



**International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)
United States-Canada Hydrographic Commission (USCHC) 40th Meeting**

UPDATED FEBRUARY 14, 2017 with Additional Airport Option to Consider

**USCHC MEETING
20 MARCH 2017
INVITATION AND LOGISTICS INFORMATION
GALVESTON, TEXAS USA**

Dear Colleagues,

1. The fortieth meeting of the United States-Canada Hydrographic Commission (USCHC) will take place on 20 March 2017 in Galveston, TX at the Moody Gardens Hotel. The USCHC meeting is scheduled a day before the opening ceremonies of the US Hydro 2017 conference hosted by The Hydrographic Society of America (THSOA). The USCHC meeting will take place from 09:00 to 17:00 in the same venue as the conference.

It is not necessary that participants to the USCHC meeting attend the US Hydro conference.

2. **Venue and Accommodation, Registration Form, Logistic Information.** Refer to Annex A for meeting and hotel registration information for the USCHC and US Hydro. Attendees are invited to make their own hotel arrangements at their earliest convenience. Additionally, attendees will be responsible for arranging transportation to and from the venue. Please refer to Annex B for information related to conference travel. Should you have any queries regarding accommodations and/or travel arrangements, please contact Ms. Melissa Wood at melissa@thsoa.org or by telephone at [+1 \(832\) 687-5570](tel:+18326875570).

3. **Minutes of USCHC-39.** The minutes and the actions of the USCHC-39 are available via the USCHC page on the [IHO website](#). Members are kindly invited to provide the Regional Commission with their updates to Jonathan.Justi@noaa.gov and Vanessa.Miller@noaa.gov so the Action List from the USCHC-39 meeting can be kept updated on the IHO website.

4. **Draft Agenda for USCHC-40.** Reference Annex B for a preliminary draft agenda and timetable for USCHC-40. USCHC Members and Stakeholders are invited to make their suggestions on the draft agenda, if any, **by 1 March 2017** to Jonathan.Justi@noaa.gov, Douglas.Brunton@dfm-mpo.gc.ca, and Vanessa.Miller@noaa.gov.

5. **Submission deadlines for USCHC-40 Documents.** Documents intended for consideration at USCHC should be submitted to Vanessa.Miller@noaa.gov in accordance with the "Guidelines for the Submission of Reports and Proposals for consideration by USCHC", as follows:

Proposals and reports requiring consideration and a decision by USCHC	no later than March 1
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Subsequent comments and contributions (Such supplementary submissions should contain a maximum of 4 pages)	no later than March 10
Information papers	no later March 10

All the documents will be posted on the IHO website as soon as they are received.

6. USCHC Secretariat

Please feel free to contact the meeting Secretariat at

USA: Jonthan.Justi@noaa.gov and Vanessa.Miller@noaa.gov

Canada: Douglas.Brunt@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

IHO: Anthony Pharoh at addt@iho.int

Yours sincerely,

Admiral Shepard M. Smith
U.S. Chair, USCHC

Annexes:

A – Meeting/Hotel Registration Information

B – Preliminary Draft Agenda and Time Table



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ANNEX A

USCHC meeting 20 March 2017, in Galveston, TX United States

VENUE

The venue for the meeting will be:

Moody Gardens Hotel
Room: Iris/Tulip
Seven Hope Boulevard
Galveston, TX 77554

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

The Moody Gardens Hotel has set aside a block of rooms for US HYDRO 2017 at a discounted rate of \$159.00 USD plus 15% occupancy tax. It is important to note that this venue does not honor the government rate discount.

To take advantage of the discounted group rate, contact the Moody Gardens Hotel reservations at 1-888-388-8484 and request the “Hydrographic Society of America” block rate, or visit the [hotel's website](#). This rate is only for dates 3/18/2017 – 3/25/2017 and is available until **February 25, 2017** or until all allocated rooms are reserved, whichever occurs first.

The hotel offers complimentary wireless internet access in all guest rooms and meeting rooms. Self-parking is complimentary; valet parking is \$20.00 for overnight. Check in is at 4:00 p.m. and check out is at 12:00 p.m.

If you have any problems contact registration@ushydro2017.com.



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ANNEX B

TRANSPORTATION AND AIRPORT

Travelers should schedule transportation to and from the venue in advance. The hotel does offer group shuttle service to the airport if scheduled well in ahead of time.

The closest airport to the venue is the **William P. Hobby Airport** (airport code: HOU). The airport is located approximately **41 miles (66 km)** from the venue. For travelers flying into the William P. Hobby Airport, the use of the **airport shuttle** to Galveston, TX is **NOT** recommended. This shuttle will take you to the cruise ship terminals, 4.4 miles (7 km) from the venue.

An alternative airport in the Houston area is the **George Bush Intercontinental Airport** (airport code: IAH). The airport is located approximately **70 miles (113 km)** from the venue.

Although the George Bush Intercotinental Airport is further away, there may be viable scheduling and cost options for flights depending on your individual travel plans.

Below is a list of recommended modes of transportation to and from the venue:

Person Transportation/Rental Cars

Company	Comments
* Hertz (https://www.hertz.com/)	National driver's license and passport required; <u>government rates available</u>
* AVIS (https://www.avis.com/en/home)	National driver's license and passport required; <u>government rates available</u>
* National (https://www.nationalcar.com)	National driver's license and passport required; <u>government rates available</u>
<i>*Not sponsored or endorsed by the THOSA, US Government, IHO, or US-Canada Hydrographic Committee</i>	



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Private Shuttle/Driver/ Limo Services (Suggestions)

- [Galveston Limousine Service](#): Offers daily schedule service to Galveston from both the George Bush International Airport and the William P. Hobby airport.
 - Telephone: +1-409-744-5466
 - Email: galvestonlimo@gmail.com

- [Island Breeze Shuttle](#): Offers pre-scheduled shuttle service to Galveston from both the George Bush International Airport and the William P. Hobby airport.
 - Telephone: +1-409-770-0100
 - Email: info@islandbreezeshuttle.com

- [HF Quality Taxi Shuttle Service](#): Offers hourly and flat rate transportation in and around the Houston and Galveston areas, including the George Bush International Airports and the William P. Hobby airport.
 - Telephone(s): +1-409-299-4300, +1-409-5997123

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POINT OF CONTACT(S)

Ms. Mellissa Wood will assist you if needed. Her email is melissa@thsoa.org, office phone: [+1 \(832\) 687-5570](tel:+18326875570).

Additional point of contact: Vanessa.Miller@noaa.gov

REGISTRATION (USCHC)

PLEASE EMAIL OR FAX THE FOLLOWING REGISTRATION FOR USHC TO VANESSA.MILLER@NOAA.GOV OR FAX [+1 \(757\) 441-6601](tel:+17574416601)

PLEASE INCLUDE FULL NAME, TITLE, ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION, AND CONTACT INFORMATION.

THIS INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED WITH THE PARTICIPATION LIST FOR THE MEETING AND AVAILABLE ON THE IHO USCHC MEETING WEBSITE.

OPTIONAL REGISTRATION (THSOA-US HYDRO)

The US Hydro 2017 conference registration fee for Full Member & Non Member includes admission to technical sessions, workshops, exhibit hall, two hosted social receptions (Exhibitor's Happy Hour on Tuesday and Wednesday nights). One-day Member & Non Member registrations do not include entrance into the social receptions. Tickets for the hosted social receptions can be purchased at registration or onsite.

A 'Member' is an Individual Member with The Hydrographic Society of America, The Canadian Hydrographic Association, or the International Federation of Hydrographic Societies (IFHS). All New 'Members' must be in good standing as of February 19, 2017.

The registration price is \$425 for Full Members and \$550 for Full Non Members. One-day Conference registration for Members is \$200 and \$235 for Non-Members. Students of 'Member' organizations may register for \$50.

Attendee Registration is 100% refundable if notification is made by email to



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registration@ushydro2017.com by 5:00pm CST March 10, 2017.

ONLINE Early Registration & payments ends at 5:00pm CST, March 17, 2017.

There is NO 'Exhibits Only' category. All persons must register as one of the above categories to view the exhibits.

Questions? Email registration@ushydro2017.com.

VISA

Visa requirements should be fulfilled in advance. For visa information, please visit <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en.html>



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ANNEX C

Agenda Item / Time	Agenda Topic
1. 0830	Introductions and Welcome Smith/Hains [USCHC40-01 List of Participants]
2. 0840	Approval of the Agenda Smith/Hains [USCHC40-02 Agenda]
3. 0850	Organizational and Personnel Update/National Reports A- Canada (10 min.) Canada [USCHC40-03A Canada National Report] B – United States (15min.) US [USCHC40-03B Canada National Report]
4. 0920	Review of Past Actions Brunt/Justi A – USCH39-04A B – IRCC9
5. 0945	Status of USCHC Statutes Brunt/Justi [USCHC39-05 USCHC Statutes –Update]
6. 0950	IRCC and IHO Reporting Coordination -2017 milestone calendar for USCHC
1000	Break
7. 1015	Charting
8. 1140	Technical Presentation: tbd
1200	Lunch
9. 1300	Extra-Commission Briefs A- IHO (10min.) (Admiral Mustafa Iptes-pending confirmation) B- WENDWG brief (10min.) C- UKHO (10 min.) D- GEBCO update (10min.) E– Other



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10. 1345	Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure A – CA (10min.) B – US (10min.) C – IHO MSDIWG brief (10min.) -Discussion (15min.)
11. 1430	IHO Assembly Preparations
12. 1445	Informational and Other Items
Break 1500	
13. 1515	Technical Presentation
14. 1530	Confirmation of USCHC Representative to the Capacity Building Sub-Committee
15. 1545	Tbd
16.	Confirmation of USCHC41
17. 1630	Meeting Closing