have a better efficiency and decision making process, with a constraint on the costs which should ideally be lower, and not the contrary. They also observed that the parameters are numerous and that the financial forecasts are still raw estimates even if they can fix general ideas.

Chair and Vice Chair agreed and informed the MBSHC that the financial model will be distributed for comments before 15/08/2003, and that some working hypothesis has still to be further studied.

Slovenia proposed to use the internet/e-mail facilities to lower the costs of the numerous meetings in order to provide the possibility for smaller countries to cooperate.

Monaco said that the most urgent measure to take was to amend the Article XX of the IHO convention in such way that the delay of several years implicit in the procedure described in this Article be reduced to zero. This change would permit a faster growing of the number of the IHO Member States (at present they are less than a half of the IMO members) and would consequently facilitate the implementation of regulation 9 of the SOLAS chapter V worldwide.

To conclude the Chair indicated that a legal expert meeting will convene in Monaco on 18th June, where the present work of the SPWG will be explained and where they will be asked to study changes to the convention. Monaco stated that they wanted to participate to this meeting, at least because, depending on the conclusions of SPWG, there could be amendments to the host agreement with the Principality.

See decision n° 5 and recommendation n° 6.

17a) Seapower symposium (SPS)

The IHB President presented the Sea power Symposium. One aspect of this SPS is to offers a platform for the development of hydrographic activities. The cooperation between IHB and SPS has been initiated by RA Angrisano via the Italian Navy.

4 hydrographic projects have been led till now (Georgia – Romania –Turkey, Spain – Morocco, Albania).

The next Symposium will take place in 2004: the IHB President asked the MBSHC States to consider their needs for surveys in the area and to send these needs to IHB which will instruct the demands in relationship with Italian Navy.

17 b) SPS 4th Pilot project

This 4th pilot project in hydrography led under the auspices of the SPS concerned Albanian coasts, and involved Albania, Greece, Italy and the UK. There has been 3 survey campaigns (HNSV Pytheus 8-21 April 2002, HMS Roebuck 5-15 June 2002 and INSV Magnaghni 1-30 June 2002). The result is a re-survey of the Albanian coast and a renewal of the cartography with the collected data and with US data (see Medinchart item).

17 c) North Adriatic Sea pilot project

The North Adriatic Sea pilot project is funded by the EU and by the region of Frioul Julian Venetia. It implies Croatia, Italy and Slovenia, and is also a pilot project for the V-RENC. The project concerns 9 paper charts which has been used to create and validate the corresponding ENCs. Distribution should begin at the end of 2003.

18 b) Chapter V of SOLAS

IHB President recalled that the new chapter V of the SOLAS convention entered in force on 1st July 2002. The States which are signatories of SOLAS commit themselves to carry out surveys and to provide to the mariners sailing their waters services of navigation and hydrography (including provision of nautical charts).

IHO is recognized as the competent organization for hydrographic services and the ECDIS, as defined by the IHO, are recognized as meeting the carriage requirements without a need to use simultaneously paper charts.

18 c) Sealevel measurements in the MBS

Mr Plagg gave a presentation of ESEAS project (see annex K)

Serbia Montenegro indicated that they had two permanent tidegauges and stated that they envisaged to join ESEAS.

19) Reports from the adjacent hydrographic commissions

France presented an important capacity building initiative of the Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission. An expertise visit of 17 of the 20 African countries of the region has been undertaken (14 countries visited during last term of 2002 and 1st term of 2003). France, Portugal, UK and USA participated as experts in these visits, which gave the opportunity to have contacts at three different levels: decision makers (eg ministers) where the consequences of the new SOLAS convention and the role of hydrography have been discussed, management level where the conditions of implementation of the international conventions (SOLAS, SAR, GMDSS, ...) have been studied, and the "surveying" level where the capacities and needs have been analysed.

The next step is to visit the 3 remaining countries, and to find with the IHB the best ways to conduct and finance regional projects.

US stressed the fact that the organization of such an ambitious programme of visits was a challenge and involved considerable work time, and that for the time being this organization has been successful. They added that, although not being a RHC, the Pan American Institute

for Hydrography and Geography was worth to be mentioned. This PAIHG concerns 15 countries and has taken, through workshops, initiatives that are interesting the hydrographic world: eg on MBES and the processing of high density data, or the thoughts on “Hydrography and Power”, which aim at heighten high level decision makers’ awareness on hydrographic matters.

20) Status of bilateral arrangements between MBSHC

Monaco indicated that an agreement with France, referring to SOLAS V convention, was under preparation. Such an arrangement could be helpful as an example for MBSHC as well as for other regions.

France recalled that the arrangements on nautical cartography are considered by them of particular nature since they imply liability questions between the States. This is a reason why they were late to start, because of the level of commitment from these States. They just received during the meeting the authorisation from their Minister to enter into negotiations and would contact Spain to negotiate a bilateral arrangement during this month of June.

Morocco reminded that they have signed a cooperative agreement since a long time with Navoceanio.

Turkey noted that the arrangements are a good thing, but that it is also necessary to be sure that the commitments are effective.

The UK is currently working towards revised arrangements with Romania and Turkey.

Germany has already signed with Spain and Greece, and is in relationship with Russia, Turkey and Croatia. Initial contacts have been taken with Italia.

Romania has already signed an arrangement with Greece and is in the procedures of signing new arrangements with Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, Spain, Turkey, UK and Ukraine.

21) IBCM

Dr John Hall gave information on the IBCM project, he explained the studies and techniques used. Further information is available in his report.

Dr John Hall asked to the IHB if it would be possible for them to use the ENC data for this zone to expand the IBCM database. IHB president declared that it will be asked if it would be possible to communicate such information to IBCM. IHB president also pointed out the particular interest of going forward to the digital IBCM format.

22) Other items

Monaco wanted to evoke a particular part of its contribution concerning the ASPIM, protected areas of the Mediterranean Sea. Monaco called attention on the marine mammal sanctuary, and asked if it would be possible to study any way of visualizing such areas on nautical charts, preferably before mid-November 2003. Confirming that such information is already noted in nautical books, France suggested that such considerations should be studied by the working group on paper charts standardisation. France added that charts cannot be overburden with information, and proposed to study this case considering the charts scales. The UK proposed to add such information as an optional layer on future ENCs.

23) Decisions and recommendations

Decision nr 1: (Agenda item 5) France will prepare the new edition of the MEDINTCHART catalogue taking into consideration the comments of Conference Members.

Decision nr 2: (Agenda item 6) France as chairman of MBSHC will send a CL asking for countries to continue with the original work and whether there is any Country that would volunteer to pilot the development of the ownership matrix within MBS area.

Decision nr 3: (Agenda item 8) To avoid the redundant broadcasting of warnings, National Coordinators are requested to:

- a) When they submit any information to Navarea III coordinator, specify whether it is being broadcasted by Navtex or not.
- b) Implement an effective filtering for warnings that should be classified as local or coastal.

Decision nr 4: (Agenda item 8) To confirm which authority acts as National MSI Coordinator for each Country, submitting postal and e-mail addresses and telex, fax and telephone numbers to the Navarea III Coordinator.

Decision nr 5: (Agenda item 16) Italy will continue to represent the MBSHC within the SPWG.

Decision nr 6: (Agenda item 21) IHB to contact HO's for the IBCM asking them to make available the soundings from their produced ENC's for the support of the second edition of the IBCM in digital form.

Decision nr 7: (Agenda item 24) The MBSHC have asked Tunisia to consider the possibility to host the next Conference, IHB will accordingly send a letter to Tunisia in order to explore the possibility to host the XIV MBSHC Conference. In case of negative response IHB will send a similar letter to Morocco for the same purpose. In case of negative response the next Meeting will be held in the premises of IHB in Monaco. The dates will be arranged through correspondence.

Recommendation nr 1: (Agenda item 5) Greece and Turkey will continue to reach an agreement for the allocation of production responsibility for INT charts n° 3706, 3710, 3712 and 3716.

Turkey will consider the Greek proposal refer letter 939.1/2/93 dated 05/01/93.

Turkey understands that Greece did not have the Official letter dated 10/02/99 and agree to send a new letter with their consideration.

Recommendation nr 2: (Agenda item 5) Turkey to send Official consideration to Medintchart Coordinator and Greece, regarding the new medium scale INT chart proposed by Greece.

Recommendation nr 3: (Agenda item 5) The Commission recommends that France, Spain and UK find a possible solution regarding the medium scale INT charts scheme of Mediterranean coastal waters of Spain.

Recommendation nr 4: (Agenda item 7) The Commission recognises the importance of having the information regarding the status of surveys up to the 31st of December each year in MBS area and invites MS and AMS to compile and communicate this situation to Spain annually, by the end of February, in order to keep this information up to date.

Recommendation nr 5: (Agenda item 7.b) The Commission encourages Members States, Associate Member States to support the compilation of the new edition of IHO Special Publication 55 as requested in IHB C. L. 23/2003.

Recommendation nr 6: (Agenda item 16) The Commission encourages all Member States and Associate Member States to provide Italy with their contributions concerning the works of SPWG.

Recommendation nr 7: (Agenda item 15) Noting that:

- a) HOs of the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea countries have already started the production of ENCs in S-57 Ed. 3.1., and
- b) Any changes to the existing standard (S-57 Ed. 3.1.) will affect negatively the progress of the production of the ENCs, with technical, financial consequences for the Member States, and the safety of navigation.

Therefore the MBSHC recommends not to change the current Standard of S-57. Any changes must not be implemented for at least 4-5 years and in close consultation with the MS. France as Chairman of MBSHC, will present this recommendation to the 15th CHRIS.

Recommendation nr 8: (Agenda item 22) MBSHC MS and AMS to consider the possibility to include on charts and/or in nautical publications the Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean and Black Seas Interest (ASPIM).

Recommendation nr 9: (Agenda item 22) France, Italy and Monaco to examine, by 30th September 2003, the possibility to represent on the small scale charts marine mammals sanctuaries.

24) Date and place of the next conference

The question of the place of the next conference has been settled in the decisions section (see decision nr 7).

25) Closing

The MBSHC chairman, rear-admiral Cagnetti closed the sessions by expressing thanks to France for their organisation. France thanked the delegates for their participation to this meeting and made an appointment with the MBSHC members in 18 months or two years, nearer to the Mediterranean and Black Seas than the venue of this XIIIth conference.

Annex B

MBSHC XII CONFERENCE

Decisions

DECISION 1

The Working Group on copyright should continue its work to implement the proposed first actions, mentioned in the report of the XI Conference, para 4. It is expected that a group will examine version 6.0 of the NSHC standard licensing agreement, enclosed in the WG report, and suggest that a similar agreement be elaborated for the MBSHC too.

The TORs of this WG are:

3.1. Chairmanship and secretariat are provided by France

3.2. The work will be done by correspondence

The Chairman may call for meetings of the WG if so required

A report with proposals has to be circulated to the Members, Associate Members and Observers of the MBSHC, in time to receive their comments prior to the XIII Conference of the MBSHC.

DECISION 2

The new Chairman (Italy) is tasked to prepare a circular letter regarding the written application to become Associate Members of the MBSHC submitted by UK and USA, and send it to all Member States for voting, in compliance with the present Statutes. Member States must send their vote within two months from the date of the Circular Letter. The results of the voting will be made known to Member States by Italy. Member States not responding by that date could be considered to be in favour.

DECISION 3

Concerning the admission to the MBSHC of non-Mediterranean countries, RUSSIA requested unanimous consent. Taking into account that this is a new proposal, it was agreed that the new chairman of the MBSHC will distribute an explanatory letter from Russia among the Member States for consideration. Results will be presented to the XIII MBSHC Conference for final consideration.

DECISION 4

The new Chairman (Italy) is tasked to publish the third edition of the MBSHC Statutes as approved before the XII Conference and provide it to the Member States, Associate Members and Observers and IHB.

DECISION 5

Italy will send a letter to all Member States and Associate Members asking for comments on the proposed VRENC MoU by 15th December 2001. Italy, Greece and any other Country willing to participate, taking into consideration the comments received, must provide Member States of MBSHC a final draft of the VRENC MoU by the end of February 2002, and

distribute it to Member States and Associate Members for consideration. Acceptance of the text is expected at the next IHO Conference (April 2002).

Therefore an extraordinary meeting of the Commission should be convened during the IHO Conference in Monaco (April, 2002). IHB will organise the meeting.

DECISION 6

The MEDINTCHART Coordinator is tasked to update the Catalogue according to proposals submitted by Member States during the Conference, and publish a new edition of the Catalogue.

DECISION 7

The WG on the Safety of Navigation in the Black Sea and Azov Sea should continue its work towards the implementation of the ongoing projects. A first report on their progress must be provided by the end of February 2002 to the MBSHC Members and to the IHB, so that the next meeting of the WG with bordering countries, IHB, IALA and IMA, will be held during the IHO Conference in Monaco (April 2002). The IHB in cooperation with IMA will draft the “basic structure” of the project in view of a possible presentation to funding agencies like the (European Commission)

DECISION 8

Spain expressed concern in their report as NAVAREA III Coordinator at the XII MBSHC Conference. This report explains the main functional difficulties, invites the MBSHC Countries to give their warning addresses, and requires the implementation of the filtering device to avoid duplication of warnings. Also, it solicits the co-operation of all countries to become responsible for their own navigation warnings.

MBSHC Countries are invited to implement their own national channels before 2004, by separating the warnings in dual band (national and international)

IHB, following a request of IMO, will send to IHO Member States a Circular Letter asking for dual band coverage. This will be done in October 2002.

DECISION 9

The Conference decided to support IOC and IHO initiative to prepare the 2nd edition of IBCM and encourage HO's to provide the available data to the Editorial Board of IBCM.

A preliminary beta version of the IBCM-II is expected to be published in the year 2002

RECOMMENDATION 1

Turkey recommends that at MBSHC Conferences delegates be arranged, not in alphabetical order, but according with their juridical position within the Commission: Member States – Associate Members – Observers – Organisations.

RECOMMENDATION 2

The Commission, noting the situation of the Countries which have not yet hosted the Conference, tasked the Chairman to investigate the possibility of hosting the XIII Conference by those Countries.

The Commission welcomed the offer of FRANCE to host the Conference if the above mentioned Countries are unable to host the Conference.