

Paper for Consideration by NIPWG 1

Updating Terms of Reference of the Nautical Information Provision Working Group (NIPWG) for Submission to HSSC 7

Submitted by:	US (NGA)
Executive Summary:	Proposed changes to the NIPWG TOR.
Related Documents:	IHO CL 39/2014. HSSC6-04.2A Report of the Correspondence Group on HSSC WGs' Restructuring. HSSC6-10B rev 1 Status Report on IHO Publications on Standards, Specifications, And Guidelines. SNPWG 18-28 Comparison of Terms of Reference of the Nautical Information Provision Working Group (NIPWG) with the Current Terms of Reference of the standardization of Nautical Publications working Group (SNPWG).
Related Projects:	

Introduction/Background

At its 5th meeting, the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) discussed the restructuring of its working groups to acknowledge the changing focus from paper-based to digital products and services and to best use limited resources. The Committee approved in principle a new structure composed of working groups and project teams and decided the establishment of a Correspondence Group (CG), composed of the Chairs of HSSC, TSMAD, DIPWG, CSPCWG, SNPWG, TWLWG, SCWG, and an IHB representative, to develop draft terms of reference and rules of procedure, and to consider the composition of the new bodies as well as appropriate and timely transition arrangements.

The initial plan envisioned creating a new working group called the Nautical Cartography and Nautical Information Working Group (NCNIWG). The new WG group would have consisted of the following current WGs, either completely or in part:

1. Chart Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG).
2. Digital Information Portrayal Working Group (DIPWG).
3. Standardization of Nautical Publications Working Group (SNPWG).
4. Transfer Standards Maintenance and Application Development Working Group (TSMAD).

At the 6th meeting of the HSSC, the CG recommended that SNPWG transform into the Nautical Information Provision Working Group (NIPWG), with a focus on developing the general specifications of the services required to support e-navigation. The CSPCWG would remain as a stand-alone WG for now, subject to an annual review for possible inclusion into NIPWG.

Analysis/Discussion

The CG wrote new Terms of Reference (TOR) for NIPWG. A side-by-side comparison between the existing SNPWG TOR and the proposed NIPWG TOR was conducted at SNPWG 18. The group concurred with the proposed NIPWG TOR except, as follows:

1. SHOM expressed concern with the objective about maintaining guidance, resolutions, and specifications to provide information in a timely manner for the safe voyage of the vessel.
2. UKHO expressed concern regarding maintaining relevant IHO publications for which NIPWG would be responsible as listed in Annex d of the CG document.
3. NGA expressed concern there was no definition of Nautical Information.

Annex A is a table with a side-by-side comparison of the problematic areas of the new NIPWG TOR with the previous SNPWG TOR, along with remarks for each item.

Annex B is a proposed definition for Nautical Information.

Conclusions

SNPWG anticipated the HSSC desire to focus on digital production and move away from paper products. The WG has been very proactive over the last two years in changing the focus of its work from specifically-named hard copy products (Sailing Directions, Pilots, Radio Signals, etc.) to digital information based on subject matter (Traffic Management, Marine Protected Areas, Radio Services, Physical Environment, etc.). The WG currently has four test data sets in various stages of completion for modeling purposes.

Justification and Impacts

The work has major impacts on the development of product specifications.

Action Required of NIPWG 1

NIPWG 1 is invited to:

1. Note this paper.
2. Consider any additions, deletions, or changes to the proposed NIPWG TOR as listed in Annex A and Annex B.