

13th CHRIS MEETING
17-19 September 2001, Athens, Greece

U.S. HYDROGRAPHIC 2001 CONFERENCE SUMMARY
(by Dave Enabnit, August 2001)

United States (NOAA)

The U.S. Hydrographic Conference was held in Norfolk, Virginia from May 21-24, 2001. The conference was very successful gathering of public and private hydrographers, academia and equipment vendors. Attendance exceeded 400 with representatives from nearly 30 countries, and exhibits from 50 companies with seven in-water equipment demonstrations on the river adjacent to the conference hotel.

The new Hydrographer of the Navy, Rear Admiral Thomas Donaldson addressed the opening session and extended an invitation to all attendees to tour one of the Navy's newest hydrographic survey vessels, the USNS BRUCE C. HEEZEN, at a nearby pier. The technical program included 46 papers, 13 of which were presented by non-U.S. authors. A highlight was the keynote address by Dr. Peter Ehlers, President of the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency of Germany on the Worldwide Electronic Navigational Chart Data Base. The high quality of the papers and the on time schedule of each session received numerous compliments. In addition to the more formal presentations, there were three well-attended workshops on Brownwater Electronic Charting, Tidal Datum Computations and Dredging Volume Computations.

The three evening social events (the Monday Icebreaker, Tuesday Beer Social and Wednesday Barbeque at the Nauticus Maritime Museum) provided a terrific atmosphere for the telling of sea stories and the renewal of old friendships. There were also a number of spontaneous informal social activities including a Karaoke sing-off.

The week prior to the actual conference the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) conducted a 2-day IHO Strategic Planning Working Group Meeting on May 16-17, 2001, and a second 2-day IHO World wide Electronic Navigational Chart Data Base (WEND) Committee meeting on May 18-19, 2001.