

Paper for Consideration by SNPWG

Proposed Revisions to the SNPWG Workplan

Submitted by:	USA(NOAA)
Executive Summary:	While the MPA product specification is nearing a natural conclusion, the United States feels that SNPWG should formulate a new plan of action and define what the next logical development of products should be.
Related Documents:	N/A
Related Projects:	MPA

Introduction / Background

For the past several years SNPWG has been developing the Marine Protected Area product specification and the United States continues to believe that it is an important piece of work and has allowed SNPWG to gain experience. However, as it is nearing completion, the United States (NOAA) feels that SNPWG should begin to strategize what is the next logical step in developing either vector or text based products that would be useful to the maritime community.

Further, HSSC-4 directed SNPWG to prepare a Master Plan for developing electronic publications with priority assigned to data models and product contents. This action came from discussions at HSSC-4 where it was concluded that SNPWG's present work plan would not deliver the most important NP's in electronic form in a timely manner to support the mandatory carriage of ECDIS and the IEC's maintenance schedule for IEC 61174. The USA(NOAA) agrees that a reprioritization and acceleration of SNPWG's work is needed.

Analysis/Discussion

The primary objective of SNPWG is to develop guidelines for the preparation of nautical publications, in a digital format compatible with an ECDIS. It should be noted that nautical publications is an extremely broad definition as it can range from sailing directions, light lists, notice to mariners, etc...

One of the things that SNPWG has been directed do is create a master plan and identify which nautical publications or parts of a nautical publication should be added to the SNPWG work plan. This will enable SNPWG to manage its limited resources and to create manageable work packages that will lead to successful development and implementation of new products for use within an ECDIS.

At a high level there are at least three types of nautical publications that could be made into S-100 based product specifications, aside from the work that is being done on the MPA specification:

1. Sailing Directions
2. Radio Signals
3. List of Lights

While Radio Signals and List of Lights are a fairly straightforward product and only deal with a small number of items, it is the creation of a Sailing Direction product specification that causes the most concern. Sailing Directions, contain a multitude of different types of information and the type of information may vary from member state to member state.

In order to create a holistic sailing direction product specification the United States feels that SNPWG should identify the three or four most important items to a mariner that are conveyed through the sailing direction and concentrate on developing a product specification for those. Then due to the flexible nature of S-100, SNPWG can continue to add on functionality through a managed environment after an initial electronic NP is adopted.

In an initial pass through, the United States has identified the following items that are contained within our Coast Pilot that we feel are important to the mariner:

- 1) Regulations
- 2) Pilotage
- 3) Distances Between Ports
- 4) General Information
- 5) Quarantine
- 6) Customs
- 7) Anchorages
- 8) Radio Signals
- 9) Ice Info
- 10) Tides
- 11) Currents

The United States also recognizes that this is not a comprehensive list and there may be other items that SNPWG should consider.

Additionally, TSMAD is in the process of building a S-10x product specification template and checklist to assist other groups in the building of S-100 compliant products. This work will be presented at TSMAD25 in January 2013.

Recommendations

The USA(NOAA) recommends that SNPWG hold a brainstorming session to identify the different types of information that is contained within a sailing direction that may be important to the mariner. Once SNPWG has a comprehensive list, it should develop a user survey and allow the maritime community to rank the three or four most important items they would like to see integrated into their ECDIS.

In addition, SNPWG should:

- a. create the Master Plan directed by HSSC-4
- b. the Master Plan should prioritize and accelerate the delivery of electronic Nautical Publications Product Specifications so as to support the phase-in of ECDIS
- c. that priority list should be Light Lists, then Radio Signals, then NTM, then Sailing Directions (taking into consideration the List of Sailing Directions items in "Analysis/Discussion" above).

Justification and Impacts

In identifying subsets of work for the development of a Nautical Publication product specification, SNPWG will be better able to manage the scope of work and the associated timeframes. The United States has witnessed first hand in the development of S-101 where the scope of work is almost too large to manage and that the work was broken up into sub-components.

In addition, under the IHO TR 2/2007 the development of new product specifications does require a component of user outreach. The United States has a SurveyMonkey subscription that will enable SNPWG to develop an on-line survey for mariners to prioritize their top three products.

Action Required of SNPWG

The SNPWG is invited to:

- a. brainstorm different parts of the sailing directions that can be included in a product specification
- b. agree to conducting a mariners survey to assist in prioritization of the SNPWG work plan
- c. agree to adding the results to the SNPWG work plan
- d. execute the recommendations specified above.