

IHO Committee on the Hydrographic Dictionary
7th Meeting, 4-7 May 1999, IHB, Monaco

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Welcome and administrative arrangements

The delegates were welcome by Admiral ANGRISANO (IHB President) wishing them a successful meeting. He presented a crest to Mr. Erich FREY in recognition of Mr. FREY's work on the Hydrographic Dictionary for more than 10 years. The Chairman explained several administrative arrangements.

A membership and attendance list can be found at Annex 1. Apologies were sent by the Committee members of China and France, who could not attend.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda was adopted without changes; it can be found at Annex 2.

The Chairman explained that agenda items could not be dealt with as listed as members of the DHYDRO team (the team developing the WEB version of the Dictionary) could only attend during the last two days of the meeting; agenda item 4 would therefore be dealt with on Thursday and Friday.

3. Reports on status of S-32 in languages other than English

French: The 5th edition of the French volume was published in 1998 after an in-depth revision by a language sub-group consisting of former Hydrographers of SHOM.

Spanish: The Spanish volume (corresponding to the 5th edition) was published in 1996. Fritz MAYER has contacted numerous Spanish speaking countries (Member States and Non-Member States) to establish a language sub-group for Spanish; Argentina, Spain, Guatemala, Ecuador and Mexico have nominated representatives. An in-depth revision of the Spanish volume will be undertaken by this sub-group. (Chairman to send 5 copies of French S-32 to MAYER)

Chinese: No news. Chinese volume was printed several years ago.

Japanese: The Japanese HO informed the Committee that the initial translation had been completed. At present, the Japanese text is proof-read and an index is under preparation. The publication will hopefully be published in the not too distant future.

German: No progress. A retired BSH staff member will resume the work on the German version during the second half of 1999.

Note: It seems necessary to establish a language sub-group for English for an in-depth revision to bring English into line with French.

4. WEB version of S-32

Mr. Laurent ROMARY and Mr. Jean-Luc HUSSON of the University of Nancy (France) participated in the meeting on Thursday and Friday. They provided the participants with a general overview of the DHYDRO project, explained and demonstrated the tools being developed for consultation and updating the Dictionary via the Internet, described the problems encountered when converting the different Volumes of the Dictionary to XML, and gave an overview of the time schedule of the project. The participants asked for numerous clarifications and when they would be able to run tests. Several aspects of the project were discussed in great detail.

The following time schedule and course of actions was agreed upon:

- Beta testing would start end of August and last till end of November; all Committee members to participate to test editorial interface and to report back; up to 15 other persons to be asked to consult the Dictionary on-line and to report back. Revision list in English, French, and Spanish must be ready for tests.
- Evaluation phase (may include minor revisions) will last from 1 December 1999 to 31 May 2000; CL to be sent to IHO Member States asking them to participate and report back.
- Mid-project meeting to be held in autumn 1999; only Chairman involved. Date and venue to be organized by Laurent ROMARY , preferably by end of August.
- Final evaluation meeting planned for end of May 2000, probably in Bruxelles or Luxembourg. Laurent ROMARY to try to fix more precise date and to investigate (partial) funding of participation by members of the Committee by the EC.

1. Terms of Reference

The draft TOR were discussed in detail and amended. The final version can be found at Annex 3.

2. Coordination with B-6

Immediately after its 6th meeting in 1996, the Committee had prepared a proposal on the coordination of terms between the Hydrographic Dictionary and IHO Publication B-6 (Undersea Feature Names). As no feedback had been received from the GEBCO groups involved, the Committee decided that no action had to be taken.

3. Acting as caretaker of the ECDIS Glossary

The CHRIS Chairman (Rear Admiral GUY) has officially requested that the Committee consider the maintenance of the ECDIS Glossary. It was somewhat ambiguous whether the Committee should integrate the ECDIS Glossary into the Hydrographic Dictionary or whether to maintain the ECDIS Glossary as separate publication.

The Committee was unanimously of the opinion that it could integrate the ECDIS Glossary and then update ECDIS related terms according to requests from CHRIS; but the workload and size of the Committee does not allow to look after two publications.

The Committee Chairman will contact the CHRIS Chairman to clarify this matter (copy of letter attached).

Mr. Erich FREY prepared a comprehensive proposal for the integration. Feedback directly to him by end of July; FREY will then prepare a final version by end of September. The corresponding French and Spanish text should be ready by end of May 2000 for integration into the WEB version of the Dictionary. List of ECDIS terms to be included was tabled by Nenad LEDER; this list to be taken into consideration when preparing the final version.

4. Tidal terms in S-32

Mr. Guan ZHENG had prepared a list of tidal terms contained in the Hydrographic Dictionary, which was then distributed to the members of the IHO Tidal Committee for comments. The feedback received from Portugal and the UK was discussed.

It was decided that the Chairman would update the Revision list (see 9. below) according to the results of the discussions (some input required from Nenad LEDER by end of June) and circulate the list to the members of the Committee for comments by mid July; final list to be ready by end of August (see 4. and 9).

In its feedback Portugal asked for clarification whether certain abbreviations should be written with or without “.”, e.g. MHHW or M.H.H.W.; all Committee members are to check this with their tidal

experts. If a majority is in favour to suppress the “.”, the Chairman will amend the Revision list accordingly adding a note that the definitions themselves have not been changed; to facilitate work for French and Spanish versions.

5. Discuss new terms, terms to be modified and/or deleted

The draft list of proposed revisions was discussed and amended.

The term “accuracy: scale” was proposed for addition by Nenad LEDER; copy of proposed text was distributed. As this text might cause misunderstandings in connection with the Mercator projection, all participants were tasked to try to find a more acceptable wording and to send proposals to the Chairman by 15 June. Final Revision list to be ready by end of August (see 4.)

The meaning of abbreviations like ENC and RNC was discussed. At present the “N” stands for “navigational”. The Committee was of the opinion that it would be more precise if it stood for “nautical”. Navigational refers to air, land, and marine navigation whereas nautical clearly pertains to marine navigation. As such a change might require editorial changes of IMO documents and other publications, it was decided to refrain from changing the corresponding definitions for the time being; but the CHRIS Chairman should be informed and asked to discuss this matter during the next CHRIS meeting.

6. Date and venue of the next (8th) meeting

It was decided that the next meeting should be held during the period May-September 2001, either in Washington in May, or alternatively in Buenos Aires end of September; final decision to be taken by end of 1999.

7. Any other business

As the contents of the Hydrographic Dictionary can only be changed to a limited extent before the DHYDRO project has been completed (expected mid-2000), it was decided that all proposed major changes in English, French and Spanish should be prepared so that they can be implemented with minimum delay after the completion of DHYDRO.

Annex A has to be revised. The Chairman will e-mail copies to the participants. The revised Annex A should be tri-lingual and be put on the IHO WEB site as HTML file, provided it is still sufficiently voluminous after the revision; else to be integrated into the Dictionary.

Annex B to be e-mailed to participants as well for reconsideration.

Erich FREY might retire in January 2001. He would like to continue to work on the Dictionary, but this would also depend on the decision by his superiors; final decision will be made before the end of 1999.

The former representative of France had informed the Committee (in writing) that SHOM intended to compile a list of common terms contained in the Hydrographic Dictionary and the NATO Glossary AAP-6. The Committee was of the opinion that it would be interesting to have that list; but the compilation of the list need not to be pursued with high priority.