

**EXTRAORDINARY WEND MEETING  
IHB, Monaco 30 October 2007**

**MACHC ENC Coverage**

The MesoAmerican-Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) and the Electronic Chart Committee (ECC) of the Commission held a Meeting October 8-10, 2007 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. An important topic at the meeting was ENC Coverage in the region.

For the past couple of years, the ECC members have been working to achieve small-scale regional ENC coverage at 1:1,000,000 scale. The majority of 1:1,000,000 scale ENC cells are made available at no cost from the MACHC web site (<http://www.iho-machc.org/>). As of the October 2007 MACHC meeting, seven of the planned ten 1:1,000,000 scale ENCs have been produced and four are available on the MACHC web site as a regional service to the mariners and to stimulate further interest in larger-scale ENC production. These ENCs are based on the small-scale paper INT chart scheme of the region, but because ENC cells should not overlap, the limits have been adjusted accordingly.

During the 2006 MACHC meeting, it was noted that there was a display issue between those ENC cells at 1:1,000,000 and those at 1:500,000, because they belong to the same usage band. At the 2007 MACHC meeting, the Electronic Chart Committee (ECC) proposed to the MACHC plenary a change of approach for larger scale ENC production. Rather than basing the ENCs on the INT Chart scheme, the ECC suggested rescheming the entire region based on usage bands for the larger scale ENCs. The new scheme would take into account the already produced ENCs in the region as well as those that are planned, and resolve overlap issues before they occur. The larger scale ENCs will not necessarily be available for free, therefore it is important that ENC producers in the region work together on dividing the area of coverage and come to an agreement on the new scheme. This proposal was accepted by the MACHC plenary and will be a major focus of the ECC work plan in 2008.

**Partnership Pilot Project**

The ECC has been exploring alternative means to advance ENC production. One example is on ongoing pilot effort between Mexico and a private sector firm. In the MACHC region, the Mexican Hydrographic Office (Office of Hydrography and Cartography, Secretaria de Marina - Armada de Mexico) is responsible for producing a small-scale ENC from INT Chart 4012. Jeppesen Marine is new to the marine charting field and wanted to demonstrate their capability in ENC production/services. They had expressed an interest in making a "no strings attached" contribution to the MACHC in hopes that member HOs will see them both as a company and a "stakeholder" interested in (and capable of) furthering the common goals in the electronic charting field. Jeppesen indicated their willingness to produce a small-scale ENC (e.g., <1:1,000,000

scale) from an INT chart in the MACHC region that was recently compiled by an HO and entered into a collaborative pilot effort with Mexico. As of October 2007, the ENC of INT Chart 4012 has been produced by both the Mexican Hydrographic Office and Jeppesen Marine. The Mexican Hydrographic Office is in the process of comparing and quality assuring the ENCs before they release ENC 4012 by the end of 2007.

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