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**CIRCULAR LETTER 30/2019
25 June 2019**

**OUTCOME OF THE 11TH MEETING OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES
AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE (HSSC)**

References:

- A. IHO CL 57/2018 dated 14 November - *Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) - 11th Meeting, 6 to 9 May 2019, in Cape Town, South Africa*
- B. IHO CL 55/2017 dated 31 October – *Outcome of the 1st Meeting of the IHO Council*
- C. IHO CL 14/2019 dated 04 March – *Report of the 6th session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR6)*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As announced in Reference A, the 11th meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) took place in Cape Town, South Africa from 6 to 9 May 2019. The meeting was hosted by the South African Navy Hydrographic Office (SANHO). The HSSC Chair, RAdm Luigi Sinapi (Italy) opened the meeting and invited Captain Theo Stokes, National Hydrographer of South Africa to provide the opening address. Following the resignation of the HSSC Vice-Chair, Mr. Michael Prince (Australia), the Committee elected Mr. Magnus Wallhagen (Sweden) as his replacement. The Meeting was attended by 63 participants from 24 Member States, 11 stakeholder organizations and the IHO Secretariat.

2. The list of decisions and actions arising from the meeting as well as any other working documents and presentations associated with the meeting, are available from the HSSC page of the IHO website (www.iho.int > Committees & WG > HSSC), at section HSSC-11.

Report and Proposals to the IHO Council

3. The report of HSSC to the 3rd meeting of the IHO Council (C-3) is under preparation and will serve as the minutes of the HSSC-11 meeting as decided by the IHO Council (See Reference B, Action C1/06).

4. Based on the decisions made at HSSC-11, the main items to be reported to C-3 will be:

- The progress made on the work programme for the top priority items selected by the IHO Council in 2017 (See Reference B, paragraph 25);
- The endorsement of the draft revision of IHO Resolution 2/2007 (*Principles and Procedures for Making Changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications*) which includes a new review cycle for working groups and project teams for the development phase of Product Specifications and guidance on the conduction of an impact study;
- The need for strategic discussions and guidance on the development, the implementation and the provision of future S-100 based products.

Contribution of HSSC to the preparation of the Revised IHO Strategic Plan

5. The Chair of the Strategic Plan Review Working Group (SPRWG) of the IHO Council reported on the draft Revised IHO Strategic Plan currently under development and the links to be established with the IHO Work Programme of the HSSC through Performance Indicators. Subsequent suggestions were made by the HSSC Chair on this matter which will be presented for discussion at the 3rd meeting of the Council in preparation of the 2nd Session of the Assembly.

S-100 and related activities

6. HSSC noted the proposed deadlines for S-100 Edition 5.0.0 proposals and agreed to extend its publication date to 2021. HSSC also tasked its WGs and PTs to consider aligning their current S-1xx product specifications with S-100 Ed. 4.0.0. The meeting approved Ed. 1.0.0 of S-97 and noted the proposed extensions required in order to prepare Ed. 2.0.0. HSSC also endorsed Ed. 2.0.0 of S-102 for circulation by IHO CL to Member States seeking their approval. HSSC approved Ed. 1.0.0 of S-129 for testing and experimentation. It was agreed to postpone the endorsement of the “Interoperability Specification” for S-100 based navigation systems (S-98) as key issues need to be discussed beforehand, while a proposal to implement an “S-100 Technical Readiness Levels” concept for controlling and monitoring the development of S-100 based products was endorsed.

7. The meeting noted the DQWG report on the new data quality indicators under development and highlighted a data quality “decision tree” that is intended to provide guidance on achieving a harmonized implementation of quality parameters for hydrographic data under the S-100 framework. The DQWG was also commended for the development of a new conditional visualization methodology of quality of bathymetric data which now needs to be evaluated.

ENC Standards and Notices to Mariners

8. The ENCWG reported on the ongoing work to identify the individual components in S-57 (file size, etc.) that prevent ENC Producers from providing high density contour lines and propose subsequent recommendations. Edition 6.1.0 of S-58 (*ENC Validation Checks*), containing several corrections, was approved by Member States (IHO CL 47/2018). S-58 Edition 6.1.0 mandates that no ENC base cell or update will be issued if it contains a critical error. The meeting noted the intent of S-58 Ed 6.1.0 and concluded that Member States be informed by IHO CL of the availability of S-58 test datasets and reminded of the coming into force of S-58 Ed 6.1.0 on 1 Sep 2019. The meeting further endorsed the proposed clarifications for the S-52, S-63 and S-64 standards for publication and instructed that the corresponding clarifications be published on the IHO website > Standards and Publications.

9. The HSSC noted the success of the NIPWG workshop on the harmonization of XML based chart corrections in Notices to Mariners that was held in Genoa, Italy, from 1 to 2 October 2018, and supported the need for a follow-up workshop.

Nautical Cartography and Hydrographic Dictionary

10. The NCWG presented the provisional recommendations on the Future of the Paper Nautical Chart (FPNC), anticipating the need to develop guidelines for the automated production of paper charts from ENCs databases. A consolidated report on the FPNC taking into account the analysis of the outcome of a survey of IHO Member States, which is in

progress (IHO CL 29/2019 refers), will be considered by HSSC at its next meeting. Following a proposal made by a Member State, the ENCWG and NCWG were also invited to consider the possibility of developing as soon as possible an S-57 UOC¹ covering MARPOL regulations, and its applicability to different scale bands. The discontinuation of the maintenance of the English version of INT-1 – *Symbols, abbreviations and terms used on charts* was also noted, and alternative options need to be considered by the NCWG at its next meeting.

11. The HDWG provided a convincing demonstration of the benefit of using unique reference number for definitions in the Hydrographic Dictionary. This aims to facilitate the development of a multilingual online hydrographic dictionary, the prototype of which already includes English, French, Spanish and Chinese terms and definitions.

Relations with the IMO

12. The meeting noted the report by NIPWG on the outcomes of the joint IMO/IHO Harmonization Group on Data Modelling (HGDM) meeting (IMO, London – October 2018) and the discussions on the IMO e-Navigation Maritime Service descriptions that fall under the IHO responsibility. The responsible HSSC WGs and WWNWS-SC were invited to review the initial descriptions of “*Maritime Services in context of e-navigation*” under their remit and to provide them to NIPWG for further action if appropriate.

13. In addition to the invitation already mentioned in Reference C (see paragraph 7), Member States were again invited to consider greater involvement and participation in IMO NCSR meetings and consider to provide expertise to the IMO Intersessional Working Group on Maritime Autonomous Surface Ship (MASS) activities.

Next HSSC Meeting

14. Member States are invited to note, for planning purposes, that the next HSSC meeting (HSSC-12) will be held in Bristol, United Kingdom from 11 to 15 May 2020.

On behalf of the Secretary-General

Yours sincerely,



Abri KAMPFER
Director

¹ Use of Object Catalogue.

