

Paper for Consideration by CSPCWG

Notices to Mariners (NMs) - superseding notices

Submitted by:	New Zealand
Executive Summary:	Should S-4 be updated to describe best practice for chart maintenance when a permanent NM published supersedes a previous permanent NM?
Related Documents:	S-4
Related Projects:	None

Introduction / Background

Recently LINZ had an enquiry from a chart correcting agent about our process for chart maintenance when a new permanent NM supersedes a previous NM i.e. is the original notice (now redundant) removed from our products under small corrections and the new notice annotated? Or do both notices remain on the chart, as a record of all permanent corrections that have affected the chart? This also led me to wonder whether chart correcting agents consider and utilise IHO specifications to feed into their internal documentation/procedures.

Currently there is no guidance in S-4 explaining best practice for chart maintenance i.e. updating the legend 'Notices to Mariners', or equivalent such as "small corrections", when a permanent NM is published and supersedes a previously published permanent NM.

Analysis / Discussion

The general consensus, after discussing this with AU and UK, is that the full list of permanent NMs in the "small corrections" list should be retained, i.e. where a permanent NM is issued that effectively "cancels" a previously issued permanent NM, the new NM number should be added and the "original" NM number retained in the list.

The rationale for this consensus is that the list of small corrections is indicative of all the permanent changes that have been applied to the chart (for that Edition of the chart). Additionally, the official charts are considered to be legal documents, so by removing superseded NM numbers there may be resultant issues with Port State Control in regard to ensuring the "up to datedness" of charts when conducting carriage requirement compliance inspections.

Conclusions

Although the procedure described above is most likely the accepted process to follow, the lack of guidance in S-4 could cause some confusion within other HOs and other users of S-4. This could have an impact on the "up to datedness" of charts. Could a chart correcting agent update their stock in this situation by striking-through the superseded notice, or an HO remove the superseded NM number when generating updated plot files for chart printing during the NM maintenance cycle?

Recommendations

CSPCWG to consider whether international guidance on superseding NMs would be useful and, if so, what it should be and where should it be located in S-4?

Justification and Impacts

Changes to S-4, section B-630 depending on consensus to update guidance.

Action required of CSPCWG

The CSPCWG is invited to discuss the issue, consider the recommendation and agree on further actions, if any.