



INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION
MESO AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION



MACHC Letter 03 / 2009
12 January 2009

To: Captain **Ana Rosensil Suárez Pacheco**
Director of Hydrography and Navigation of Venezuela
Observatorio "CAGICAL"
Apartado Postal N° 6745 – Carmelitas – CARACAS- Venezuela
e-mail: <internacional@dhn.mil.ve>

Subject: **Production of INT Charts 4108 and 4023, and corresponding ENC's.**

Reference: MACHC List of Actions 9-12 c.3

Dear Captain Suárez Pacheco,

1. On behalf of the Directorate of Hydrography and Navigation of Brazil and as Chairman of the Meso-America and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC), I have the pleasure to send you a cordial greeting.

The purpose of this letter is to update you regarding MACHC concern about the lack of progress in the production of Charts 4108 and 4023 and corresponding ENC's. MACHC believes that improvement is urgent to meet the IHO target for 'adequate ENC coverage' by 2010, as established by the 17th International Hydrographic Conference, Resolution 20.

2. MACHC took note of the Royal Netherlands Navy Hydrographic Service (NHS) interest in to have a bilateral technical cooperation agreement with the Dirección de Hidrografía y Navegación de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela (DHN), in order to improve the safety of navigation at the area covered by both charts. MACHC also took note of DHN permission for NHS use the already published products for internal use by the Netherlands (Venezuela letter Ref 1000 dated 8 OCT 2008 to the International Hydrographic Bureau).


However, this permission is not sufficient to guarantee the quality of the process. There must have a exchange of data and information and both pass through verification.

It is of great importance that both data, DHN's and NHS's, be accepted by the two Hydrographic Services and incorporate accordingly into their own products. It is also important that the draft products of both, paper charts and ENC, be delivered to one each other for verification of the correspondent area. These kind of proposed procedures are common practice in the IHO community and should become part of the bilateral technical cooperation. Therefore, I strongly ask NHS and DHN to act accordingly.

The MACHC took note of the Netherlands offer to become the alternative producing nation for both the paper INT charts and ENC's as an intermediate solution to meet the IHO targets for adequate ENC coverage in 2010 (9th MACHC Minutes and List of Actions 9-12 c.3). Although the time is pressing, the change of the present list of producer nations for the INT paper charts and ENC's is still dependant on the Venezuelan response to MACHC.

3. MACHC asks DHN to consider the above remarks and awaits a response before 28th February 2009 for further consideration by the Members.

Yours sincerely,



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

Copies:
The Netherlands
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DIRETORIA DE HIDROGRAFIA E NAVEGAÇÃO, Rua Barão de Jaceguay, S/Nº, Ponta da Armação – Centro, CEP 24048-900 - Niterói, RJ, Tel. (+55 21) 2189-3014 - e-mail: <int.rel@.mar.mil.br>

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