



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
COMMISSION Océanographique Intergouvernementale
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات
政府间海洋学委员会

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IOC/WWW/HE
7 November 2014

To : Members of the IOC Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Blooms (IPHAB)
Official National Coordinating Body for liaison with the IOC of IOC Member States

cc. : IOC Officers
Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons, IOC Intergovernmental Subsidiary Bodies
Permanent Delegations/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions of UNESCO in IOC Member States
President and Executive Director, SCOR
Executive Director, ICSU
Relevant Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations

Subject : Twelfth Session of the IOC Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Blooms (IPHAB-XII), UNESCO, Paris, 28-30 April 2015

On behalf of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), I have the pleasure in inviting you, in your capacity as representative of your country, to take part in IPHAB-XII, which will be held from 28 to 30 April 2015, at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France.

The Panel was formed in accordance with Resolution XVI-4, adopted by the IOC Assembly at its 16th session (March 1991). At its 26th Session (June 2011), the IOC Assembly decided to convene an 11th session of the IPHAB in order to maintain and accelerate momentum in the development and implementation of the HAB Programme (Resolution XXVI-11).

Resolution XXVI-11 and the Terms of Reference of the IPHAB are enclosed herewith.

The basic reason to form the IPHAB was the need to improve the managerial, scientific and financial resources available for implementation of a global HAB Programme. A primary task is still to identify the required resources, so that we, the international community jointly, can continue to implement activities addressing capacity building, international cooperative research, and communication networks.

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For those Member States who have not already (as a response to IOC Circular Letter 1323 of 12 November 1991) provided the IOC Executive Secretary with a letter of intention to participate actively in the HAB Programme as well as help provide adequate support and resources, we would in particular want to bring attention to the composition of the IPHAB as in Annex of Resolution XVI-4 (revised):

"The membership of the IPHAB is open to Member States of IOC which have declared to the Secretary IOC their involvement or intention to participate in the development and implementation of the HAB Programme on a global, regional, or national scale. The Panel shall include representatives of IOC Regional or other subsidiary bodies, and other interested international organizations particularly SCOR. Invitations to participate in the IPHAB activities may be extended to scientific experts at the request of the Panel and with the approval of Secretary IOC."

Member States, who did not provide the IOC Executive Secretary with a letter of interest and a nomination of their representative to the IPHAB, are hereby invited to do so.

Member States who wish to change their nomination for the IPHAB are invited to inform the IOC Executive Secretary accordingly.

It is crucial to the effectiveness of the IPHAB Intergovernmental Panel that the representatives to be nominated do have responsibilities for national HAB science or management activities, and that their seats on the Panel are acknowledged at the appropriate national level. It is through the nominations for IPHAB that Member States are able to include their priorities for action and help to implement cooperative and productive efforts at the regional and global scales to find solutions.

We also want to bring to your attention section 3 of the Annex to Resolution XVI-4 on the organization of the sessions and especially its paragraph 3.2. In accordance with the name of the IPHAB, it is intergovernmental and the meeting will be considered as a UNESCO category II meeting. Members of the IPHAB participating in the capacity of national representatives are expected to support their travel and per diem expenses from national sources.

IPHAB sessions are conducted and documentation is provided in English. Reports are prepared in English and in other working languages of the IOC as appropriate and required. The draft Provisional Agenda is attached. The Provisional Agenda and other documents for the session will be sent to Members of the IPHAB in due time, and will also be in due time available at the IPHAB home page at <http://ioc.unesco.org/hab/IPHABXII.htm>.

The major foci of the 12th Session of IPHAB are tentatively:

1. Formulation/endorsement of specific objectives for Regional HAB Working Groups: IPHAB's Regional HAB Working Groups are a critical link to Member States and can serve to highlight international priorities for research, capacity building, data, communications, and other technical support required to prevent, control or mitigate HABs and their public health and economic impacts. Each Regional HAB Working Group will report on the priorities for its region and IPHAB will seek to strengthen regional HAB Programme components through formulation and endorsement of specific objectives for regional activities based upon this input from Regional HAB Working Groups.

2. Capacity building: The aim of IPHAB capacity building activities is to strengthen the capacity of governments and agencies to monitor and manage harmful algal events and to enhance the research capacity to deliver better forecasting tools and mitigation techniques. Based on the strategic plan for capacity building adopted by the Sixth Session of the Panel, and input from the Regional HAB Working Groups, the IPHAB will assess progress and identify actions to be taken.

3. The GlobalHAB Research Programme: GEOHAB, as a decade-long international research framework, has facilitated and coordinated research to deliver greater understanding of harmful algal bloom ecology including improved and more operational detection as well as modelling and forecasting tools. GEOHAB is completing its synthesis phase, summarizing progress over the past decade and future challenges. The Panel will assess advances in establishing the follow-up programme GlobalHAB as decided by IPHAB-XI under joint sponsorship by the IOC and SCOR.

4. Global Assessment of HAB Events: IPHAB-XI decided to develop a periodic Global Harmful Algal Bloom Status Report to provide: (i) a global status and overview of HAB events and their societal impacts; (ii) a global overview of the occurrence of toxin producing microalgae; and (iii) assess the status and probability of change in HAB frequencies, intensities, and range expansions resulting from global change. The Process of data compilation is ongoing by a team of data editors and the target date for release of the first Global HAB Status Report is late 2016. The Panel will assess progress and advice of further development of a Global HAB Status Report.

5. Ciguatera, a plan for improved research and management. Continuing studies are increasing the certainty about the true incident rate for ciguatera. IPHAB-XI through Recommendation IPHAB-XI.2 recommended a plan for improved research and management of Ciguatera. The Panel will assess progress in developing the plan and decide on how to advance it further.

6. Improving HAB forecasting capabilities for more effective mitigation strategies. Advances in ecological understanding, detection, observation and modelling of HABs are supporting the development of forecasting capabilities in many regions of the world. Forecasting of HABs can be useful for the protection of public health by allowing for more proactive and cost-effective regulatory sampling to prevent seafood poisoning. Forecasting can also be critical to protect economic resources by permitting mitigation measure to be implemented in a timely manner, such as for aquaculture facilities, including bloom control measures or early harvesting before mortalities could occur. International cooperation on the various components of forecasting systems could greatly accelerate progress in transitioning these systems to operational status. The Panel will solicit the needs of Member States with a view to identify the research required to further develop and operationalize forecasting. Such identified research needs can be given to the research community at large including the developing GlobalHAB programme.

The Panel will also be invited to engage in the development of the Global Ocean Sciences Report (GOSR) and contribute with a screening of member state (i) investments, (ii) resources, and (iii) scientific productivity in HAB science. The GOSR will provide a tool for mapping and evaluating the human and institutional capacity of Member States in terms of marine research, observations and data/information management, as well as a global overview of the main fields of research interest, technological developments, capacity building needs and overall trends.

The Agenda is furthermore open to other priorities of Member States.

The Session will be organised as a series of discussion panels each of which we seek to have co-chaired by two IPHAB members with research and managerial background respectively.

Based on its discussions the IPHAB will recommend to the IOC Assembly at its 28th session in June 2015 a work plan for the IOC HAB Programme for 2016–2017.

We would be grateful to be informed as soon as possible, and preferably not later than 1 March 2015, of your Governments position with regard to:

- 1. Attendance at the 12th Session of the IPHAB**
- 2. Comments to the draft Agenda and suggestions for additional items requiring intergovernmental attention**

3. **Candidates to chair the discussion panels listed above and provide coordination and planning ahead of the session**
4. **Nominations for Chair and Vice-chair IPHAB. In order to enable the Panel to select the best candidates for these important positions, we would like to invite candidates to submit their names as well as a curriculum vitae and a short statement outlining their views on the future of IPHAB. We would appreciate receiving candidatures not later than 1 March 2015. Please provide also an e-mail address through which we can contact the candidate. Nominations should be sent to Mr Henrik Enevoldsen by email to h.enevoldsen@unesco.org. We remind candidates that as Chair and Co-Chair you will be expected to assist the Secretariat in implementing the work plan adopted by the Panel. This may consist of participating in relevant meetings, in on-line discussions, in drafting of documents or other activities in support of IPHAB.**

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Wendy Watson-Wright
Executive Secretary

Enclosures: (3)

- IOC-XXVII/Dec.5.4.2
- Resolution XVI-4 and IPHAB Terms of Reference
- Draft Provisional Agenda (IOC/IPHAB-XII/1 prov.)

Annex 1

Twenty-seventh Session of the Assembly Paris, 26 June–5 July 2013

IOC-XXVII/Dec.5.4.2

Intergovernmental panel on Harmful Algal Blooms (IPHAB)

The Assembly,

Recalling IOC Resolution XVI-4, which established the Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Blooms,

Having considered the Executive Summary Report of the 11th Session of the IOC Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Blooms (IPHAB), its seven Decisions and four Recommendations and the Work Plan for 2014–2015 adopted at the Session (IOC/IPHAB-XI/3s),

Taking into consideration the preoccupying impact of HAB on public health, food security, the development of tourism and a substantial proportion of economic activities in the world,

Recognizing that regional, national, and institutional requirements for management of HAB impacts, along with the IOC High Level Objectives, that drive IOC HAB Programme research and capacity development activities, have proven highly valuable to Member States over almost two decades; that the IOC fulfils a unique role in coordinating and implementing international and regional cooperation on HAB research, management and capacity development; and that the need for this continued coordination and regional cooperation can be expected to remain at the same level or increase,

Noting with satisfaction that IPHAB has continued to provide a strong and efficient mechanism to respond to new HAB-related problems experienced by Member States and to leverage resources from diverse sources to focus on priority needs,

Takes note of the Executive Summary Report of IPHAB-XI and the recommendations contained therein (IOC/IPHAB-XI/3s);

Notes that the IOC will help protect human health, economic interests and natural resources through its expanded focus on Ciguatera in cooperation with the WHO and FAO and by coordinating research needed by Member States through the Global HAB Programme;

Notes further that the development of a Global HAB Status Report is complementary to the World Ocean Assessment to provide for the first time a picture of the global distribution of HABs, their threats and relationships to nutrient enrichment and other causes;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to convene the 12th Session of the Panel prior to the 28th Session of the Assembly;

Invites SCOR to co-sponsor the Scientific Steering Committee for Global HAB and encourages active joint participation in the development and implementation of the science agenda;

Agrees that the regular budget for these activities will be considered as part of the overall IOC Programme and Budget resolution XXVII/DR.(6.1, 6.2);

Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Denmark for hosting and supporting the IOC Science and Communication Centre on Harmful Algae, as well as to other donors and Member States who are providing financial and in-kind support for the HAB Programme;

Urges funding agencies and institutions in IOC Member States to assist in the mobilization of funding that will ensure the implementation of the IPHAB Work Plan.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE *ad hoc IOC-FAO
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS**

The IOC Assembly, at its Sixteenth Session, Paris 7-21 March 1991, adopted the following resolution with respect to the formation of an *Ad hoc* Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Blooms in order to identify adequate resources for a sufficiently broad programme to solve some of the real problems caused by algal blooms;

Resolution XVI-4

AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,

Recalling that the IOC, at the Fourteenth Session of its Assembly, endorsed the development of the sub-programme on Harmful Algal Blooms, and that the Twenty-third Executive Council, through its Resolution EC-XXIII.1, endorsed the programme development so far,

Being aware of the increasing socio-economic risks posed by toxic algae and harmful algal blooms to marine organisms, fisheries, aquaculture, human health and the coastal environment,

Approves the formation of an *Ad hoc* Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Blooms, with the Terms of Reference shown in the Annex hereto;

Invites FAO to co-sponsor the *Ad hoc* Panel;

Invites Member States which intend to be involved in the implementation of a programme on Harmful Algal Blooms to nominate their representatives for the *Ad hoc* Panel and inform the Secretary IOC accordingly;

Decides to review, at the Seventeenth Session of the Assembly, the Terms of Reference of the *Ad hoc* Panel, in conjunction with the Commission's review of the overall organization of the OSLR Programme;

Instructs the Secretary to convene the First Session of the *Ad hoc* Panel as soon as possible.

Annex

Terms of Reference of the *Ad hoc* Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Blooms

1. FUNCTIONS

The *Ad hoc* Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Blooms is established to meet the scientific, managerial, implementation, and resource needs of the Harmful Algal Blooms Programme.

The Panel will carry out the following functions:

- 1.1 Review and identify programme requirements;

- 1.2 Promote efficient and cost-effective implementation of the HAB programme and prepare recommendations on this implementation to the Assembly and Executive Council;
- 1.3 Identify the resources necessary to meet HAB programme needs;
- 1.4 Ensure effective interaction and communication with regional intergovernmental (e.g., ICES, ICSEM and GFCM) as well as regional and global non-governmental (e.g., SCOR) organizations involved in research on toxic algae and harmful algal blooms; and
- 1.5 Report to the Twenty-fifth Session of the Executive Council and the Seventeenth Session of the Assembly.

2. COMPOSITION

The membership of the *Ad hoc* Panel is open to Member States of IOC (and FAO, if it agrees to co-sponsor the Panel) which have declared to the Secretary IOC their involvement or intention to participate in the development and implementation of the Harmful Algal Bloom Programme on a global, regional, or national scale. The Panel shall include the Chairman of the OSLR Guiding Group of Experts, representatives of IOC regional and other subsidiary bodies, and of other interested international organizations, particularly SCOR. Invitations to participate in Panel activities may be extended to scientific experts at the request of the Panel and with the approval of the Secretary of the IOC.

3. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSIONS

- 3.1 The Panel will, prior to the closure of each Session, elect from its members a Chairman who will serve in that capacity until the closure of the next Session.
- 3.2 The Sessions shall, in principle, be arranged without financial costs to IOC. Sessions will be conducted, documentation will be provided, and the report of each session will be prepared in English and in other working languages of the Commission as appropriate and required.
- 3.3 Secretariat support for the Panel will be provided by the Secretary IOC.

** The IPHAB is by decision of the IOC Assembly permanently established and the prefix ad-hoc does no longer apply*

Annex 3

Restricted distribution

IOC/IPHAB-XII/1 Prov. (Draft)
Paris, 22 October 2014
English only

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (of UNESCO)

Eleventh Session of the IOC Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Blooms
UNESCO, Paris, 21–23 April 2015

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- 1. OPENING**
 - 1.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS.
 - 1.2 DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE IOC ASSEMBLY
- 2. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**
 - 2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
 - 2.2 DESIGNATION OF RAPPORTEUR
- 3. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE IOC HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM PROGRAMME AND THE IPHAB STRATEGY**
- 4. HABP DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD**
 - 4.1 CHAIR IPHAB AND TECHNICAL SECRETARY'S SUMMARY REPORT (on activities, implementation of IPHAB-X decisions, and recommendations of IPHAB groups)
 - 4.1. REGIONAL HAB WORKING GROUPS
 - 4.2. IPHAB XI TASK TEAMS
 - 4.3. WORKSHOPS CALLED FOR BY IPHAB XI
 - 4.4. OTHER ACTIVITIES
- 5. MAJOR ONGOING AND EMERGING ISSUES REQUIRING INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION (INCLUDING INTERACTION WITH OTHER PROGRAMMES AND ORGANIZATIONS)**

This agenda item will be organized as a series of Panels with a potential outcome of new recommendations or resolutions:

 - 5.1 Formulation/endorsement of specific objectives for regional HAB Working Groups
 - 5.2 Capacity building
 - 5.3 GEOHAB synthesis and progress in stablishing GlobalHAB
 - 5.4 Ciguatera, a plan for improved research and management
 - 5.5. Improving HAB forecasting capabilities for more effective mitigation strategies
- 6. REVIEW AND FINALIZATION OF DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF IPHAB-XII**
- 7. WORKPLAN 2016–2017 INCLUDING OVERVIEW OF RESOURCES AND NEEDS**

8. OPERATION OF THE IPHAB
9. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS
10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
11. ADOPTION OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RESOLUTIONS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS
12. CLOSURE