

International Hydrographic
Bureau Report to the GEBCO
Guiding Committee
Cdr. Steve Shipman



Report given at the 28th GEBCO Guiding Committee meeting
Held at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla,
California, USA
7th October 2011

IHB Report to GGC XXVIII, 7 October 2011-09-20

I am pleased to be able to provide this report on behalf of Captain Gorziglia, IHB Director, who for several reasons, is unable to attend this meeting and sends his apologies.

The IHO

As of September 2011 thirty-two Governments, out of a required forty-eight, have ratified the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention which was approved by Member States at an Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference in 2005. Notwithstanding this the IHO implemented the underpinning Committee Structure with effect from 1 January 2009.

Thus the IHO has two principal committees, one of which is the Inter-Regional Co-ordination Committee (IRCC) which has responsibility for the oversight of GEBCO within the IHO. Your Vice Chair attended the 2011 annual meeting of IRCC and I am sure that you will hear more from him shortly. I would just like to emphasise the importance for GEBCO of attendance at meetings, and contribution to the work, of IRCC. It is through IRCC that the inclusion of work programme items and any necessary funding can be achieved.

The IHO currently has 80 Member States, of which two: Democratic Republic of the Congo; and the Dominican Republic are suspended due to non-payment of fees. A further six States have applied for membership of which four: Bulgaria; Cameroon; Mauritania; and Sierra Leone; have received the required support and only have to deposit their letter of accession with the Government of Monaco. The remaining two candidates: Haiti and Montenegro have 48 and 51 respectively of the required 52 approvals.

ENCs

Over the last twelve months the IHO has continued to focus on the availability of an “adequate” availability of Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) as a mandatory carriage requirement for ECDIS and ENCs is being phased in under SOLAS during the period from 1 July 2012 to 2018.

S-100

S-100, the IHO Universal Hydrographic Data Model, and IHO Geospatial Registry became an active standard on 1 January 2010. The registry is available on-line at: http://registry.iho.int/s100_gi_registry/home.php. A new ENC Product Specification S-101 is expected to be released in 2012 with further Product Specifications based on S-100 following in due course. The S-100 series is based on the ISO 19100 set of standards and therefore has an application well beyond the IHO. Importantly for the IHO is the decision of the IMO Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation (NAV), endorsed by the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), to recommend that “the use of the IHO’s S-100 standard as the baseline for creating a framework for data access and services under the scope of SOLAS”.

S-23

The IHO WG on Publication S-23 – Limits of Oceans and Seas, is continuing its work with a few issues still to be resolved and has asked for an extension of time in order to try and resolve these matters.

Capacity Building

The IHO’s Capacity Building work is based upon the requirements established by the Regional Hydrographic Commissions. These are reviewed, and prioritised based on available funding, by the Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC) and implemented following endorsement by the IRCC. In addition to a contribution from IHO central funds the CB Fund currently receives support from Japan (Nippon Foundation) and the Republic of Korea. The Republic of Korea has recently signed a new MoU with the IHO and increased their annual contribution from 100k to 400k US\$.

IHB Staff

In January 2011 Mr Dan Costin joined the IHB as the Information Technology Assistant (ITA). He was recruited following the sad and untimely death of Rachid Semlali in 2010.

Captain Alberto Costa Neves (Brazil) joined the IHB in May following the retirement of Captain Federico Bermejo (Spain). Captain Neves' title is Professional Assistant Programme Management (PA-PM). He will provide primary support for the IRCC and the CBSC in addition to assisting the Directing Committee with the growing workload of programme performance monitoring and reporting and compilation of work programmes and budgets.

I am also due to retire on the 31 May 2012 and applications for my post have been requested by 14 October, next week. Interviews are due to be held in November with the successful candidate joining the IHB at the end of April 2012.

Finally the 18th 5-yearly International Hydrographic Conference (IHC – XVIII) will be held in Monaco from 23 – 27 April 2012. The Conference will make a complete assessment of the previous 5-year work programme and budget as well as the establishment of the next 5-year work programme and budget will be considered by the Conference, together with proposals submitted by MSs and the IHB.

Another task of the Conference will be to elect 3 Directors for the 5-year period 2012-2017. The new Directing Committee will take up their post on 1 September 2012. Admiral Maratos and Captain Gorziglia will both be standing down having completed the maximum 10 years in post. So far nominations have been received from Captain Ward (Australia), currently serving as a Director, and from Brazil, France, India, Tunisia, and Turkey.