

**PRO 01 -                    Establish a Capacity Building Committee for the MesoAmerican-Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC)**

**Submitted by:            United States, Mexico**

**Reference:                IHO Work Programme 2003-2007, Element 2.1, Objective O 2.1.1,  
The Capacity Building Work Programme for 2005 and 2006,  
IHO Circular Letter 74/2005,  
IHO CBC Terms of Reference, paragraphs 1.3 and 3  
IHO Technical Resolution T 1.3, 6bis**

## **PROPOSAL**

In order to assess and assist in sustainable development and improvement of the States of the MACHC Region to:

- Meet the objectives of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO),
- Fullfill the Maritime Safety obligations and recommendations described in UNCLOS, SOLAS V,
- Assess the hydrographic surveying, nautical charting and nautical information status in the region where hydrography is developing, and
- Investigate other international instruments,

it is proposed that the MACHC establish a Capacity Building Committee (CBC).

## **COMMENTS**

In support of the IHO Capacity Building Committee established in 2002, a local Regional Committee can be of significant assistance to the efforts of the IHO Committee. It can be extremely useful in promoting the establishment and maintenance of close relationships with local agencies of the MACHC Region and other National and International Organizations, which may provide funding or support technical assistance projects and to study the procedures required to access funds for Technical Assistance available from such organizations.

The IHO CBC already cooperates with the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) in the creation of Study Teams or Action Groups to carry out assessment studies in the areas identified by the IHO in its 5-year "Work Programme" and in the subsequent monitoring of the recommendations resulting from those Study Teams or Action Groups' Reports.

Through Task Group 1 of the Electronic Chart Working Group, the MACHC has been exploring capacity building efforts for some time. As a result, a capacity building effort in this Region is well underway and will serve as a significant contribution to the MACHC CBC.

The establishment of a new Committee does not require revisions of the Statutes to the Commission and can be implemented by a simple majority.

**PRO 02 - Expand the area of coverage of MesoAmerican-Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) southward to include the waters of the Western Atlantic covered by Brazil.**

**Submitted by: United States, Mexico**

**Reference: IHO Work Programme 2003-2007, Element 1.1, Objective O1.1.3  
IHO Technical Resolution T 1.3**

#### PROPOSAL

It is proposed to expand the existing MesoAmerican-Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) to include activities in the waters of the Western Atlantic Ocean off the shores of Brazil. In keeping with the IHO Work Programme to increase the involvement of Member States in Regional Hydrographic Commissions, and recognizing that no Commission exists at present in which Brazil can participate, it is logical to expand the MACHC region to include this geographic area of the Western Atlantic. To accommodate Brazil's membership in the MACHC, the Conference is requested to approve the expansion of the "MesoAmerican-Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission" (MACHC) by redefining the "Region" of the MACHC.

#### COMMENTS

Based on the INT Chart Region, which serves as the basis for Hydrographic Commissions, the IHO has been trying to fill the gap along the Western Atlantic of South America. A large portion of this gap can be addressed by expanding the MACHC southward in the Western Atlantic to include the waters of Brazil. The impact of such expansion would be minimal since it does not affect any other Commission.

This proposal will avoid unnecessarily complicating regional activities. It is recognized that the IHO has been striving to create a SouthWest Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (SWAtHC) for some time now. The SWAtHC would consist of Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina. However, progress in establishing that Commission has been slow and does not appear promising in the near future. But Brazil is eager to actively participate in a Commission. Presumably, if such a SWAtHC were eventually established, Brazil would be a logical member. But until that takes place, it is proposed to extend an invitation to Brazil to join the MACHC and redefine the Region of the MACHC.

Although the actual text of the MACHC Statutes is not affected, the definition of the Region does require change. Since graphic depicting the MACHC Region is an integral part of the Statutes, the change in the definition of the Region will, according to Article 12, paragraph B of the existing Statutes, require the approval of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Full Members of the Commission.

**PRO 03 - Revise the Statutes of the MesoAmerican-Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) to reflect the present times and to accommodate expected changes to the structure of the IHO.**

**Submitted by: United States, Mexico**

**Reference: The 3rd Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference**

#### PROPOSAL

It is proposed to revise the existing MesoAmerican-Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) Statutes to modernize them to reflect modern times as well as to accommodate expected changes to the structure of the IHO, which were approved at the 3rd Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference in April 2005. To accept and implement the proposed revisions, the Conference is requested to approve the revisions noted in Annex A (of the revised Statutes), attached to this proposal.

#### COMMENTS

The Statutes of the MACHC were last revised in 2005, when the Commission expanded to include the Eastern Pacific of Central America. Since then a number of events have taken place, especially the proposed structure of the IHO, which was approved by the 3rd Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference in April 2005. If the changes are implemented the Statutes of a number of Commission will require revision. While waiting until the approval process runs its full course is an option, an alternative is to examine the Statutes now with the aim to revise them so that they would work under either the old or the revised IHO structure, while still retaining the original intentions or meaning. Consequently, no substantial changes were made, except perhaps the one revision in Article 7 dealing with proposals having to be submitted 4 months in advance. That was changed that to 2 months to make it more workable.

To implement the revisions to the Statutes of the MACHC, the Conference is requested to approve the revisions to the Statutes as proposed in Annex A.

Since this proposal directly affects the MACHC Statutes, it will, according to Article 12, paragraph B of the existing Statutes, require the approval of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Full Members of the Commission.

**PRO 04 - Change the name of the Electronic Chart Working Group (ECWG) of the MesoAmerican-Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) to the Electronic Chart Committee, (ECC)**

**Submitted by: United States, Mexico**

**Reference: ECWG**

#### PROPOSAL

It is proposed to change the Electronic Chart Working Group (ECWG) name to the Electronic Chart Committee, (ECC). Since the efforts of the ECWG appears to be long term, rather than a short-term Working Group, the Conference is requested to approve the name change from Electronic Chart Working Group (ECWG) name to the Electronic Chart Committee, (ECC).

#### COMMENTS

Since most of the work of the MACHC consists of the efforts and activities of the ECWG and its two Task Groups, it appears logical to elevate this component to “Committee” status. The work of this particular component of the Commission appears to be long-term, and is closely related to another component, the INT Chart Committee of the MACHC.

The change in status from a Working Group to a Committee does not require revisions to, nor does it affect the Statutes of the Commission and can be implemented by a simple majority.