

### **Leisure and small fishing boats – use of official electronic charts**

The issue was introduced during the IV. EIHC bei Greece (CONF.EX4/INFODOC3). Greece argued that after more than 20 years of effort the maritime community is now in a position to utilize technological achievements in electronic navigation that guaranteed increased safety while improving operational efficiency. In the past couple of years the hydrographic offices had made considerable efforts to accelerate the production of ENC's, the raw material for ECDIS, working towards the goal of worldwide coverage. However, much of the shipping market included leisure and fishing boats, which could not easily utilize ECDIS and ENC's, primarily because ECDIS, having functionalities essential for professional mariners, required considerable space for installation and a considerable budget. As a consequence, yachtsmen and fishermen still used conventional nautical charts or small electronic navigational aids such as GPS plotters, palmtop devices or, in the best case, laptops capable of displaying various types of unofficial electronic charts.

ENC's were used by only very few leisure mariners, owing to a lack of charting software capable of loading and displaying encrypted ENC's. Moreover, the leisure boat community is facing some major difficulties in using ENC's, such as the lack of ENC's for small ports and marinas, or the lack of information on available facilities such as power, oil, telephone, etc., information supplied by the producers of non-official electronic chart systems.

The major benefits of ENC's include the fact that they are developed on the basis of international standards, are official products of the hydrographic offices, are continuously updated, and offer functionality guaranteeing safe navigation. Greece strongly believes that leisure boat mariners should be given the opportunity to navigate with ENC's.

Since Greece's view was supported by a number of MS it was agreed that Greece will submit a reworked version of its paper to HSSC, identifying the problem and leaving it to HSSC to determine the best way to address the issue.

Since not all of the BSHC members may attend the HSSC meeting in October in Singapur, it is proposed that BSHC should take the opportunity to discuss the wider scope of official digital small craft charts along the following questions:

- Is there a market for ENC-based, official digital navigation charts for small crafts?

if yes:

- is it a need for HOs to issue such products, or an option?
- should HOs cooperate in a joint service as they do for the regulated market?
- should the products be produced solely by HOs (individually or in cooperation), or with private partners?
- should IHO define requirements to maintain the status of data being official along the data supply chain through private chart data supplier?
- should IHO develop a specific standard for digital small craft chart data?

and, finally

would BSHC be able to present a common view on this task at the upcoming HSSC?

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