Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC)
Tromso, Norway, October 9-11, 2012

Paper for consideration by ARHC

Information Paper on the presentation of ice information in e-navigation

Submitted by: Canadian Ice Service

Executive Summary: Sea ice and iceberg information is critical to marine navigation. As the marine community advances the use of e-navigation, ice and iceberg information should be responsive to the diverse needs of mariners.

Related Documents: none

Related Projects: none

Introduction / Background

Ice and iceberg information has traditionally been available in paper format, presented in a code (egg code) that presented all the ice information based on an analysis of ice conditions using a variety of data sources – satellite imagery, ship and aircraft reports.

Efforts are underway to ensure international collaboration on the ice information that is presented in e-navigation systems so that mariners will have consistent information, independent of the ice service providing the information. The goal is to provide near-real time or forecast ice information for operational decision making.

Analysis/Discussion

Navigating in the Arctic requires a variety of data sources, including ice and weather in order for the mariner to make the best decision as to the route and the timing for the travel. Accurate ice and iceberg information is available in near-real time and forecasts are expected to be available within the next year. The challenge will be to ensure that the mariner is able to filter through the increasing amount of information to be able to correctly use what is needed for their decision making.

This presentation will highlight the current work to provide ice information in the e-navigation environment as well as what could be available in the future to aid safe and efficient marine navigation.

Conclusions
The presentation of a variety of ice and iceberg information in electronic format will assist mariners in navigating through ice infested waters.

Recommendations
The ARHC notes this information

Justification and Impacts
Not required.

Action Required of ARHC

1. To note the report.