

**STATUS OF DRAFT FIFTH EDITION OF THE TALOS MANUAL:
REPORT TO ABLOS 19 BUSINESS MEETING**

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TALOS Editorial Group

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A brief history of the revisory project

In 2010, after the Fourth Edition of the TALOS Manual had been in circulation for about five years, it was agreed during the ABLOS 17 Business Meeting that sections of the document needed updating to present a more accurate reflection of contemporary practice, and to provide elaboration where clarity was lacking. This initiative relied on volunteer effort, and to avoid burdening just a few participants with heavy workloads, the project was divided into several well-defined tasks that individuals could fit into their respective timetables without seriously impacting their regular activities.

The ABLOS 18 Business Meeting in 2011 provided an opportunity to review progress during the first year of the project. Following this exercise, it was decided to aim for the completion of a final draft in time for the ABLOS 19 Business Meeting in 2012, and a workplan was submitted with that objective in mind. It was also agreed at that time to introduce an interactive element to the Manual in the form of animations that were designed to illustrate selected concepts and procedures.

By and large, the present draft is a realization of the objectives that were agreed to during the ABLOS 18 Business Meeting. Contrary to earlier expectations, two sections of the Manual (Chapters 3 and 5) have been revised, but their modified versions are not included in this text on account of delays that were imposed by an overriding need to respond to a critical national situation (the Japanese tsunami recovery effort). However, animated versions of existing figures have been inserted in one of those sections (Chapter 5).

Members of Editorial Group

The nucleus of the Group was formed in 2010, and it was augmented several times thereafter to take in supplementary talent. By the end of the undertaking, the Group comprised the following members and associates of ABLOS: (This list also figures in Appendix 4 of the Manual)

Neils ANDERSEN.....Denmark
I Made Andi ARSANA.....Indonesia
Isabelle BELMONTEIHB
Sunil BISNATH.....Canada
Graeme BLICK.....New Zealand
John BROWNUnited Kingdom

Chris CARLETON.....	United Kingdom
Ron MACNAB – Chairman 2011-12	Canada
Chris RIZOS – Chairman 2010-11	Australia
Clive SCHOFIELD.....	Australia
Steve SHIPMAN – Retired.....	IHB
Michael SIDERIS	Canada
Sobar SUSTINA	Indonesia
Shin TANI.....	Japan
Asano USUI.....	Japan
David WYATT	IHB

Designated as chapter editors or co-editors, certain members of the Group were tasked with the review and revision of specific sections of the Manual, and with the development of advanced drafts for incorporation in the Fifth Edition. Other members were invited to assist as and when needed. Following is a list of chapters and their editors and co-editors:

Chapter 1 – Introduction	Ron MACNAB
Chapter 2 – Geodesy.....	Chris RIZOS, Sunil BISNATH
Chapter 3 – Charts	Shin TANI
Chapter 4 – Baselines.....	John BROWN
Chapter 5 – Outer Limits	Shin TANI
Chapter 6 – Bilateral Boundaries.....	Chris CARLETON

Revisions to ancillary sections, i.e. Tables, the Preface, Appendices 1 to 4, were handled by Ron Macnab. Animations of selected figures were produced by I Made Andi Arsana and Clive Schofield.

Current disposition of the draft Fifth Edition

On September 25, the present draft was uploaded to the IHB for posting on the IHO website http://www.iho.int/iho_pubs/IHO_Download.htm#draft where it can be accessed for review by members of the Editorial Group. The draft is posted there in two forms: (1) a comprehensive PDF file that encompasses all components of the Manual in a single document; and (2) a ZIP file that packages the components as 12 separate Word files.

Both files are protected with the password *macnab925*. This password is for the use of Group members only. It is intended to prevent unauthorized access to and premature release of the document, pending formal review and approval by ABLOS, by its parent bodies IHO and IAG, and by their Member States.

Animations

The Editorial Group was fortunate to recruit I Made Andi Arsana and Clive Schofield, who undertook the construction of animated versions of selected figures in Chapters 2, 4, 5, and 6.

Each animation consists of a single PowerPoint file which is posted on the IHO website. Its URL is embedded in the caption of the static version of the figure: if a user is reading a digital version of the Manual, a simple mouse click will initiate a download of the animation, ready for activation.

The animation files are password-protected to prevent unauthorized modification, but the originators are comfortable with granting access to users wishing to incorporate the animations in their own presentations. The password is held by four people: Andi Arsana, Clive Schofield, David Wyatt, and Isabelle Belmonte.

A Note that follows the List of Illustrations in the Manual explains how to invoke the animations, and how to contact the password holders.

Issues to address

With the imminent departure of the Group's chairperson, it will be important to chart a clear path for future activities:

1. Replacement of the outgoing chairperson, effective early October.
2. Plan for incorporation of revised Chapters 3 and 5: (a) defer until preparations for the Sixth Edition are in hand (as agreed earlier this year); or (b) defer release of the Fifth edition until the revised chapters are ready for inclusion?
3. Conform to standard IHO protocol for Member State review of the Manual prior to full public release.
4. Consider the feasibility of translating the Fifth Edition into other languages: as a document that is subject to periodic updating, is it justified to dedicate significant effort and resources to the translation of each new edition?
5. Consider implementing a plan for injecting annual updates and revisions into the web version of the Manual, to maintain its currency.

Acknowledgements

The Fifth Edition of the TALOS Manual is very much the outcome of a team effort, and it is a genuine pleasure to acknowledge the contributions of the members of the Editorial Group who gave generously of their time and expertise while serving in their various capacities.