



International Federation of Surveyors
Commission 4 Hydrography (2002-2006)

Commission 4 Meeting

30 May, 2002

CHC2002 - Canadian Hydrographic Conference, 2002
Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Pier 9, Toronto, Ontario, CANADA

1. **Attendees:**

Chairman - Adam Greenland Port of London Authority, UK
Chair of WG 4.4 Education and CPD

Vice Chair - Andrew Leyzack CHS, Central and Arctic Region
Chair of Admin. & Communication

Vice Chair- Adam Kerr GITC – Private Consultant, UK
Chair of WG 4.1 – Strategic Partnership

Vice Chair - Ahmed El-Rabbany Ryerson University
Chair of WG 4.2 – Vertical Reference Frame

Vice Chair- Michael Sutherland UNB, Canada
Chair of WG 4.3 – Coastal Zone Management

Spiros Pagiatziakis	York University, Canada
Carol Robinson	CHS, Central and Arctic Region
Chris Andreasen	U.S. National Imagery and Mapping Agency
Tom McCulloch	Past Chair Commission 4, Canada.
Cor Don	GITC, Hydro International
Ron Furness	ICA- Chair, Commission on Marine Cartography, Australia
Sara Cockburn	OMG- University of New Brunswick
George Eaton	CHS, Pacific Region
Jean-Claude Tétreault	Association of Canada Lands Surveyors
Steve Ritchie	Retired (GITC), UK
Goran Nordstrom	Swedish Maritime Adm.
Jerry Mills	NOAA/National Ocean Service
Steve Forbes	CHS, Atlantic Region
Mike Johnston	CHS, Central and Arctic Region
Terese Herron	CHS, Central and Arctic Region

The meeting was called to order at 0935.

2. **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the April 22, 2002 Commission 4 Annual Meeting held during the XXII FIG Congress at Washington, DC (as posted on the web site) were made available.



International Federation of Surveyors
Commission 4 Hydrography (2002-2006)

3. Adam welcomed everyone, thanked the CHC2002 organizing committee for their efforts, offered a brief CV of himself and introduced the officers/members of Commission 4 and its new Working Groups as follows:

Dennis St. Jacques (outgoing chair of Commission 4); **Andrew Leyzack** (Chair of Administration and Communication); **Adam Kerr** (Chair of WG Strategic Partnerships, **Chris Andreasen**, Gordon Johnston (representing the commercial sector- not present); **Dr. Ahmed El-Rabbany** (Chair of joint Comm 5 WG- Vertical reference frame) and **Michael Sutherland** (Chair of joint Comm 7 WG- Coast Zone Mgmt, Marine Cadastre and Ocean Governance).

Adam welcomed comments from all hydrographers and FIG National delegates on all the proposed workplans.

The Web site, www.fig.net was identified as sole medium for the distribution of news, workplans, minutes and events.

4. **Overview of FIG:** Adam then gave a brief overview of FIG and its purpose, stating that it represents approximately 100 National Associations as one body for all survey disciplines. Adam identified FIG's relationship with the UN as a NGO (non-government org.) representing academic, commercial and private surveyors. Adam identified the FIG permanent office while Chris Andreasen (current FIG Council member) called attention to the FIG brochure and spoke on the structure of FIG, its executive committee members and noted changes to terms of office and administration.

Adam then spoke briefly on the objectives of FIG, its commissions and the workplan for Commission 4.

5. **Workplan:** Adam anticipated that over the next 4 years, the workplan would contribute to raising the status of FIG and Commission 4 with a goal to produce publications, maintain the web site while carrying out events and seminars. Copies of the workplan (as posted on the web site) were made available and an overview was given.

6. **WG 4.1- Strategic Partnerships:** Adam identified the goal of this working group was to forge closer links with sister organisations, in particular IHO, the National Branches of The Hydrographic Society (THS) and the National Branches of other Hydrographic Societies around the world and to encourage their membership in FIG. Adam Kerr (Chair of WG) then spoke to the changes going on in the hydrographic community, particularly THS, IHO and FIG. Adam K. identified the IHO Strategic Plan, its possible influence on IHO intergovernmental convention and the fact that other organisations such as ISO are "honing-in" on those standards, which were traditionally unique to the IHO. Adam K. suggested that this will force the IHO to be more interactive with other international organisations and would require stronger IHO linkages with organisations such as FIG.



International Federation of Surveyors
Commission 4 Hydrography (2002-2006)

Adam K. identified the need for IHO to adapt to commercial activities, particularly in the digital chart-making field.

Adam K. further identified the situation within THS as being in a state of fundamental change and the independence of various branches as National organisations. Adam spoke of a proposed new federation as a “virtual organization” federating the various national HS branches. Adam then referred to recent discussions held at Monaco where it was suggested that if this federation was not formed, then the National Hydrographic Society branches could unite as members under FIG. Adam K. related to the time when THS was proposing to be the international organisation representing all National hydrographic societies and the challenges and resistance to this proposal, in particular the Canadian Hydrographic Association’s wish to remain autonomous. Adam K. did conclude that the joint FIG/IHO/ICA Advisory Board on Standards of Education has been a great success.

Chris A. spoke to other IHO/FIG joint groups in existence and some of the problems experienced in the past. A new FIG/IHO MOU is being prepared.

Ron F. (Chair ICA) spoke of existing cooperation as well as the challenges while Adam G. also reflected on the challenges as well as the opportunities which exist in forging cooperative relationships as a profession.

Andrew L. (CHA) stated that the stand taken by CHA with respect to its wish to remain autonomous was that of a previous administration and that they (CHA) are open to investigating co-ordination and membership within FIG.

Jerry M. (THSOA) spoke to their (THSOA) consideration of membership and that they are encouraged by CHA’s new position.

Chris A. stated that willingness for representation exists, and related to Markku Villikka’s (Director, FIG Office) observation that ACSM has been a longstanding member representing the United States. Chris A. also identified FIG’s openness to accept multiple National representation of the various disciplines.

Adam G. identified that membership fees are presently (\$3.00) three dollars USD per person which sparked further discussion with Adam K. regarding financial matters and past shortfalls for funding for projects and associated travel, as well as funding for publications and support for other organisations. Adam G. stated that in addition to FIG-allocated funds he may be able to access additional funding if necessary. Chris A. identified US priority to support its commission members funding; in particular those involved on the Advisory board and Chairs. Tom M. reflected on the TACC relationship with IHO and its (TACC) decision to withdraw. Chris A. reflected on the publications in existence while Adam G. identified the need to move FIG publications out to a wider audience re publications on the web site.



International Federation of Surveyors
Commission 4 Hydrography (2002-2006)

Steve R. offered up a (c. 1967) historical perspective on how hydrography was introduced to FIG.

7. **WG 4.2- Vertical Reference Frame**: Dr. Ahmed El-Rabbany (Chair) gave an overview of the objectives of the working group to develop and promote the understanding of the impacts on Hydrography and marine navigation of moving toward a seamless vertical reference system. Ahmed E. welcomed those present to participate in the WG 4.2 meeting to be held following the adjournment of the Comm 4 meeting.

WG 4.2 is linked with FIG Comm 5.

8. **WG 4.3- Coastal Zone Management, Marine Cadastre and Ocean Governance**: Michael Sutherland (Chair) offered a brief CV of himself and identified the role of the working group with respect to its focus on: Marine Cadastre; MGDI (*Canadian Marine Geospatial Data Infrastructure*); Coastal Zone Management; (Contributions by hydrography to) Ocean Governance; UN Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the impacts of all on hydrography. Michael also touched on the use of nautical charts beyond traditional navigational applications.

Adam G. identified the WG 4.3 link to FIG Comm. 7.

Adam K. spoke to the difficulties of interpreting <UNLOS> Article 76 with respect to Continental Shelf delimitation, particularly aspects of which have been the domain of geologists. Adam identified a couple of publications, which touch on this broad subject and the work being done by UNB to develop accuracy standards when determining specific shelf limits. Michael S. identified the requirement to clarify accuracy standards for hydrography in respect to marine cadastre.

Adam G. encouraged members to refer to the UNB web site for more info on the study.
<http://www.unb.ca/GGE/Research/OceanGov/>

9. **WG 4.4- Education and Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**: Adam G. (Chair) identified that the working group would contribute an Education and CPD function at regional meetings perhaps in the form of seminars or conferences and that hopefully on an ad hoc basis would contribute to surveyors' outstanding education requirements in the various countries where the meetings were to be held. Adam G. proposed that he would call in people (expertise) to give one-day seminars/training at these locations.



International Federation of Surveyors
Commission 4 Hydrography (2002-2006)

10. **In Closing** ... Adam G. identified FIG cooperation with sister organisations, MOUs, (to which Chris A. will be involved in) cooperation with UN Agencies and the FIG commitment to Cultures and Languages. Adam G. reiterated that the web site (which is under construction) would be the source for information on Commission 4 activities, meetings and events. He noted that the Calendar of Events is yet to be completed likewise links to other web sites.

Adam encouraged participation in and comments about Commission 4, about the work groups and about what we are trying to accomplish. He noted that we are “entering a period of significant change within the profession and that together *through cooperation and participation in FIG* we can form a formidable force to achieve a fair amount”.

In the spirit of WG 4.4 Andrew L. invited those present to participate in a panel discussion, Friday 31 May at 0700 called “Toast and Topics” sponsored in part by CHA.

Adam G. once again thanked the CHC2002 organizing committee for putting together an informative and enjoyable conference. Adam also thanked Terese H. for assisting with preparations for this day’s meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1040.