

6th Meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee  
11-14 November 2014, Viña del Mar, Chile

**Paper for Consideration by HSSC6**

**Use of seals of non-IHO members on INT charts**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	Chair CSPCWG
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	The appropriate use of the IHO seal in charts is being tested by recent enquiries and usage. Positions have been taken by the CSPCWG for which the HSSC's endorsement is requested.
<b>Related Documents:</b>	CSPCWG10-09.6A (and associated CSPCWG10 Action 29). IHO Resolution 1/1992.
<b>Related Projects:</b>	S-4 Maintenance.

**Introduction / Background**

1. At CSPCWG10 (January 2014), examples were presented regarding the possible inclusion on paper INT charts of seals of HOs that are not IHO Member States. These included:
  - Correspondence with the Baltic Sea (Region E) ICCWG coordinator over a non-Member State seeking to publish an INT chart.
  - A FR-produced INT chart off Benin and Togo, West Africa. As producer, FR added the seals of both nations, neither of which are MS.
2. The CSPCWG10 meeting report summarises the discussion as: *The Chair explained the advice he had given on behalf of the CSPCWG on the subject of seals of non-member states being applied to INT charts. He asked for endorsement of the position he had taken. M Huet (IHB) stated that the INT chart system is an IHO concept. He therefore felt that only MS and IHO seals should be shown on an INT chart. It was also noted that some port authorities and national safety organizations had been asking for seals to be added to charts. The meeting decided that clearer guidance is necessary, but that first the subject should be referred to HSSC.*

**Analysis/Discussion**

3. When using the IHO seal in a paper chart, this should only be with the authority of an IHO Member State which can reasonably claim part ownership and adherence to IHO standards (that is, of an organisation of which it is a member). If not a MS, the seal is being used to imply an authority which the producer organisation is not empowered to claim. This stance has been discussed and agreed with IHB.
4. In showing a seal on a paper chart, there is likely to be an implied assurance given to the user that the chart is official and issued on behalf and under the control of that organisation. But what role do these organisations have in the chart's content, construction and assurance? In addition to the existing provisions (e.g. copyright notices, Sources diagram references, title block acknowledgements) and where specifically justified, an additional seal *may* be considered to be appropriate in circumstances such as:
  - The nation or organisation has supplied source data upon which it can reasonably assert ownership;
  - The nation or organisation claims copyright and /or IPR (intellectual property rights) on content; or
  - The nation or organisation has contributed some degree of quality control or quality assurance in the chart's construction.

## **Conclusions**

5. The use of the IHO seal in paper charts should only be used by producers who are MS of the IHO. This 'control' should also extend to the use of the INT chart concept and numbering system. Therefore, the first bullet in paragraph 1 above is not acceptable.
6. A chart producer which is a MS of the IHO may include another HO's seal in its charts even if that HO is not a MS, provided it has reasonable justification for doing so. Therefore, the second bullet in paragraph 1 above may be acceptable where specifically justified (e.g. in the cases at paragraph 4 above).

## **Recommendations**

7. To confirm the CSPCWG conclusions above.

## **Justification and Impacts**

8. To maintain the official nature of charts, the quality assurance provided to the chart user, and the protection and control of the IHO's standards and "brand credibility".

## **Action Required of HSSC**

9. HSSC5 is invited to:
  - Endorse the above CSPCWG conclusions, or advise otherwise.
  - Approve the addition of a new Work Item in the CSPCWG Work Program to include guidance in S-4 in accordance with the decision of the HSSC.