



The 9th Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission Conference

Murmansk, Russian Federation

17-19 September 2019

Report of the IHO-EU network working group (IENWG)

Background

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is established between the IHO and the European Commission (EC). The purpose is to provide a framework ensuring a continuing liaison between IHO and EU in the specific areas of common interest. The EU Commission's Directorate General (DG) for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) acts as the contact point on the EC side. From the IHO side the IHO-EU Network WG (IENWG) has been established as a working group under IRCC, which acts as the IHO contact point. The IENWG is chaired by France, Laurent Louvart, and consists of representatives from all Regional Hydrographic Commissions concerned. Denmark represents the ARHC.

The following member states represent the RHCs concerned:

- Arctic HC (ARHC) – Denmark
- Baltic Sea HC (BSHC) – Sweden
- Eastern Atlantic HC (EAtHC) – France
- Mediterranean and Black Seas HC (MBSHC) – Greece
- Nordic HC (NHC) – Norway
- North Sea HC (NSHC) – Germany
- The IHB is represented by Director Abri Kampfer

The meetings are always open for any IHO member state to participate in. Italy and Croatia have usually participated in the IENWG meetings.

IHO-EU Network meetings and representatives

Since the 8th Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission Conference in September 2018, one IENWG meeting has been arranged in Brussels 20 – 21 November 2018. This meeting was arranged back-to-back with the EOOS (European Ocean Observation System) conference 21 – 23 November 2018.

IENWG participated to the coordination of the strategy for EOOS1 conference and gave inputs to introduce the hydrography in this project of European strategy for acquisition and management of marine data. EOOS is a proposition of new way of acquisition and work with marine data, initially proposed by EUROGOOS and EU Marine board. Actually, the project is adopted by a lot of organizations like Copernicus, EMODNET, Offices of the EU Commission (DG MARE, DG GROW, DG CLIMATE, DG RESEARCH and INNOVATION), by EU Parliamentarians, and commissioners. The IENWG introduced too, the need for more standardization, shared requirements with all the communities involved in the EOOS strategy. Indeed, the different communities of marine data users and producers agree on the need to take better account of the quality and the interoperability of data for its re-use in the maritime policies like planning, coastal and maritime climate change risks, development of sustainable blue economy.

Ongoing in the IHO-EU Network

EMODnet

The DG MARE has launched the EMODnet in order to be able to give easy access to marine data, of the EU member states waters, to the society as a whole. There are the following themes in EMODnet (see also <http://www.emodnet.eu/>):

- Bathymetry
- Geology (including sedimentology data)
- Seabed Habitats
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Physics
- Human Activities
- Coastal Mapping

The EMODnet data infrastructure is being built in three major phases and is currently in its 3rd phase of development (2017 - 2020). Building on the EMODnet Bathymetry portal developed during Phase I (2009-2013) & Phase 2 (2013-2017). With the release, in 2018, of a new DTM at approximately 100m grid resolution, it is expected to further improve the DTM with more surveys and improved tools taking benefit of redundant information when existing. Improvements of the data flow and interactions between data providers and full integration will also be part of EMODnet Bathymetry's consortium activities. See also <http://www.emodnet.eu/> and <http://portal.emodnet-bathymetry.eu/>

Maritime Spatial Planning, MSP

Due to the importance of data produced by HOs for maritime spatial planning which is becoming a major topic of interest in Europe (MSP Directive 2014/89/EU), IENWG has obtained a position of observer in the European Commission EC Member State Expert sub-group on Maritime Spatial Planning. Some Hydrographic Offices² are involved in EU projects to develop relations among neighboring countries for the implementation of the MSP Directive. The first lesson learned is the necessity to develop the coordination between the EU member states for the production and diffusion of interoperable data useful for MSP.

European Re-use of Public Sector Information Directive, PSI

A Directive on the re-use of public data and information is currently being promulgated. A list of generic categories of high value datasets, including "Geospatial" and "Earth observation and environment", which will have to be distributed freely and without charge, has been adopted. If the implementation act retain nautical charts this would have serious consequences for some hydrographic offices, as they draw a significant part of their resources from the sale of charts. The exchange of information about the evolution of the negotiations will continue in 2019 in order to develop a common understanding of the Directive. It is of importance for all HOs to continue the dialogue nationally and with other European HOs in regards to the definition of High Value Datasets.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the ARHC continues to monitor the ongoing work within the EC through participation in the IHO-EU Network. Denmark is willing to continue to represent the ARHC.

Action required of ARHC9

The ARHC9 is invited to:

- a. Note the report;
- b. Take any other action as appropriate.