



## Digital Information Portrayal Working Group (DIPWG)



**DIPWG Letter:** 1/2014

**From:** Colby A. Harmon, DIPWG Chair, [colby.harmon@noaa.gov](mailto:colby.harmon@noaa.gov)

**Subject:** Proposed Restructuring of HSSC Working Groups and the Future of DIPWG

**Date:** 10 July 2014

**To:** TSMAD and DIPWG Members

**CC:** IHB Directing Committee  
Chair, Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee  
HSSC Working Group Chairs

Dear Colleagues,

This letter describes some changes in how DIPWG will conduct business in the future.

### Background

In light of the recent proposal to reorganize many of the HSSC working groups, including DIPWG and TSMAD, a decision was made at the last joint TSMAD/DIPWG meeting (Sydney, 31 Mar – 4 Apr 2014) not to schedule the usual spring (northern hemisphere) DIPWG meeting in 2015, pending a decision on the status of the working groups at HSSC6 (Viña del Mar, Chile, 11-14 Nov 2014).

However, the work needed to support ECDIS portrayal carries on. To lessen the uncertainty about how new and ongoing DIPWG activities might be carried out in the future (regardless of the outcome of the reorganization proposal) I have decided upon a strategy that I hope will streamline and accelerate the completion of DIPWG work and make the transition to any new organizational structure easier.

### Changes in DIPWG Meeting Schedule

After consultation with the TSMAD Chair, I have decided to plan on bringing DIPWG work items to the TSMAD winter meeting. The next TSMAD meeting is tentatively scheduled for 2 - 6 Feb 2015; the venue is yet to be determined. This is a change from the usual routine of DIPWG meeting once per year in a joint spring meeting with TSMAD and TSMAD also holding another "non-DIPWG" meeting on its own in the winter.

If this pattern of all joint meetings is carried forward, this would essentially merge DIPWG into TSMAD. In fact, for all practical purposes this has already occurred as there is nearly 100% overlap between TSMAD and DIPWG membership. That is, of the fifty or so participants, there are only a few people who attend the joint TSMAD/DIPWG meetings who don't also attend the other non-joint TSMAD meetings. The only thing that has been missing from the complete integration of the two working groups is that DIPWG topics have only been formally brought before the joint TSMAD/DIPWG spring meetings. Although, in actuality DIPWG topics have been discussed and worked on at side meetings or break-out sessions during at least the last two winter TSMAD meetings!

At HSSC6, I will recommend that if other proposals to restructure HSSC working groups including DIPWG are not approved, then at least DIPWG and TSMAD should be formally combined. Portrayal work would likely be carried out throughout the year by one or more sub-working groups within TSMAD.

## DIPWG Work by Correspondence and Items of Immediate Interest

I will also be sending out a few more DIPWG letters to move things along by correspondence as the CSPCWG has done so effectively over the years. I hope there will be enthusiastic participation in working on some portrayal issues through e-mail. S-100/S-101 testbed activities are starting a bit more slowly than expected, but there are several portrayal related items that should be completed before the next TSMAD meeting in February. These include:

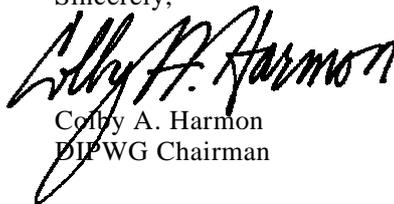
- Review of proposed new S-101 color filled symbols for Aids to Navigation
- Review of proposed new S-101 symbols for Virtual AIS Aids to Navigation
- Creation of other new S-101 symbols
- Completion of the initial S-100 Portrayal Catalogue Builder tool by CARIS
- Creation of a new S-101 Portrayal Catalogue based on the updated S-101 Feature Catalogue created by KHOA

Other topics that are less urgent, but still need attention include:

- Strategy for maintaining the feature and portrayal registers and refining methods for proposing new features, attributes, attribute values and symbols
- Portrayal support for SNPWG's design of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) product specification

Thanks to all of you for your steadfast support of ECDIS portrayal as members of the old Colours and Symbols Maintenance Working Group (CSMWG) and the Digital Information Portrayal Working Group (DIPWG). I hope to continue working with you on these and other important legacy, S-100 based, and e-navigation related portrayal developments in the future, whether it is in TSMAD or through other HSSC working groups that may be established in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colby A. Harmon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Colby A. Harmon  
DIPWG Chairman