



Report to COMNAP by Miguel Ojeda, CMIMA-National Antarctic Program Spain

13th Meeting of the Hydrographic Committee on Antarctica (HCA) Cadiz, Spain 3 and 4 December 2013

DAY 1 . International Organizations reports and Hydrography Priorities WG

- The first day was the time to explain the letter from COMNAP in response to the request by the HCA to make a MOU. My intervention was in the same direction as the letter from Heinz Miller in order to keep the observer status of COMNAP but not felt in a position to sign an MOU. Being COMANP an institution of government, like the HCA, this relationship did not need a formal MOU because these governments were already represented in both organizations. However, I expressed the intention of COMNAP to be present at HCA meetings and maintain or enhance the relationship between the two organizations.
The HCA chairman accepted the position of COMNAP and thanked our commitment to participate as far as possible in the meetings of the HCA and enhance the relationship.
- There was a second intervention when the issues of the relationship of HCA with ATCM in Brussels were discussed. HCA feel they did not have answers to what manifested by Treaty . In that sense, and also thanks to the interventions of Kim Crosby (IAATO), we consider that the best approximation to the ATCM should be through the Operational Working Group (OWG). Since it seems clear that bathymetry is an issue related to the safety and navigation, this is directly related to many of the issues addressed in the OWG. I also mentioned that they could make a direct approach to José Retamales (INACH) in his capacity as chair of the ATCM OWG and he could indicate how that approach can be done.
There is another possibility, that is, to address to the next ATCM an IP jointly COMNAP-HCA in order to enhance the bathymetric surveys in to increase the safety of NAP's vessel operations. Particularly I think this would be a good choice to collaborate between the two organizations.
As the next COMANP will be in Christchurch, I spoke with the NZ delegate to the HCA Meeting in order to contact the COMNAP Executive Secretary to talk about any possibility for HCA or NZ delegation in HCA to be in our AGM. I think this will be interesting within the shipping group.
- IAATO presented in their report their vessel positioning system. This is a web based system were all their ships are sending automatically the current position. This is maybe something we will improve in our SPRS, and also could be a presentation in the shipping group.

- In the Hydrography Priorities WG were presented the priorities from the different countries.

DAY 2 . International Organizations reports and Hydrography Priorities WG

- Technical session regarding the planned and already made charting in the different antarctic regions by the countries. It is clear the lack of resources to address the charting commitments. In general, all the countries held for the 2014 season the same as in 2013.
- There was some companies and organizations presentations related tools or services to bathymetric and charting (CARIS, KONSBERG, FUGRO, GEBCO/IBCSO)

DAY 3 . International Organizations reports and Hydrography Priorities WG

- National reports

All presentations and documents related to the meeting are on the site:

http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/HCA/HCA13/HCA13Docs.htm

Possible actions for COMNAP:

- 1.- Contact to Chairman or Secretary of HCA in order to find the way to participate in the next ATCM maybe with an IP in the OWG, or in the way COMANP finds appropriate.
- 2.- Contact to NZ delegate in order to do some presentation in next COMNAP AGM.
- 3.- Contact to IAATO to explain in the shipping group their vessel position system.