

**13<sup>th</sup> CHRIS MEETING**  
**17-19 September 2001, Athens, Greece**

**REPORT ON THE 6<sup>th</sup> WEND COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Norfolk, Va, USA, 18-19 May 2001**  
*(Neil Guy, IHB)*

The Chairman of the WEND Committee (Dr. Peter EHLERS) opened the 6<sup>th</sup> WEND Meeting and introduced Rear Admiral Nick PRAHL who welcomed the 55 delegates from 20 Member States to Norfolk and wished them a successful Meeting. He stressed the importance of the WEND concept in regard to ENC data production and services and stated further that he thought that inter-governmental and inter-agency cooperation was the key to it's success.

RAdm Neil GUY and RAdm Giuseppe ANGRISANO, who briefly attended the Meeting and provided an update on the work of the Strategic Planning Working Group represented the IHB

The activities of other IHO Committees and Working Groups were considered by the Meeting in particular the problem of ENC/SENC distribution. The Meeting felt that the issue of SENC distribution is important in terms of both the ECDIS and ECS market and concluded that the views from the Industry Workshop and those expressed in response to IHO CL 15/2001 should be collated and requested that CHRIS should reconsider the matter at their next meeting in September 2001. The result of this CHRIS meeting should then be forwarded to WEND members via a WEND Letter for further consideration if necessary.

The matter of Security Schemes was also considered but no recommendation was made.

The acceptance of the use of ECDIS as meeting the carriage requirement in terms of SOLAS Chapter V was considered and Denmark reported on the position adopted by the Danish Maritime Authority. Denmark felt that an active dialogue with Maritime Safety Administrations was needed to ensure a coherent approach to the promotion, implementation, and use, of ECDIS and ENC data. The Member states reported on the positions adopted by their Administrations. The IHB was requested to inform Member States of the problem and to ask them to contact, if necessary, their Maritime Safety Administrations should it be evident that their national policy precluded the acceptance of ECDIS as meeting the SOLAS carriage requirements. It was noted that The Netherlands had formally advised the IMO that it now recognizes the use of raster data in ECDIS as meeting SOLAS requirements for a particular vessel.

The Meeting was advised of the status of ECDIS and ENC standards and specifications and the written National ENC Production Reports were updated. The Meeting felt that as only 50% of IHO Member States had provided reports a study should be undertaken to obtain a better overview and assessment of what is needed. It should concentrate on major ports and shipping routes. There was a need to assess the gaps in coverage. More effort is needed to identify what the necessary services are and what support is needed. The IHB was requested to instigate a study utilizing the services of Regional Hydrographic Commission Chairmen, INT Chart Committee Coordinators and, if necessary, external consultants.

The status of ENC production outside national waters was considered and it was decided that it be left to the individual States to decide the responsibilities for the ENC production in these areas. If there is a risk of duplication of work concerning ENCs covering parts of the high seas, this problem has to be solved within the responsible regional hydrographic commission.

PRIMAR gave a status report and presentation on PRIMAR. The report summarized the current activities, achievements, and frustrations encountered during the past year. PRIMAR now has 36 authorized “distributors” spread over 17 countries worldwide. Currently, 12 ECDIS/ECS systems are compatible with the PRIMAR security scheme. The main problem continues to be the availability of data. PRIMAR also gave a presentation on the Virtual PRIMAR Network. This Network has been developed with the aim of providing HOs and data suppliers with more control over their data while it is being held by PRIMAR. This is achieved via a secure Internet whereby HOs can upload/download ENC data for national use (e.g., naval vessels). It was also explained that the operation of a new service called “Chart Catalogue” would be made available soon.

Discussions were also held on financial policies, bi-lateral arrangements and other means related to reimbursement for provision of data.

Italy gave a presentation on the Virtual RENC (VRENC) Development in the Mediterranean – Black Sea Region. The VRENC is defined as “virtual” because it is not a physical entity with extensive facilities and staff. Rather, it is a permanent body (i.e., a small bureau) whose mission is to support the region’s HOs related to cooperative ENC production and distribution matters. The aim of the VRENC is to produce a prototype delivery service that is capable of being expanded into full commercial network supporting three primary players, producers (HOs), distributors (private manufacturers, HOs, etc.), and users (mariners, land-based VTS, etc.)

This would be achieved via existing Internet and telecommunications services where a digital network link is established between cooperating HOs and their ENC databases. The goal of the VRENC is not the creation of independent physical infrastructures, but rather to extend and strengthen cooperation within the regional hydrographic community, dedicated to coordinating and assisting participating HOs in the field of ENC-related activities. It was made clear that a VRENC follows WEND principles. Individual HOs can exchange data with other HOs and RENCs.

IHB detailed its efforts to improve the relationship with industry and the Meeting emphasized the need for a close cooperation with third parties involved in hydrography, such as users, industry, academia, and regulatory authorities. Hope was expressed that the coming Workshop will help to intensify the cooperation. The Meeting confirmed that besides workshops, permanent cooperation with the bodies of IHO is necessary. The Meeting also considered reports on the interim measures to provide data in the absence of S-57 data, the SHARED Project, cooperation with other international bodies, the establishment of an IHO-IEC Harmonization Group on Marine Information Objects (MIO), and Australia reported on the ongoing cooperation with ICA.