

5TH MEETING OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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Information Paper

Review of the structure of HSSC Working Groups – Comments by FR

Submitted by:	France
Executive Summary:	This document provides some suggestions based on the different papers dealing with the review of the structure of HSSC groups that might be considered during the discussions.
Related Documents:	HSSC5-04.2A (submitted by IHB) HSSC5-04.2B.rev1 (submitted by USA) HSSC5-04.2C rev1 (submitted by USA) HSSC5-07.1A (submitted by IHB) HSSC5-07.2A (submitted by IHB)
Related Projects:	Development of S-100 and related tasks

Introduction / Background

1. France congratulates IHB, USA and other bodies who have carried out such deep reflection.
2. All analyzes show that the actual structure of HSSC is unsustainable regardless to S-100 and e-navigation expectations, and France agrees on the principle that a complete review of the structure WG is necessary.

Analysis / Discussion

France would like to draw the attention on some critical points:

3. Estimation of skills and resources should ensure the feasibility and interest of whatever reorganization;
4. All standards should meet the users' needs: if the new organization were well aligned with SOLAS products and Maritime Service Portfolio (MSP 5, 12, 13, 14, 16) designed by IMO (e-nav CG for instance), it would be easier to convince other stakeholders and put the IHO in a better position for getting additional resources when and where there are needed;
5. All new standards development should be supported by a dedicated budget for funding an impact study, in particular to identify ways and means for managing transition and backward compatibility;
6. The number of WG should be minimized anyway to save time and experts from administrative tasks (periodic reports to parent groups and committees, meeting arrangements, etc.).

Recommendations

Accordingly, France makes the following recommendations:

7. As soon as a new "optimal" organization is designed, and to insure its feasibility, Member States should make an inventory of their resources, skills and commitments in the long term;

8. Systematic impact studies should be considered, possibly contracted under the authority of the IHB after validation of technical specifications by the relevant WGs;
9. Governance should distinguish within the WGs the permanent tasks (life cycle of existing standards) from time limited tasks (new products specifications);
10. Governance within the WGs should also preserve the necessary diversity between ISO/S-100 experts and thematic subject matter experts.

Conclusion

The above recommendations lead France to agree on a new organization which could be based on (see **Figure 1** below):

11. A working group, named “Nautical Information” (Chart + Nautical Publications), dealing with all nautical information foundation aspects and at least in charge of MSP 5, 12 and 13;
12. A working group, named “Sciences & Environment”, in charge of environmental foundation aspects such as tides, currents, hydrodynamics, vertical reference frameworks, ... and very close to MSP 16;
13. A S-100 core experts working group, fully justified by the arguments developed in the referenced papers, and focused on S-100 tasks only, in relation with thematic foundation WGs (Nautical Information and Science & Environment);
14. A core group inside HSSC entitled to liaise with the stakeholders’ community (industry, end-users, ship owners ...) and other bodies (IRCC, ISO, IMO, IALA, EU ...);
15. MSDIWG is kept as it is.

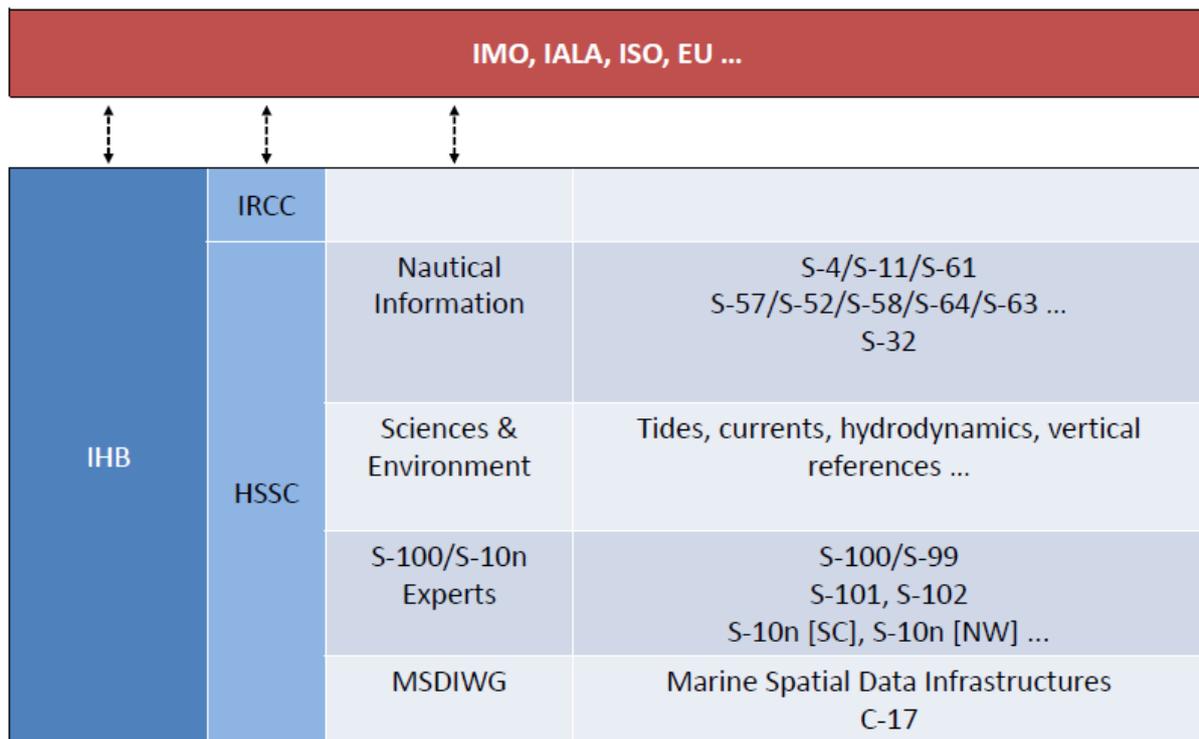


Figure 1 - Proposed WG Structure

Actions planning

In order to make sure that the implementation can be undertaken, FR suggests the following mechanism:

16. Step #1: as soon as the new HSSC WGs target structure is agreed, on IHB control mandated by HSSC, make an inventory of Member States resources, skills and commitments;
17. Step #2: Assign contributions proposed by Member States within the new organization, without any duplication;

18. Step #3: Present it at EIHC#5 for approval together with a transition plan from the old structure;
19. Step #4: Implement the new organization.

Action Required of HSSC

20. The HSSC is invited to:
 - a. **note** this information;
 - b. **consider** the actions planned 16 to 19, and
 - c. **take** any other action as appropriate.