

Agenda Item for Consideration by ARHC

ARHC2-09A

2nd Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission Meeting Copenhagen, Denmark, September 28-29, 2011

Draft Safety of Navigation Circular Regarding Polar Nautical Charts

Submitted by:	Denmark
Executive Summary:	Danish Maritime Authority has proposed a Safety of Navigation Circular (SNC) as a means to inform mariners of the quality of nautical charts in polar regions. Australia, Canada and the United States have expressed interest to support this Circular which would be proposed through the International Maritime Organization.
Related Documents:	Denmarks 1 st Draft of the Safety of Navigation Circular
Related Projects:	none

Introduction / Background

Denmark initiated discussion of a written warning to mariners of the potential for inaccuracies on polar nautical charts during the 55th meeting of the Safety of Navigation Sub-Committee of the International Maritime Organization. In order to advance the discussion Australia, Canada and United States expressed interest in the concept and willingness to work to develop a concise information bulletin about potential deficiencies of Arctic and Antarctic charts.

Analysis/Discussion

Australia indicated plans to introduce the draft SNC to the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica. It is appropriate that the matter also be raised at the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC). It is proposed that ARHC Member States may express comments, contributions and/or support for this draft SNC through their IMO representatives to the Danish Maritime Authority at the following coordinates:

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Conclusions

No conclusions have been reached.

Recommendations

Recommendations have not been reached

Justification and Impacts

It is likely that other ARHC Members have concerns over the coverage and the quality of it nautical charts in the remote Arctic region. As such these States may wish to make formal contributions to the Safety of Navigation Circular as a means to inform mariners and also to mitigate risks associated with northern charts that may not be to the standard of nautical chart coverage in southern and more traditionally travelled waters.

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Action Required of ARHC

The ARHC is invited to: consider this draft Safety of Navigation Circular and express comments, contributions and/or support for this draft SNC through their IMO representatives to the Danish Maritime Authority.

The national points of contact are:

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