

Paper for Consideration by WENDWG

Resolving ENC Overlaps within the USCHC

Submitted by:	USCHC
Executive Summary:	USCHC would to offer up the USCHC Best Practices for Eliminating ENC overlaps as part of a document repository for other Member States to reference.
Related Documents:	N/A
Related Projects:	N/A

Introduction / Background

At IRCC5, the USCHC submitted a best practices document as a result of eliminating ENC overlaps in four of the five geographic areas where there were reported ENC overlaps. IRCC6 (Action 22) also asked the USCHC to share the lessons learned from the US-Canada transboundary (agreement) project with IRCC7. With the release of the revised coverage in the Beaufort Sea in January 2015, the USCHC has successfully eliminated all of its ENC overlaps.

Analysis/Discussion

Recognizing that the elimination of ENC overlaps can be a long and arduous process, the USCHC has updated its best practices document to reflect the completion of the project for submission to the WEND working group as a precursor to its submission to IRCC7.

Currently, the previous USCHC submission is only available under the meeting documents for IRCC5. Since one of the main components of the WEND working group is to monitor the state of ENC overlaps, the USCHC feels that it would be beneficial for the WEND working group to establish a single place where Member States and other Hydrographic Commissions can access various best practice documents regarding the elimination of ENC overlaps.

Conclusions

Currently, the IHO does not maintain a central repository of best practices established by different Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) for the resolution of ENC overlaps. The USCHC recognizes that each Commission faces its own set of unique challenges and that there is not a single one size fits all approach. However, if a collection of different methodologies is maintained by the WEND working group, it would be easier for other RHC's to find information regarding how other RHC's resolved ENC overlaps to determine a possible way forward.

Recommendations

The USCHC recommends that the WEND working group set up a document repository under the IHO WEND web page to store best practice documents from various RHCs in order to make them more accessible to Member States.

Justification and Impacts

Currently, in order to find previous documents submitted to either WEND or the IRCC regarding best practices, one would have to know which meeting the documents were submitted to. In the case of the USCHC best practices they are under the IRCC5 page. By providing a single location for these types of reference documents it makes the content easier to find for other RHCs.

Action Required of WEND

The WEND is invited to:

- a. note the updated Best Practices document for eliminating ENC overlaps within the USCHC
- b. agree establish a document repository on the IHO WEND webpage to make different best practice documents available to other RHCs
- c. invite other RHCs to submit their best practices in eliminating ENC overlaps.