

3RD MEETING OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE
IHB, Monaco, 8-10 November 2011
(Chair Group Meeting on 7 November p.m.)

Paper for Consideration by HSSC

CSPCWG Proposed addition to S-4

Submitted by:	Chairman CSPCWG
Executive Summary:	To provide a succinct definition of the purpose of a chart and guide to appropriate content
Related Documents:	S-4 Part B: Chart Specifications of the IHO
Related Projects:	None

Introduction / Background

S-4 provides very detailed specifications for how to show many different features on a nautical chart. However, little guidance is given on what level of detail should usefully be included on a chart; this is something we are trying to provide in the opening paragraphs of sections B-300 and B-400, as part of the on-going revision of S-4 Part B. Nevertheless, there is still no succinct definition of the purpose of a chart and guide to appropriate content.

Analysis/Discussion

During discussion at CSPCWG7 conference (November 2010) on the subject of chart content and the needs of a wide range of chart users, it was proposed that a short introductory statement in S-4 Part B-100 would be useful, particularly as an aid in Capacity Building. The CSPCWG Secretary was invited to draft some words (based on an original paragraph drafted by Lee Alexander) and propose a suitable place for insertion in S-4 (CSPCWG7 Action 22).

Following consultation by correspondence within the CSPCWG, the following statement is proposed for including in S-4, as new paragraph B-100.4:

B-100.4 **The primary purpose of nautical charts** is to provide the information required to enable the mariner **to plan and execute safe navigation**. In constructing charts and selecting content it is therefore important to understand the mariner's need for appropriate, relevant, accurate and unambiguous information. Particular care must be exercised to avoid errors and the creation of situations where the mariner may be faced with too much information (chart clutter) or irrelevant information which causes confusion or distraction. (See B-102 for associated extracts from SOLAS regulations.)

Additional information to suit non-navigational requirements (eg: sub-surface operations (military, research, fishing etc); natural resource exploitation; recreation; port development; international boundaries and national limits) may be included on nautical charts if considered useful or necessary by the producing authority. However, this must not be done at the expense of clear portrayal of navigationally significant information. On paper charts, the cartographer's expertise in design and selection, biased towards safety, is essential to achieve the required clarity. The format of electronic charts allows detail additional to that shown on the paper chart, specific to navigation using Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS), to be included.

Conclusions

Although this proposed statement is short and comparatively simple, it is significant and could be considered to be fundamental. So far as we are aware, no similar formal statement exists.

Recommendations

To include this paragraph in S-4 at the next opportunity.

Justification and Impacts

CSPCWG considers this paragraph fills a gap identified in S-4 and will be a useful reference for training marine cartographers.

Action Required of HSSC3

The HSSC is invited to:

- a. endorse the proposal and
- b. advise whether this should be:
 - included in S-4 as a clarification, without further consultation, or
 - submitted to IHO Member States by IHO CL for approval