



SAIHC REPORT

16th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

(IRCC-16)

Santa Cruz Island - Galapagos, Ecuador
10-12 June 2024

1. Chair

Chair: Rear Admiral Angus Essenhigh OBE, The United Kingdom from August 2023 to present.

Vice-Chair: Mr Mohummad Shamad Ayoob Saab, Mauritius from February 2021 to present.

2. Membership

Full Members: Angola, France, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Norway, Republic of South Africa, Seychelles, United Kingdom.

Associate members: Comoros, India, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Portugal, Tanzania.

3. Meetings

The 19th Conference of the SAIHC (SAIHC19) was held from 29 - 31 August 2023 in Mauritius, preceded by a Hydrographic Awareness Seminar on 28 August.

The next Conference (SAIHC20) will be hosted by the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office in Kisumu, Kenya from 17-19 September 2024, preceded by a Hydrographic Awareness Seminar on 16 September 2024.

4. Current SAIHC Working Groups

- a) Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG)
- b) Integrated Chart Coordination Working Group (ICCWG)
- c) Sub working group of ICCWG - African Great Lakes & Rivers Working Group (AGL&RsWG)

5. Status of IRCC actions and recommendations to RHCs

No	Recommendation	Response
1	RHCs are encouraged to review the ROP and TOR based on Decision 9b of the Assembly on gender-inclusive language.	Completed SAIHC Sec reviewed SAIHC Statutes (last updated in May 2022) in March 24 and confirmed that they are fully gender-inclusive already with no gender-specific language present. SAIHC ICCWG ToRs, reviewed and amended March 24. SAIHC MSDIWG ToRs reviewed and amended March 24. SAIHC AGLRWG ToRs reviewed March 24 and no updates required.
2	RHCs to start producing S-101 and other S-100 products by focusing on a specific part of the region.	Not started
3	RHC to discuss how HOs can assume a geo-coordinating role to help ensure provision of data at a regional level.	Discussed during SAIHC19.
4	RHC to ask the MS and potential contributors to consider the extended activities in the implementation of the S-100 Roadmap for HCA region.	Discussed during SAIHC19.
5	RHCs and Subordinate Bodies to consider opening the debate on future engagement in climate change related activities in reference to Strategic Goal 3.	Discussed during SAIHC19. - SAIHC Sec has contacted the Nairobi Convention to enquire if there is a suitable update that can be provided on climate change initiatives in region
6	RHC to encourage relevant Member States to report to the IMO Secretariat and the Chair of the EGC Coordinating Panel on the progress and status of implementation of newly recognized mobile satellite services by MSI providers.	Ongoing
7	RHCs to ensure representation of their region in the CBSC and encourage other IHO Member States to join in the work of the CBSC.	Completed/Ongoing. SAIHC CB Coordinator is Ms Lucy Fieldhouse of UKHO.
8	RHCs to prioritize their participation in the WENDWG through the RHC Chart Coordinator or S-100 Coordinator	Ongoing. SAIHC MS encouraged and

No	Recommendation	Response
		reminded to complete WENDWG S1XX Readiness Survey (CL 01/2023). SAIHC is represented at the WENDWG and Mauritius have volunteered to lead the S100 Coordination.
9	RHCs, if not done already, establish the S-100 Coordinator role or assign S-100 Coordinator duties as appropriate.	Completed. Mauritius have volunteered as SAIHC S100 Coordinator. Formal voting and approval will take place during SAIHC20 in September 24.
10	RHC S-100 Coordinators to update their WEND-100 IGIF Matrix submissions every year and share their schedule and roadmap to meeting the 2026 IMO target (S-100 ECDIS) at every WENDWG meeting.	SAIHC MS encouraged to complete the WENDWG S1XX Readiness Survey (CL 01/2023) for 2023/24 instead of completing the WEND100 IGIF Matrix.
11	RHC Chart Coordinators/S-100 Coordinators report their planned S-101 chart schemes, usage bands 1 - 4, by 30 September. Request that submissions use INTtoGIS III when commissioned.	To be discussed at SAIHC20 with newly appointed S100 Coordinator.
12	RHCs to appoint MSDI ambassadors and inform the MSDIWG with contact details.	Completed. UK is MSDI ambassador.
13	RHC to encourage Member States to have more CSBWG participation.	MS encouraged. SAIHC has an established CSB Coordinator.
14	RHC to encourage Member States to support the CSB initiative with positive actions, such as requiring all research vessels to collect bathymetric data for subsequent uploading, when on passage or when it does not interfere with other research activities.	MS encouraged.
15	RHCs to encourage Member State and stakeholder bathymetric data contributions to the DCDB, regardless of origin.	MS encouraged.
16	RHCs to collaborate with the DCDB on developing and highlighting annual regional breakdowns of data holdings as part of SPI reporting	Ongoing
17	To encourage RHCs to actively contribute with new data to GEBCO.	MS encouraged.

No	Recommendation	Response
18	To invite RHCs to assign the INT paper chart scheme appropriateness check and possible amendment of the scheme.	Ongoing.
19	To encourage RHCs to invite Member States to consider the provision of paper chart updating procedures depending on the findings of NCWG.	Ongoing.
20	To encourage RHCs to invite Member States to consider the requirements (including regulations) for non-ECDIS mandated vessels (e.g. small commercial, fishing, leisure, etc) within national, regional and global discussions on this topic (HSSC15 decision 7 regarding Electronic Chart Systems PT refers)	MS encouraged.

6. Agenda Items

CBC:

- a) Seminar on Raising Awareness of Hydrography - A 1-day Seminar focussed on Alternative Survey methods supported by Industry partners to help raise awareness of National Obligations and how these can be met. The Seminar also examined the work of the IHO and its partner organisations, the development of future standards, and opportunities for professional development.
- b) MSI Course - delivered in October and hosted by Oman. This course covered the requirements to maintain and update existing charts and publications to ensure the safe navigation of shipping as governed by the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). Through IHO support 9 countries within the region benefitted from this training activity.
- c) NOAA hosted Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH) At Sea Experience - Ms Victoria Obura (Kenya) was selected to spend time aboard a NOAA hydrographic ship to gain hands-on experience.
- d) In a collaborative effort to promote hydrography and empower women in hydrography, Mauritius Hydrographic Service (MHS) under the aegis of Ministry of Housing and Land Use Planning, facilitated a one-day technical visit onboard Indian Naval Ship Darshak for 10 women surveyors from the parent Ministry and 20 aspiring women surveyors enrolled in degree courses in surveying at the University of Mauritius. Through initiatives like this, Mauritius actively contributes to the objectives of the EWH project, which aims to enhance the participation of women in the field of hydrography.
- e) IHO - NF GEOMAC Project Cat B GeoMAC Course (Jul - Dec 23) Mr Anthony Waiyego (Kenya).
- f) SAIHC Members and Associate Members have benefitted from the contributions by Industry who have supported SAIHC CB activities once again this year. It should be particularly noted that Kongsberg have made a special financial contribution to support CB development within the region.

MSDIWG:

The SAIHC MSDI Working Group has continued to work with members and related working groups. The most pertinent points are covered below:

- a) Collaboration with the AGL&RsWG. One of the key areas here has been to investigate the appetite and requirement to develop a geospatial portal covering critical meta data for the Great Lakes region. An update will be provided at SAIHC20.
- b) Delivered Annual report ahead of SAIHC19. During plenary an overview of activity was reported. Of note was briefing and discussions regarding the development of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) MSDI maturity roadmap, including the publication of the "quick start" guide. A link to this is here: <https://www.ogc.org/press-release/ogc-ukho-and-partners-release-the-igif-msdi-maturity-roadmap/>
- c) Reviewed and updated the TORs and ROP for gender-inclusive language.
- d) Many Member States have highlighted that the S100 transition is one of the more pressing items. As such, during SAIHC19 and following review, MSDIWG incorporated a change to the TOR/ROPs to assist with S100 development in absence of a S100 coordinator. From SAIHC20 this will be addressed through the appointment of a SAIHC S100 Coordinator.

ICCWG:

- a) SAIHC has now appointed S100 Coordinator, Mauritius. The formal approval and vote will take place during SAIHC20 in September 2024.
- b) 129 INT charts covering Region H, including 3 INT charts covering Mauritius waters published in August 2023.
- c) 172 INT chart panels including plans.
- d) 9 Schemed INT charts.
- e) Update to changes on S11, Part B reported at last SAIHC in August 2023.
6 new INT charts produced and 1 new edition.
Approval of new INT numbers 7601, 7602 and 7603 to national series charts of Mauritius (produced by India as PCA) and published in August 2023.
INT 7601 (IN 2529) - Northern Islets of Mauritius 1: 50 000 ENC Coverage IN42529N
INT 7602 (IN 2530) - Approaches to Grand Port 1: 30 000 ENC Coverage IN52530A
INT 7603 (IN 2531) - Rodrigues Island 1: 50 000 ENC Coverage IN42531R
INT 7601, 7602, 7603 the latest new INT charts approved for inclusion in S-11 INT chart scheme for Region H in 2023.

Revised process for the review and monitoring of INT charts: Charts listed below have been subject to review and published. S11 updated accordingly.

New INT chart 7583 covers Approaches to the Port of Maputo at 1:30 000, co-production between MZ/PT published in 2023. Approach ENC coverage GB400646 at 1:22 000

New INT chart 7662 covers the Port of Nacala at a scale of 1:20 000, co-production between MZ/PT published in 2023. Approach ENC coverage GB400649 replaced by GB40649A at 1:45 000

New INT chart 2551, previously accepted into the INT Chart Scheme produced by Portugal covering the Port of Luanda at 1:15 000 published in 2022.

Latest new edition INT chart published since last SAIHC in August 2023

INT 7641 - Aproximações ao Quelimane (includes inset Porto de Quelimane) - new edition, co-production between PT and MZ published February 2024.

No new INT charts published since last SAIHC in 2023.

African Great Lakes and Rivers Sub Working Group (AGL&RsWG):

- a) 6th meeting held in Mauritius 28th August 2023. Highlights include: Proposal for collaboration with IALA to deliver an overview on risk assessment. Summary of continued data collection efforts in region. Discussions on the requirements for a data portal to support coordination and awareness of regional hydrographic survey activities.
- b) Publication of Note - 'Collaboration through practical demonstration' in November 2023 edition of the International Hydrographic Review. This highlights the working groups activities in Malawi, December 2022. This featured a working group meeting followed by practical demonstration in Monkey Bay.

7. SAIHC cooperation with stakeholders (organizations, industry, etc.)

SAIHC has seen continuing support from various Industries including TCarta, Teledyne Geospatial, Kongsberg, IALA and Exail who were all represented at SAIHC19. SAIHC19 welcomed for the first time, Anahita Laverack, Oshen, and Jonah Mumbya, Intergovernmental Standing Committee on Shipping (ISCOS) <https://iscosafricashipping.org/> .

8. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed

Data collection in remote locations and the lack of data coverage to meet the Seabed 2030 goals remain a huge challenge for the SAIHC region. Many members find it challenging to unlock scarce resources to invest in hydrography. The SAIHC community is at a varying level of technical maturity within the digital and S-100 space. SAIHC20 will formally appoint an S100 Coordinator to focus on this emerging requirement in line with the IHO roadmap.

9. Achievements and lessons learned

SAIHC has continued to progress the priority items identified through IRCC and is delivering despite scarce resources. The UKHO, in its capacity as Primary Charting Authority (PCA) funded and managed a significant data collection programme (January 2024-March 2024) in the Seychelles. Furthermore, UKHO conducted a three-day Hydrographic Governance Workshop in the United Republic of Tanzania. These events support the development of hydrographic capability and have raised awareness at a policy level of the value of hydrography and its role in supporting a country's economy.

The Terms of Reference (TORs) and Rules of Procedures (ROPs) have been updated from

the SAIHC Statutes through to the subordinate working groups to ensure congruence with gender-neutral language.

The ICCWG continues to coordinate the INT charting coverage and work to reduce ENC overlaps and gaps.

Participants from the region have benefited from the support of the IHO Capacity Building Fund and the generous support of the donor organisations - Mr Anthony WAIYEGO of Kenya attended the IHO - Nippon Foundation GEOMAC Project, successfully completing the course in December 2023.

Noting the limited CB funding that is available, the contribution that Industry has made to support SAIHC CB activities has been invaluable and supported development within the region.

10. Conclusions

SAIHC, in collaboration with other international, regional, and bilateral partners, has continued to grow attendance and active participation, greatly supported through the various IHO Capacity Building funded activities and contributions from industry. This has enabled the ongoing development of hydrography, nautical cartography, MSDI and capacity building activities in close alignment with IHO objectives and goals. This incorporates the digital transition to S100 which will be of key focus for the next SAIHC20.

11. Actions required of IRCC

The IRCC is invited to take note of this Report.