

7th CSPCWG MEETING
Simon's Town, South Africa 23-26 November 2010

Paper for Consideration by CSPCWG

Enhancements to support ENC / paper chart consistency of presentation

Submitted by:	UK
Executive Summary:	To encourage CSPCWG to share experiences of chart consistency issues in order to enhance the review of specifications and maintain consistency in chart presentation for the user
Related Documents:	S-4, INT1, S52
Related Projects:	None

Introduction / Background

Paper charts are mature products benefiting from extensive user experience, familiarity and understanding. They have evolved over many years and have increasingly become standardised through the collaborative work of IHO MS (including CSPCWG and its predecessors).

In contrast, many navigators are still gaining experience of using and understanding ENCs in ECDIS (noting the numbers of times inadequate training and unfamiliarity are being cited as issues in the use of ECDIS). Accordingly, ENCs may be perceived as 'first-generation' products. However, meaningful and useful user feedback is increasing as experiences grow and the advice of HOs is sought as user issues arise.

Whilst some HOs have or are developing product-neutral databases to support their chart production, most ENCs continue to be primarily derived from the equivalent paper chart. However, it may be contended that the two chart formats are different products, with different maintenance regimes (reference the discussion with EUWG during the development of S-4 Part B Section 600: Chart Maintenance) and used differently by the mariner. But we are still seeking to serve the mariner by maintaining the maximum degree of consistency and currency in representing the navigational environment in all our different nautical products.

Can we do more to enhance the guidance we develop in our chart specifications (and symbols) to improve the consistency of presentation between paper charts and ENC, as represented in the CSPCWG's Terms of Reference?

(The alternative of defining 'clear water' between the two chart products that is both unambiguous and serves the safety of the mariner is out of scope of this paper.)

Analysis / Discussion

As examples, UK offers two particular recent issues that have given rise for concern:

- EXPSOU=2: the 'translation' of isolated shoal depths portrayed in paper charts and their resultant display in ECDIS (IHO CL21/2010 dated 24 February 2010 and ENC Encoding Bulletin 27 refer).
- Foul: the mis-use of the legend 'Foul Area' (where Foul K31 was intended) in certain paper charts that has led to encoding as category of obstruction in ENC and the portrayal of obstruction areas in ECDIS (Annex refers).

All participants are encouraged to share their own experiences, understanding and knowledge, presenting real examples where possible.

Conclusions

CSPCWG needs to remain vigilant in respect of the potential impact of its guidance for as long as ENC's may be derived from paper charts (and not via product-neutral databases).

Recommendations

CSPCWG members are encouraged to share their experiences in order that lessons can be learnt.

Wherever relevant, CSPCWG is to continue to actively seek technical input and review from related WGs, national specialists and industry of all relevant draft proposals.

Justification and Impacts

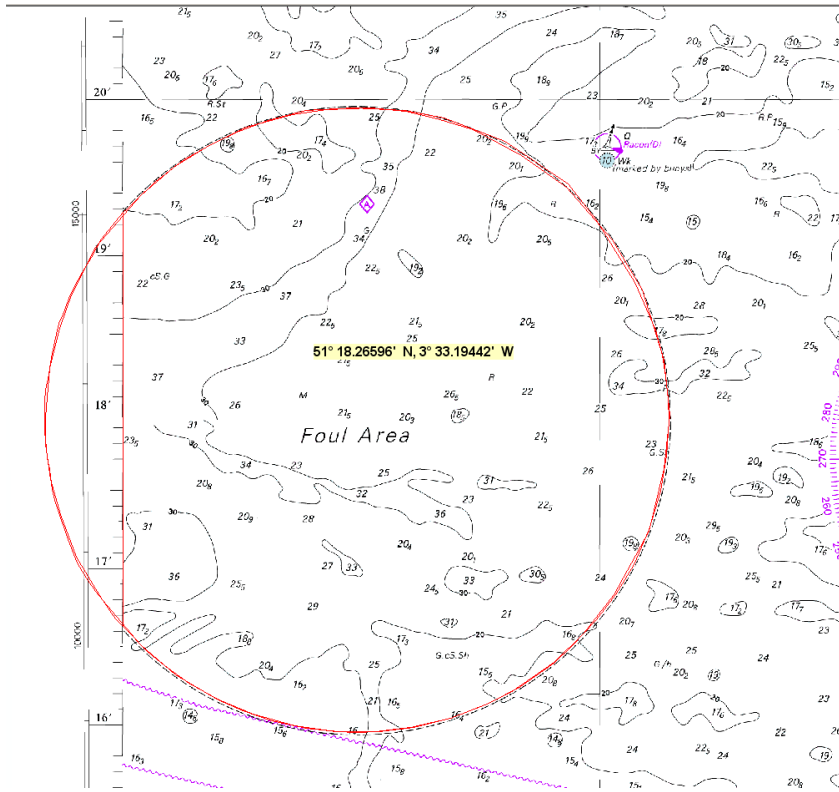
To ensure the design of charting specifications and symbols meets the mariner's need in the use of charts (irrespective of format) and to negate any risk of misinterpretation of content or presentation.

Action required of CSPCWG

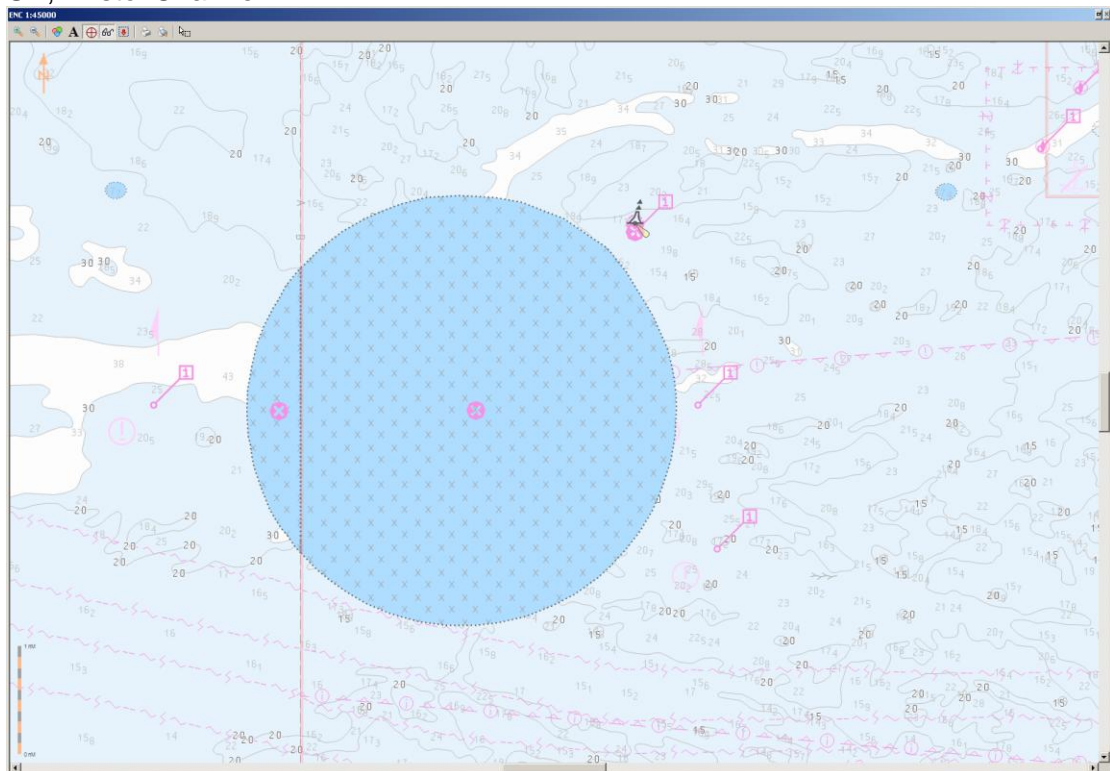
The CSPCWG is invited to endorse the recommendations above.

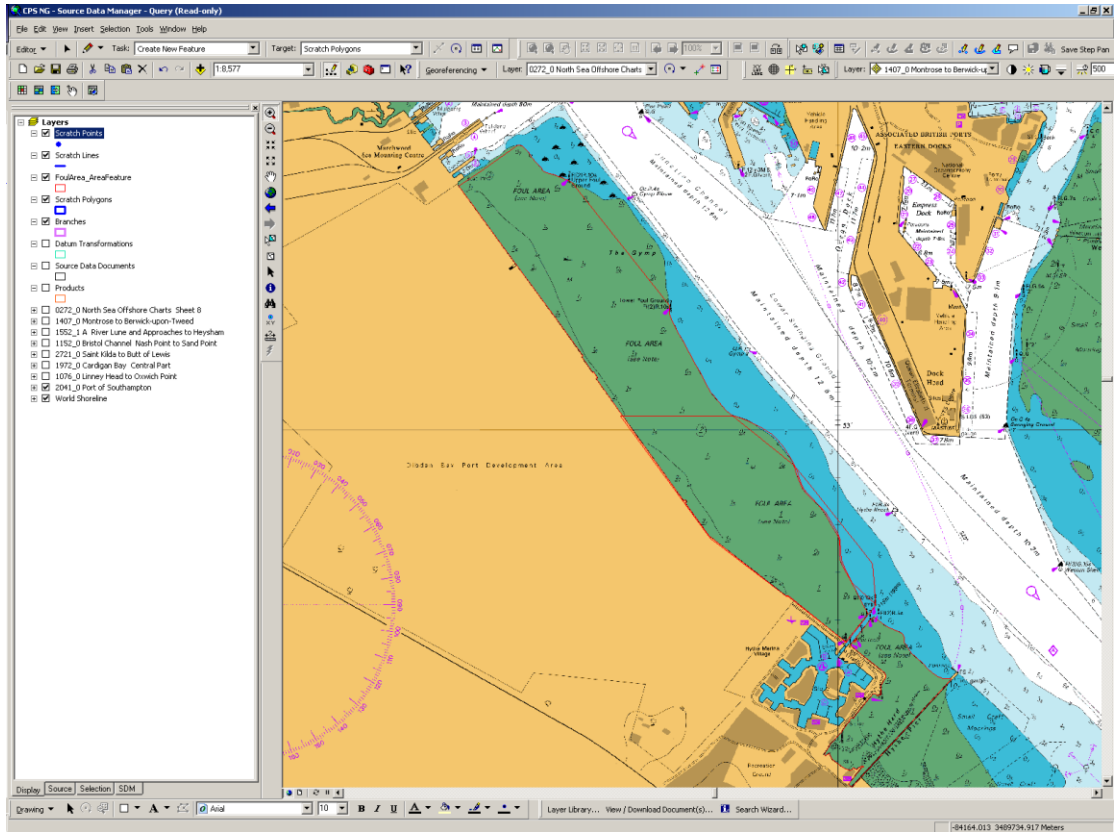
'Foul Area' Analysis:

Due to the use of the obstruction object CATOBS = foul area on small scale ENC cells, analysis has identified many instances of these items in GB ENC cells. Clearly this does not correspond to the number of instances where foul ground has been encoded as foul area. Some examples:



UK, Bristol Channel





UK, Southampton

