

Meso American & Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC)
9th Meeting, Niterói, Brazil, October 9th – 10th, 2008

Report of Work Group on Virtual Forum

Presented by: Mr. Erich Frey (USA-NOAA) and Capt. (Ret. - Brazil) Wesley W. Cavalheiro

Reference: Action List number 2 of the 8th Meeting held at Niterói, Brazil, in 2008.

1. Introduction

MACHC participants decided to improve the communication between their respective Persons of Contact in the various Committees and Working Groups engaged in the activities of the Commission. For this task, Mr. Erich Frey (USA-NOAA) and Capt. (Ret. - Brazil) Wesley W. Cavalheiro were nominated.

2. Developed work

In principle, the possibility to establish a mechanism on the MACHC website containing a tool to automatically replicate correspondence and store messages was proposed. Unfortunately, for operational reasons of the site administration and security, this alternative there was not possible.

However, in order to provide the representatives' communication needs, the following mechanisms were established and are in place:

- a) the creation of a forum using a Yahoo tool, at the following web address:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/machc-forum/>

This tool provides a means to exchange messages, files and photo storing capability, agenda, and a database.

Messages may be viewed via an e-mail address, so designated by members, (not specifically a Yahoo e-mail), one by one or grouped, or/and directly at the site.

To join the Forum it is required to have a Yahoo login account, which may be obtained directly at the address above.

- b) the creation of a Comment Form located at the main MACHC web page or directly at:

http://www.iho-machc.org/about/MACHC_Comment_Form.pdf

This tool provides the opportunity to submit comments, requests, and suggestions on any topic of interest. All input will be made available via the MACHC web site.

3. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

Even though more communication tools are being made available, it will be ever dependent on MACHC Member States to utilize the means provided to update PoC information and interests.

In order to make these tools functional, it is recommended to the Commission that all the communication be done via the Yahoo forum.

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