

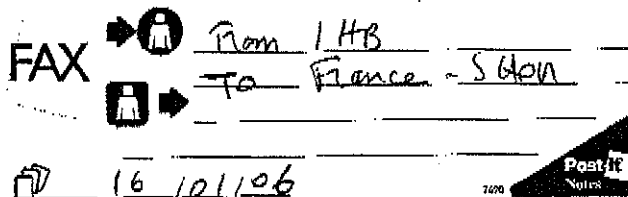
INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC
BUREAU



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IHB File N° S3/4230/B

Monaco, 13 January 2006

Subject: INT Chart Scheme for Region B

Dear Captain,

I am writing to you as Coordinator for the International (INT) Chart Scheme for Region B, i.e. Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea.

At the end of 2004 and mid 2005, the IHB corresponded with USA (NOS) [Mr. Erich Frey] on the subject of the INT Chart Scheme for Region B. See Annex A for details. As a result of this correspondence, several INT numbers and chart producers were agreed upon as indicated in Capt. Fernando Angli's (Mexico) e-mail/letter of 11 March 2005 to all members of the ECWG (Electronic Chart Working Group). In particular, it was agreed that France would produce both charts INT 4022 (French Chart 7475) and its electronic equivalent, i.e. ENC. This was reflected in the relevant chapter of IHO Publication M-11 "Catalogue of INT Charts" (an updated copy is at Annex B). Consequently, France (SHOM) undertook the compilation of INT 4022, which was published in October 2005, as announced in a SHOM Notice to Mariners.

However, at the latest meeting of the Meso-American and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC), a copy of the newly published INT 4022 was presented by the Venezuelan HO, meaning that the same INT chart had been produced separately by two different HOs, both members of MACHC. The participants courtesy allowed that no contentious issues surfaced at the meeting and it was finally agreed to leave Venezuela producing INT 4022 [It was however agreed that the corresponding ENC for that area would be produced by France, as it was in its final stage of production]. This has resulted in SHOM removing the INT Number from the 700 copies of the chart they had already printed and the issuance of another NtM to correct the previous one.

Lack of communication and/or misunderstanding seems to have led to this undesirable situation. In order to avoid this kind of situation occurring again, the IHB would like to encourage adherence to the "Guidance for the Preparation and Maintenance of International Chart Schemes", as contained in Part A of M-11 (sent with IHO CL 75/2004). A copy is attached at Annex C. In particular, attention is drawn to para. 3.10 saying that INT chart schemes should be circulated (by the Coordinator) for comments *inter alia* to: All members of the Regional Charting Group (RCG), i.e. MACHC; The Chairman of CSPCWG; and the IHB. Also, to para. 3.12 indicating that the RCG should be consulted for major changes to a chart, via the Regional Coordinator.

It is further suggested that consideration be given to the joint production by France and Venezuela of the next edition of INT 4022.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director

- Annex A: Correspondence with Mr. Erich Frey
- Annex B: INT Chart Scheme for Region B (from M-11)
- Annex C: Guidance for the Preparation and Maintenance of International Chart Schemes (Part A of M-11)

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