

Paper for Consideration by WEND

Summary of Task Group Activities (WEND TG)

Submitted by:	WEND Task Group
Executive Summary:	The WEND TG has met 3 times since WEND 10. The report describes the work accomplished and recommends on the future of the Task Group.
Related Documents:	WEND 11/7A
Related Projects:	Not applicable

Introduction

The WEND Task Group had been established at the 7th WEND meeting, in order to speed up the achievement of a worldwide ENC coverage and updating, uniform data quality, and user-friendly and integrated ENC services through intersessional work. Its membership consists of IHB, UK (representing IC-ENC), France (representing Primar) and Germany (Chair).

Report

The TG met 3 times since the last regular WEND meeting:

30-31 August 2007 Paris, France,
28-29 January 2008 Monaco,
23-24 June 2008 Lisbon, Portugal.

Records of the meetings are posted on the IHO website.

Initial main subject of the TG was an action item from WEND 10:

“Using the DNV study as a basis, WEND TG is to:

- 1) Identify the main shipping routes for all SOLAS vessels (including HSC)
- 2) Determine where gaps in ENC coverage exist for all navigational purposes (scale ranges)”

At its August 2007 meeting, the group reviewed the work item in the light of discussions at the preceding IMO NAV meeting regarding ECDIS mandation, and the ongoing considerations for extending an ECDIS carriage requirement to cover vessels other than High speed Craft. As a result the group revised its task as follows:

- Consider a suitable presentation of ENC coverage to NAV54, as a basis for a decision on ENC coverage.

The group developed a methodology regarding how to address the action item. It was noted that the DNV-Study (2007) was intended to prove the safety gains from using ECDIS by concentrating on only a few key routes and ports. This was considered an insufficient basis upon which to assess and report current and future ENC coverage to IMO. The degree to which British Admiralty paper chart coverage was mirrored in the appropriate ENC scale bands was adopted as a way of reporting adequate ENC coverage. Coverage of ports was assessed on the basis of data from Lloyds Statistics for the World’s 800 most important

ports. This method was formally approved later on by the 1st Extraordinary WEND meeting in November 2007. The group finally defined work packages and agreed on a time schedule. UKHO kindly carried out the analysis.

The meeting in January 2008 which was also attended by a Finnish (attending as Chairman of the Joint Information Working Group) and a US representative, discussed the first results of the ENC coverage analysis carried out by UKHO and agreed on its principal results. The input to NAV 54 meeting was discussed and milestones were agreed upon. Additionally, the requirements of the IHO ENC Catalogue were discussed and agreed upon as an overview catalogue, for administrative purposes only. Another agenda item dealt with the future of the joint Primar/IC-ENC publication "Facts and Requirements for ECDIS", and it was agreed that this should ideally be a joint IMO/IHO publication in order to provide for a wider overview on existing regulatory framework of Flag States.

The June 2008 meeting was convened in response to growing concerns over reports of deficient ENC data and the need to consider appropriate action on this issue. It was realised that the WEND Principles, which had been developed in the mid 90's of the last century needed adjustment to meet today's reality, in order to provide a more practical and realistic framework for data producing HOs, RENC operators and Data Servers. The outcome of this meeting is reported in document WEND11-07A.

Recommendations

The WEND TG will, in effect, cease to exist at the end of 2008, when the WEND Committee will be dissolved and its tasks are taken over by the new IRCC. It is recommended that the WEND Committee proposes to the IRCC to establish a similar WG mechanism to the WEND TG. This will enable operational work to be carried out in the intersessional periods between IRCC meetings, to further the achievement of the WEND objectives.

Action required of WEND

The WEND Committee is invited to take note of the report, and to decide on the future of the WEND Task Group as appropriate.