

39th Meeting of the United States of America – Canada Hydrographic Commission

16 May 2016 Halifax, Canada



The 39th United States of America – Canada Hydrographic Commission (USCHC) was held May 16, 2016 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. USCHC39 was held in conjunction with the Canadian Hydrographic Conference 2016.

Mr. Denis Hains (Hydrographer General and Director General of the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS)) hosted the meeting and he was joined at the head table with USCHC co-chair, RDML Gerd Glang (Director, Office of Coast Survey (OCS), National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)), and International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) director, Mr. Mustafa Iptes.



IHO Director Iptes, Mr. Hains, and RDML Glang

In addition to representatives from CHS, NOAA, and the IHO, the 28 participants included representatives from National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), the US Navy, US Army Core of Engineers (USACE), Canada's Departments of National Defence (DND) and Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), and the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO).

The agenda covered a wide range of topics of mutual interest with the Member States' reports and the extra-commission briefs (e.g. IHO, WENDWG, MSDIWG, CSBWG, GEBCO, IBSC etc.) providing relevant context to the discussions and presentations.

Some of the topics provoking in-depth discussions included:

- The INT Chart Programme review (from the USCHC perspective);
- Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI);

- [Controlled] Crowd-sourced bathymetry; and,
- The future of the paper chart.

Several excellent technical presentations were also made that were complementary to the discussions. For example: “Building a decision tree to obtain a complete and coherent coastal chart coverage for ENC’s” (US); “Sensor-Derived [Bathymetry] Policy and Localized Chart Updates” (US); “A Data Access Centre of Expertise” (CA); and, “A Satellite-Derived Bathymetry (SDB) Pilot Study” (US). These, and all other presentations, will be made available with the USCHC39 documents.



USCHC39 Participants

The meeting closed with RDML Glang inviting participants to the 40th USCHC meeting which will take place along with US Hydro conference in Galveston, Texas, 20-23 March, 2017.