

1st Meeting of the Nautical Cartography Working Group (NCWG), Rostock, Germany, 27 – 30 April 2015

The first meeting of the Nautical Cartography Working Group (NCWG) took place in Rostock, Germany, hosted by the *Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie* (BSH), from 27 to 30 April. The meeting was chaired by Mr Jeff Wootton (Australia), supported by Andrew Heath-Coleman, Secretary (UK). Twenty-six delegates from 17 Member States (Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia, Korea (Rep. of), Latvia, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA), one Expert Contributor (ESRI), and the IHB attended the meeting. Assistant Director Yves Guillam represented the IHB.



NCWG-1 participants at BSH, while VWFS “Deneb” is berthing

Dr. Mathias Jonas, National Hydrographer of Germany, welcomed the members and participated in some of the discussions providing views and guidance as Chair of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) to which the Nautical Cartography Working Group is subordinated.

As a result of the reorganised structure of the Working Groups of the HSSC, the members of the former Chart and Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG) reviewed the draft Terms of Reference of the “new” Nautical Cartography Working Group for submission to the HSSC. The maintenance regime of IHO Publication S-4 - *Regulations for the International (INT) Charts and Charts Specifications of the IHO* - was discussed with arguments given by the NCWG Officers to consider adjusting IHO Resolution 2/2007 - *Principles and procedures for proposing changes to IHO technical standards and specifications*, so that changes to S-4 could be implemented more quickly. Proposals will be submitted to the HSSC accordingly.

About 20 submission papers addressing chart content and portrayal issues in relation to S-4 were considered at the meeting. Following discussions, the NCWG agreed to prepare *clarifications*, as well as proposals for a *revision* of S-4. It is worth noting that the Chair systematically considered the impact of these proposed changes on ENC encoding/portrayal and on the operation of ECDIS. As a consequence, some actions will be undertaken in close liaison with other HSSC WGs.

As tasked by the HSSC, the NCWG considered the various positions of its members on standards-related issues raised by the Admiralty Information Overlay (AIO) service. Proposals were agreed to incorporate

additional recommendations in S-4 in order to address consistency issues between ENC's, paper charts and nautical products in general. It was acknowledged that the principles leading to the provision of AIO by the UKHO, acting here as an End-User Service Provider, had to be addressed by other IHO bodies and that this was in hand.

The future of IHO Publication S-4 was discussed together with a topic on the future of the paper chart. Several options were considered, including the use of on-line tools such as the IHO Digital Reference Tool for Cartographers developed by the Republic of Korea. Finally, it was agreed that an ad hoc Correspondence Group will prepare terms of reference for an NCWG Project Team that will look into future directions.

The next meeting of the NCWG is scheduled to take place on 26 to 28 April 2016, at the IHB in Monaco.

Further information concerning the meeting is available on the IHO web site at www.iho.int > Committees & WG > NCWG > NCWG-1.



NCWG-1 participants in session