

**5<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO-INTER REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE  
IHO IRCC5**

**WOLLONGONG, AUSTRALIA, 3-4 JUNE 2013**

**Input from HSSC-4**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	Secretary, HSSC
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	This paper outlines the outcomes from the fourth meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC-4) of interest to IRCC.

**General**

1. The fourth meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) took place in Taunton, United Kingdom, hosted by the UK Hydrographic Office, from 25 to 28 September 2012. The meeting was attended by 60 delegates representing 24 Member States and the IHB and 9 delegates representing 6 organizations accredited as observers. They were joined by 46 representatives from 39 different entities for the 5<sup>th</sup> IHO Stakeholders' Forum on "Realizing the full potential of ECDIS, ENC's and digital hydrographic data" which was held on the afternoon of 26 September and the morning of 27 September 2012.
2. The outcome of the meeting is summarized in CL 102/2012 dated 29 November 2012. The minutes of HSSC-4, together with all documents referred to at the meeting, are available from the HSSC section of the IHO website.
3. The 5<sup>th</sup> HSSC meeting (HSSC-5) will be hosted by China and held in Shanghai from 5 to 8 November 2013 (CL 31/2013 dated 17 May 2013 refers).

**Consideration of the outcome of IRCC-4**

4. At its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, IRCC had agreed the following action:

IRCC4/22: Request HSSC to task MSDIWG to develop an "introduction to MSDI" training course.

The action was taken forward through paper HSSC4/INF.4 which was considered by HSSC when discussing the work plan of the MSDIWG. HSSC tasked the MSDIWG accordingly.

5. At its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting (Copenhagen, Denmark, 31st January and 1st February 2013), the MSDIWG considered the needs for education in MSDI across Member States as part of a more proactive approach to MSDI. It agreed on the following actions, relevant to IRCC concerns:

MSDIWG4/1: Prepare a paper to be submitted to HSSC-5 to reinforce the need for a more proactive approach to MSDI and to ensure it is included on the agenda of IRCC and RHC;

MSDIWG4/2: Liaise with other IHO bodies (like TSMAD, SNPWG, RHCs, IRCC) and agree/coordinate a common approach to further the ambitions of IHO MS in the role MSDI will play in the future;

MSDIWG4/5: Set up a Task Group to further develop syllabi for MSDI and associated learning subjects.

A progress report will be submitted to HSSC-5.

**IHO Stakeholders' Forum**

6. The 5<sup>th</sup> IHO Stakeholders' Forum was organized in accordance with Decision n° 9 of the 18<sup>th</sup> International Hydrographic Conference. Its theme was dealt with in some twenty presentations from the IHB, IHO Member States and industry addressing a variety of issues such as the global status of surveys, ENC coverage issues, GIS and cloud-based services, and S-100 related developments. A poll on "What the IHO should be doing but is not?" identified some forty thought-provoking ideas for further consideration by the IHO.
7. HSSC reviewed the outcomes and supported the continuation of the Forum, subject to reconsidering the structure of the event to improve the attractiveness, connect with a broader spectrum of stakeholders (notably active mariners), and encourage more interactivity. It was noted that some of the responses to the poll showed a

misconception of the object of the IHO.

8. The IHB reviewed the outcome of the poll on “What the IHO should be doing but is not?” and posted a report on the HSSC-4 page of the IHO web site (see [http://www.iho.int/mtg\\_docs/com\\_wg/HSSC/HSSC4/IHO-SF-2012\\_IHB-views-on-issues\\_20130506.pdf](http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/HSSC/HSSC4/IHO-SF-2012_IHB-views-on-issues_20130506.pdf).)

9. The breakdown of the IHB views on the 37 issues raised by the poll is as follows:

- No action required: 9
- On-going action: 21
- Attention required: 4
- Issue not supported: 3

10. One of four the issues for which further consideration is required may be of interest to IRCC: it invites the IHB to “host and maintain a state of the art telephone and video conferencing system that any MS can access and use free of charge.” The IHB notes that such a system could assist in reducing the impact of growing budgetary restrictions on travel expenses and plans to investigate technical options in the near future.

11. Following a review of the options for the next stakeholders’ event, the IHB has agreed to co-sponsor with the International Federation of Hydrographic Societies (IFHS) a Conference on “Digital Hydrography on the Maritime Web - Embracing the challenges and opportunities” which will take place in Southampton, UK on 29-30 October 2013. This conference will be organized by the Hydrographic Society UK (THS UK) and will offer an opportunity to interact with the community of IHO stakeholders. Further details are available from [www.digitalhydro.org.uk](http://www.digitalhydro.org.uk).

12. Options for organizing the 6<sup>th</sup> IHO Stakeholders’ Forum in 2014 will be reviewed when preparing the IHO Work Programme for 2014.

## Proposals

13. IRCC is invited to

- a. **Note** this report;
- b. **Specify** its needs, if any, for an IHO video conferencing system;
- c. **Encourage** participation in the IFHS-IHO Conference of October 2013;
- d. **Identify** issues which could benefit from consideration at the 6<sup>th</sup> IHO Stakeholders’ Forum to be organized in 2014;
- e. **Take** any other actions as it considers appropriate.