



INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION  
MESO AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION



MACHC Letter 17 / 2009  
18 March 2009

To:  
Mr. Clinton Steward  
HYDROGRAPHIC UNIT  
Lands and Surveys Division  
2B Richmond Street  
P.O. Box 1104  
PORT OF SPAIN – Trinidad and Tobago

Subject: **Meso America and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission contact**

Dear Mr. Steward,

1. First of all, let me introduce myself. I am Vice Admiral LUIZ FERNANDO PALMER FONSECA, Director of Hydrography and Navigation of the Brazilian Navy and current Chair of the Meso America and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) <[www.iho-machc.org](http://www.iho-machc.org)>.

2. MACHC is a body associated to the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), <[www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int)>, whose major aims are:

1. To promote technical co-operation and training in the domain of hydrographic surveying, marine cartography and nautical information.
2. To examine in its area of interest, matters with which the IHO is concerned, avoiding any interference with the prerogatives of the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) and of any other bodies set up by the IHO.
3. To stimulate all countries of the Region to expand their hydrographic activities and to encourage them to seek advice and technical assistance from the IHB and other organizations in order to strengthen their hydrographic capabilities.
4. To facilitate the exchange of information related to surveys, research and/or scientific and technical development to assist in planning and organizing the hydrographic activities in the widest sense of the aims, but without interference in national responsibilities.
5. To implement the INT and ENC Chart Schemes for the Region and to monitor their suitability.
6. To carry out studies and projects through working groups of the Commission or as a working group of the IHO when deemed necessary.
7. To identify the MACHC Representative(s) to the IHO Council, as outlined in the guidance provided in Annex 3 to the Statutes".

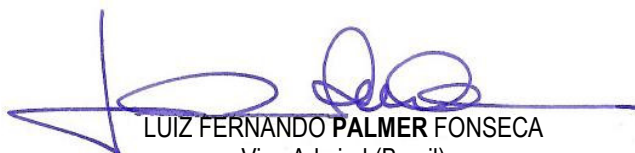
During the last years MACHC has overcome important challenges and it has been helping the improvement of the maritime safety at the Caribbean region, including the hydrographic capacity development of the countries which comprise this organization.

As Chairman, I am trying to contact you through the following e-mail address: <[hilunit@tsh.net.tt](mailto:hilunit@tsh.net.tt)>. I have also been sending MACHC Circular Letters which are intended to keep MACHC participants updated on what is going on within the IHO environment. Nevertheless, every e-mail message I have sent you has bounced back with the following response: "I wasn't able to deliver your message to the following address <[hilunit@tsh.net.tt](mailto:hilunit@tsh.net.tt)>: Sorry, I couldn't find any host named tsh.net.tt".

It is very important for MACHC that Trinidad and Tobago participate in the Commission activities. MACHC next meeting will be held very close to your country: In Barbados, from Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Meanwhile, it would be profitable to all of us, however, if your representatives could take part in the Commission net of communication through e-mails. If you join our communication net and, for any reason, you cannot attend a meeting, you will still be part of the actions.

3. Finally, I would like to express my conviction that the surest way to achieve success in the contemporary world is through the partnerships we develop. Therefore, I put myself at your disposal to clear up any doubts or inquiry you might have, as well as my staff, which may be contacted through the e-mail which you will find below.

Looking forward to your response,  
Yours sincerely,



LUIZ FERNANDO PALMER FONSECA  
Vice Admiral (Brazil)  
Brazilian Director of Hydrography and Navigation  
MACHC Chairman

Copies:  
MACHC Member States