**S-121 Project Team (S-121PT)**

**Draft Terms of reference and Rules of Procedure**

**1. Background**

Coastal States, under articles 16, 47, 75, 76 and 84 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, are required to deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations charts showing: straight baselines, including closing lines of mouths of rivers and bays, and archipelagic baselines; the outer limits, as well as lines of delimitation between States with adjacent or opposite coasts, of the territorial sea (including roadsteds, article 12); the contiguous zone; the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf. Alternatively, the lists of geographical coordinates of points, specifying the geodetic datum, may be substituted.

In its resolutions 49/28 of 6 December 1994 and 52/26 of 26 November 1997, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish appropriate facilities, as required by the Convention, for the deposit by States of maps, charts and geographic coordinates concerning national maritime zones and establish a system for their recording and publicity and to develop and maintain [such] facilities for the deposit by States of charts and geographical coordinates concerning maritime zones, including lines of delimitation, and to give due publicity thereto, as required by article 16, paragraph 2, article 47, paragraph 9, article 75, paragraph 2, article 76, paragraph 9 and article 84, paragraph 2, of the Convention. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations is the unit of the Secretariat which performs these depositary functions on behalf of the Secretary-General, as part of an integrated programme on the law of the sea and ocean affairs, distinct from the usual depositary functions of the Secretary-General in respect to multilateral treaties.

Subsequently, in its resolution 59/24 of 17 November 2004, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to improve the existing geographic information system for the deposit by States of charts and geographical coordinates concerning maritime zones, including lines of delimitation in particular by implementing, in cooperation with relevant international organizations technical standards for the collection, storage and dissemination of the information deposited, in order to ensure compatibility among the Geographic Information System, electronic nautical charts and other systems developed by these organizations. Recent General Assembly resolutions have noted ongoing efforts in this regard.

In addition, the General Assembly, in its annual resolutions on Oceans and the law of the sea, calls upon States Parties to the Convention to fulfil their deposit obligations.

Most recently, General Assembly resolution 71/257 calls upon States Parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to deposit with the Secretary-General charts or lists of geographical coordinates, as provided for in the Convention, preferably using the generally accepted and most recent geodetic datums (para. 6).

To facilitate the implementation of the Secretary-General’s depositary functions, coastal States are encouraged to deposit the following information, as a minimum:

1. Geographic coordinates of points in decimal degrees on the straight baselines and archipelagic baselines in common global geodetic datum such as WGS 84, accompanied, as appropriate, by the relevant national legislation;
2. Geographic coordinates of points in decimal degrees on the outer limits as well as lines of delimitation between States with adjacent or opposite coasts for the following maritime zones: territorial sea (including roadsteds); contiguous zone; exclusive economic zone and continental shelf, in common global geodetic datum such as WGS 84, accompanied, as appropriate, by the relevant national legislation. Ideally the points defining the outer limits should be close enough to each other to ensure that the line formed by connecting the points with geodesic lines accurately reflects the outer limit of the maritime zone(s). States Parties are also encouraged to identify in the deposit the points that are part of an international boundary. States Parties are further encouraged to accompany such deposits with the relevant national legislation and/or with references to relevant international treaties.

Accordingly, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, the unit entrusted with carrying out these responsibilities on behalf of the Secretary-General, approached the International Hydrographic Organization with a request to identifying appropriate technical standards.

After consultations, the S-121 project team was formed by Member States of the International Hydrographic Organization.

**2. Objective**

The objective of the S121 project team is to develop IHO S-121 Maritime Limits and Boundaries Product Specification. The product specification should take into account the following:

1. Defining a proposed data model;
2. Create an S-100 conformant product specification for Maritime Limits and Boundaries to support coastal States’ depository obligations in accordance with the Convention;
3. Determine if S-100 needs to be extended to facilitate the implementation of the deposit obligation of coastal States’ under the Convention.

**3. Authority**

This Project Team (S-121PT) is a subsidiary of the S-100 Working Group (S-100 WG). Its work will be guided by the 2016-18 Work Plan established by the S-100 WG and subject to its approval.

**4. Composition and Chair**

1. The Project Team (S-121PT) shall comprise representatives of IHO Member States (MS), Expert Contributors (EC) and observers from accredited NGIOs. The IHO Secretariat may also be represented. A membership list shall be maintained and posted on the IHO website.
2. EC membership is open to entities and organizations that can provide relevant and constructive contribution to the work of the S-121PT. ECs shall seek approval of their membership from the Chair of the S-121PT.
3. EC membership may be withdrawn, in the event that a majority of S-121PT members agree that an EC’s continued participation is either irrelevant or not constructive to the work of the S-121PT.
4. The Chair of the S-121PT is designated by the parent body.
5. If a Secretary is required, he/she should normally be drawn from a member of the S‑121PT.

**5. Procedures**

1. The S-121PT should work primarily by written correspondence and teleconferences.
2. Decisions should be made by consensus. Dissenting opinions, if any, should be reflected in the S-121PT report.
3. The S-121PT should liaise with other IHO bodies, international organizations, end users and industry to ensure the relevance and currency of its work.
4. The S-121PT should report in accordance with its Work Plan.

**S-121 Project Team (S-121PT) - Draft Work Plan 2016-2018**

**Tasks**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A | Develop the S-121 Maritime Limits and Boundaries Product Specification |

**Work items**

| **Work Item** | **Title** | **Priority**  H-high  M-medium  L-low | **Next milestone** | **Start Date** | **End Date** | **Status**  P-Planned  O-On going  C-Completed  S-Superseded | **Contact Person** | **Related Pubs / Standard** | **Remarks** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A.1 | Develop the S-121 Maritime Limits and Boundaries Product Specification | H | A.2 | 2016 | 2017 | P | PT Chair |  | * In close liaison with, and guidance by, the S-100 WG |
| A.2 | Determine if S-100 needs to be extended to support S-121 aiming at supporting coastal States’ depository obligations in accordance with the Convention | H | A.3 | 2016 | 2017 | P | PT Chair |  | * In close liaison with, and guidance by, the S-100 WG |
| A.3 | Submit S-121 to the S-100WG for review and approval so it can be forwarded to HSSC8 or 9 | H |  | 2017 | 2018 | P | PT Chair |  |  |

**Meetings**

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| **Date** | **Location** | **Activity** |
| 5-9 December 2016 | New York, USA | S-121 PT first meeting |
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Chair: Mr. Mark Alcock (Australia) Email: Mark.Alcock@ga.gov.au

Vice Chair/Secretary: Mr. Sebastien Durand (Canada) Email: Sebastien.Durand@dfo-mpo.gc.ca