

**7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee  
Busan, Republic of Korea, 10-13 November 2015**

**Paper for Consideration by HSSC 7**

**Comment upon the report of the Hydrographic Dictionary Working Group**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	Australia
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	This paper comments upon the report of the Hydrographic Dictionary Working Group, and both corrects and expands upon the reference within it to “correspondence initiated by Australia”, which was an action arising from HSSC6. The paper includes recommendations arising from the action.
<b>Related Documents:</b>	HSSC6/33
<b>Related Projects:</b>	None

**Introduction**

1. This paper comments upon the following items within the HDWG report to HSSC 7:
  - a. The outcomes of the correspondence mentioned within the report arising from action HSSC6/33.
  - b. The ongoing gap between the intentions of this group based upon current terms of reference
  - c. References in the report to specific actions requested of HSSC, including:
    - **task** an ad-hoc HDWG subgroup to review the current Terms of Reference and Business Rules. Unless otherwise instructed, this subgroup will comprise the HDWG present Chairman and Secretary and Captain Luis Hernandez of the Peruvian Navy. Work will be carried out by correspondence and be concluded within six months by a meeting held in Monaco.
    - **encourage** a dialogue between the HDWG Chairman and Mike Prince to develop a simple procedure to exchange information between the Hydrographic Dictionary and the S-100 Repository

**Discussion**

HSSC6/33	<p><b>AU</b> to liaise with HDWG Chair and Members by correspondence in order to draft new business rules for the HDWG, focused on database approach and addressing relation with the S-100 Registry on one hand, with HSSC WGs and other IHO and inter-organizational bodies (such as SCUFN) on the other hand.</p>
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2. AU contacted the Chairs of each HSSC WG. Responses were received from the Chairs of HDWG and S-100WG. A verbal response was received from the Chair of NCWG.
3. This extremely low response rate makes the HSSC action, as written, unachievable. It also suggests that it may be unnecessary.

4. The current situation can be summarised as:

a. External focus - outside HSSC WGs:

- The focus of the HDWG appears to remain a publication rather a database.
- HDWG has previously made good progress in updating a significant number of definitions, but with most work limited to English language only. A Spanish version has recently been initiated, but the focus remains on a book (whether online or a static pdf), noting that the Spanish version is being developed as a 'Word' document with the order of definitions re-ordered into Spanish alphabetical order. AU opinion is that, while the effort is to be applauded, this simply creates a product management and upkeep burden that will remain extremely difficult to resource in the future.
- The online method of serving up the hydrographic dictionary appears to get regular use (almost 30,000 so far).
- The content within the dictionary is stated to be quite old (the S-32 welcome page says "This online version of the Hydrographic Dictionary, IHO Publication S-32, has been prepared using the definitions included in the printed 5th Edition of S-32: English 1994; French 1998; and Spanish 1996).
- There is little or no external feedback suggesting the definitions within the dictionary are wrong - as a public-facing set of definitions, the level of use of the online version and lack of feedback, despite the age of the source definitions, strongly indicates the online dictionary is entirely adequate for general use.
- Questions of deriving non-English language versions should be considered secondary to managing the information in a sustainable manner. Existing levels of service must be assumed as adequate based on the lack of any feedback otherwise, and there is nothing stopping individual Member States from deriving a time-stamped version in a language of their own choosing (as is happening now, but noting that this will not contribute to managing the source information). If this were genuinely a high priority, volunteers would have been made available in response to the many requests for assistance made at several previous HSSC meetings.

b. Internal requirement - S-100 series and other HSSC driven standards development:

- Clear and unambiguous definitions are an essential part of S-100. Most internal need for change, where it exists, is driven by the development of S-100 products. Those definitions mapped from S-57 substantially fill the need. Requirements to coordinate new or revised definitions driven by development within the S-100 series are therefore likely to be infrequent.
- The existing controls over the Registry (via the Registry Manager) ensure that no conflicts can be introduced, while the Registry Control Board provide a means of resolving conflicts between existing definitions and emerging requirements proposed to the Manager.
- A number of quite difficult discussions occurred in 2012 to 2014 regarding legacy definitions in common and interchangeable use regarding paper chart features. These included multiple terms for the same feature, or different meanings for the same terms. This ambiguity would be functionally unacceptable within the S-100 Registry, but have been kept out of the Registry due to the effectiveness of existing administrative arrangements. These legacy definitions only affect paper chart and will be overtaken by events as producers gradually migrate to derivation of paper charts from ENC or a common vector database – they do not need to be resolved.

c. Resource constraints:

- Broadly speaking, the level of Member State contribution to this working group means that it cannot continue along its current path. The intention stated in the HDWG report to review the entire dictionary remains un-resourced and would take many years to complete.

## Recommendations

5. The Chairs of HDWG and S-100 WGs have made a number of positive recommendations. In conjunction with those developed by AU, the overall recommendations are:

- a. The existing Hydrographic Dictionary on the IHO website be retitled “Historic Hydrographic Definitions” and retained as an archive. The existing explanation be reworded as:

*“This online version of the Hydrographic Dictionary, IHO Publication S-32, has been prepared using the definitions included in the printed 5th Edition of S-32: English 1994; French 1998; and Spanish 1996). **Where definitions within this online historic dictionary differ from those within the S-100 Registry, the S-100 definitions are to be taken as authoritative and correct. Authorities seeking to transfer historic definitions into the S-100 Registry, add new definitions or amend existing definitions within the Registry should submit proposals to the IHO S-100 Registry Manager”.***

- b. Modern accepted terms and definitions are to be accessible directly from the S-100 Registry via a search tool on the IHO website. HSSC may wish to consider how such a search tool can be acquired or developed. When available, outputs from this search tool should be clearly identified as:

**“S-100 geospatial Information Registry Definitions”**

- c. As and when a need arises, the Chairs of individual WG or the lead developer of an S-100 based product specification (noting that this may be from outside the IHO) propose one of the following to the S-100 Registry Manager:
- Migration of a term and definition from the historic Hydrographic Dictionary to the S-100 Geospatial Information Registry
  - Modification of an existing definition within the S-100 Geospatial Information Registry
  - A new term and definition for inclusion in the S-100 Geospatial Information Registry.
- d. The S-100 Registry Manager either accepts a new and logical definition, subject to an acceptable review against related definitions already in the Registry, or submits the application to the Registry Control Board for resolution.
- e. The existing HDWG Chair and members are thanked for their tireless efforts and perseverance, then the WG disbanded.

## Action required of HSSC

6. The HSSC is invited to:
  - a. **note** these comments include the outcome of a directed action (HSSC6/33);
  - b. **consider** the recommendations in paragraph 5,
  - c. **note** that AU considers these recommendations supersede the “specific actions requested of HSSC” within the HDWG report, and
  - d. **take** any action as appropriate.