



**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION
MESO AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**



MACHC Letter 22 / 2009
29 June 2009

To:
Mrs. Kathryn Ries – Chair of the MACHC ENC Committee
Cmdr. CG DEM EHO. Raúl Martínez Sánchez – Chair of the MACHC INT Chart Committee

Subject: **MACHC Committees activities**

Reference: MACHC List of Actions.

Dear Mrs Ries and Cmdr. Sánchez,

1. The last MACHC meeting raised some important matters concerning MACHC responsibilities and the corresponding actions which should be taken through its Committees such as the coordination and production of nautical charts within the MACHC Region, both paper and electronic. In my point of view, the Commission is facing some difficulties in having an efficient approach to tackle those responsibilities, once after all these years, it still does not have a production plan and some charts, which depend on the participation of more than one Hydrographic Service remain waiting for actions which are never carried out.

The importance of this fact was highlighted at the 4th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference, during which the Caribbean area was mentioned as one of the world regions with a great lack of nautical charts, mainly the electronic ones.

2. Carefully considering the subject, I have found that an important reason for our low proficiency is the lack of specific and detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) and Rules of Procedures (RoP) to our Committees. ToRs and RoPs define exactly the “what and how” the work is expected to be performed.

So, in order to improve the Commission activities, I kindly ask you to coordinate the writing of a draft ToR and RoP for your respective Committee, and propose it at the 10th MACHC meeting which will be held in Barbados. These ToRs and RoPs should include, but not be limited to, work plan, nautical charts production plans as well as their coordination, the management of the list of participants, the chair and the vice chair elections, meetings, agenda and proposals. As established by the Statutes (Article 7 b), the proposal must be distributed to all Members no later than July 2009.

Regarding the next Committee meeting (Barbados, Nov. 3rd 2009), in reference to the current Commission List of Actions and due correspondences I received from the Directorate of Hydrography and Navigation of Venezuela, I ask you to include the following specific subjects on the Agenda:

- Chart 4023: please contact the Venezuelan and the Colombian Hydrographic Services in order to prepare the discussion paper.
- Chart 4022: please contact the Venezuelan and the French Hydrographic Services in order to prepare the discussion paper.
- Venezuela’s proposal to produce a new INT Chart with the following parameters:

Chart number	Scale	Limits N/S	Limits E/W	Countries involved	Producer country
INT-XXX	1:1.000.000	05°00’00” N 11°00’00” N	061°00’00” W 050°00’00” W	Venezuela France United Kingdom	Venezuela

In order to prepare the discussion paper, please ask for relevant information from Venezuela, France, the UK, and the IHB.

- Venezuela’s proposal for the adoption of the Venezuelan national medium scale charts as temporary INT charts while the forecast charts of the IHO Publication M-11 are not edited.

- Chart 4018: please contact the Venezuelan and The Dutch Hydrographic Services in order to prepare the discussion paper.

For all of the above items, it would be important and useful for the discussions if correspondent papers could be distributed to all participants at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

3. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gladness for your ongoing contribution to the MACHC activities and your positive actions to improve the safety of navigation within its Region.

Yours sincerely,



LUIZ FERNANDO PALMER FONSECA

Vice Admiral (Brazil)

Brazilian Director of Hydrography and Navigation - MACHC Chairman

Copies:
MACHC Full Member States; IHB