

Feasibility study converting BSH sailing directions content database solution into print, online and data presentations based on XML-technology.

BSH and its industrial partner Jeppesen Marine conducted a pilot study that tested the feasibility of applying the IHO Standardization of Nautical Publications Working Group (SNPWG) object model to convert BSH Sailing Directions content into Jeppesen print, online and data encapsulations that preserve the BSH content. The findings of the study were presented to the SNPWG9 in April 2008.

The pilot study report, co-authored by BSH and Jeppesen Marine, provides useful insight for both hydrographic offices and private sector industry participants who are starting to consider plans to move toward compliance with the emerging S-100 family of standards that will more closely integrate nautical publications.

BSH and other SNPWG members had made considerable progress toward defining and registering an object model for nautical publications, using S-57 as a basis, before the pilot study began. BSH has gone the extra distance, researching a streamlined approach for structuring Sailing Directions content so it meets the need of mariners while also facilitating mapping nautical publications content to the SNPWG object model.

Portions of the Ostsee-Handbuch (Baltic Sea Sailing Directions), Volume 3, were been used for the pilot study. Jeppesen Marine defined an XML solution, converted the sample sailing directions content to a single XML repository, and produced print, web and CSV data extract output that preserve the BSH source content. Two versions were produced, to test the potential of the model and prototype solution to handle updating effectively. BSH provided sample updates. Jeppesen applied the updates in the XML repository and produce updated versions of the three prototype encapsulations.

The scope of this pilot was limited, but the evidence supports the conclusion that the maritime industry could begin to benefit right away from utilizing the SNPWG object model and the recommendations of the pilot study in planning for smooth transition to S-100 and the advent of ECDIS applications that combine ENC with digital nautical publications content.

The pilot study and all related documentation on SNPWG9 can be reviewed in detail at the SNPWG website:

<http://www.iho.shom.fr/COMMITTEES/CHRIS/SNPWG/SNPWG9/SNPWG9Docs.htm>