

**Meeting Summary**  
**MesoAmerican Caribbean Regional Hydrographic Commission**  
**Electronic Chart Working Group 1**  
**Monday, November 02, 2009**

The MACHC/ECC Working Group 1 met from 9:00 a.m. --5:00 p.m. at the Accra Hotel in Bridgetown, Barbados. The participants are included in the attached Annex 3. The objectives of the meeting were to 1) review the lessons learned from the two-week hydrographic survey training sessions held in Belize, Guatemala and Honduras earlier this year; 2) plan for the next in-country training sessions to be held in 2010. The International Hydrographic Organization's Capacity Building Committee has provided funding to send the U.S. NOAA and Navy trainers to conduct two weeks of additional training in each country.

Chris VanWestendorp (U.S./NOAA), together with Mr. Andrew Coc of the Belize Ports Authority, presented a summary of the training exercise conducted in Belize. Elliot Arroyo-Suarez (U.S./Navy) presented the same for the training in Guatemala as unfortunately, a Guatemalan representative was not able to participate in the meeting. Mr. Javier Diaz presented the experience of the Honduran National Port Authority. The lessons learned and next steps are summarized in the power point presentation presented to the MACHC Plenary on Thursday, November 5 (see Annex 2).

In general, the consensus was that the training had gone well, despite the fact that significant time had to be dedicated to equipment integration and calibration that ideally would have been used completely for surveying. There was also agreement that the first year's training was merely a phase 1 and that additional follow-on phases (starting in 2010) would be necessary to ensure that the countries acquire the skill and experience needed to do their own surveys. The need for tides support was identified as an essential component of this year's training to support the surveys.

The IHO/CBC representative and Director Hugo Gorziglia noted that the results and progress from these training exercises needs to be reported back to the IHO/CBC via the MACHC Chair to show the return on investment and to make the case for additional future funding. Progress reports should also identify the institutional arrangements and resource commitments the countries are putting into place to ensure a sustainable hydrographic program. These reports should be shared with the Gulf of Honduras Project as well, which paid for the hydrographic equipment the countries received and also wants to see evidence of long-term institutional commitment. The ECC Chair, Katie Ries, reminded the participants that the Gulf of Honduras Project also requires documentation of the individual in-kind country contributions from Belize, Guatemala and Honduras, but also those from the supporting MACHC countries.

The Belize representative noted that the Belize Ports Authority had already established their hydrographic division headed by a Category B hydrographer. They recently commissioned a new vessel dedicated for hydrographic surveying and are training support personnel.

The Honduran representatives stated that the National Port Authority (Empresa Nacional Portuaria—EMPORNAC) is already recognized as the focal point for hydrography and is committing the budget for personnel, training and infrastructure. EMPORNAC has an arrangement with the Honduran Navy for use of a vessel for hydrographic surveys. As Guatemala was not represented, a status on their activities was not available, but the Navy, the port authorities of both Santo Tomas de Castilla and Puerto Quetzal are collaborating on hydrographic activities and are expected to be represented in the 2010 training. The UKHO representative Phil Parker noted that Guatemala sent the UKHO the buoyage information leading into Santo Tomas de Castilla Port for chart updates, which is a first demonstrable output.

Director Gorziglia also re-enforced the importance of the trainers conveying to him their desired travel itineraries to the countries as soon as possible so that the most cost effective arrangements can be made.

U.S. NOAA is offering to include one representative from each country in its national hydrographic survey training course (February 2010), as it did last year, if English-speaking representatives can be identified who are i) supporting the survey teams in some capacity and ii) need introductory level training, as a prelude to the in-country training.

Objectives and outcomes for the 2010 training, as well as associated timeframes were articulated and are included in Annex 1. The country representatives and the trainers spent the afternoon discussing what areas needed to be specifically emphasized in each country and preparing the presentation to the MACHC plenary, which includes a list of follow-up actions and associated deadlines. Those actions were ultimately incorporated in the list of MACHC meeting resolutions. It should also be noted that ongoing support for the Gulf of Honduras countries was identified as a capacity building priority for the MACHC in 2011 and beyond.

## Annexes

1. 2010 Training Outline
2. Lessons Learned and Action Summary—MACHC Plenary
3. List of Participants