

IHO CSMWG 16
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Report by SHOM on the ECDIS display of Directional lights

At SHOM, we have not as yet been faced to the situation described by Chris (TM paper charts). However, because of clutter issues on the ECDIS, when a directional light relates to a leading line, we always encode the ORIENT of the **LIGHTS** object as UNKNOWN. This avoids the display of both lines, one generated on the attribute ORIENT of the light and the other line created from the **NAVLNE** object. The clutter due to the slightly different geometries (almost inevitable) between the two lines is thus avoided.

As far as I know, there is no display problem on ECDIS for **LIGHTS** object encoded with ORIENT = Unknown.
In most cases, SHOM also encodes the limits of the narrow sectors using SECTR1 and SECTR2.

For a directional light, SHOM only encodes ORIENT with an explicit value when the light is not related to a leading line (i.e. there is no risk of clutter).

Moreover, we don't like the bearing line automatically generated on the ECDIS, because we have no control over its display across the screen (some ECDISes generate quite long lines).

About the encoding of leading, clearing and transit lines and recommended tracks, the S-57 UOC states in clause 10.1:

"If it is required to encode leading, clearing and transit lines and recommended tracks, it must be done using the object classes **NAVLNE** and **RECTRC**, and related point navigational aids object classes. .."

and in clause 12.8.6.5:

"If it is required to encode the recommended track, it must be done using the method described in clause 10.1."

This means that the encoder should be able to choose if the bearing line has to be encoded or not and therefore displayed or not on the ECDIS. Therefore, we think the fact that the bearing be generated by the ECDIS is not consistent with the above principles written in the S-57 UOC.

In summary, SHOM's view on this issue is:

- agree with Chris' proposal to remove from S-52 the CSP that automatically creates the bearing line of a directional light.
- the bearing line should be encoded in the ENC (using **NAVLNE** and possibly **RECTRC**) when it is required and only along the useful (navigable) part on the bearing.
- **ORIENT** should remain mandatory (unknown value is allowed).
- no S-58 check should be added to impose the encoding of a bearing line associated with a directional light in the ENC.
- as long as the ECDIS creates automatically the bearing line (CSP in S-52) we disagree with the idea to impose an explicit value for **ORIENT**.

Best regards
Guy Uguen
TSMAD member