

Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC)
Portsmouth, New Hampshire, United States, January 29-30, 2014

Report of the Arctic International Charting Coordination Working Group (AICCWG)

Submitted by: Chair of AICCWG, Norway.

Executive summary: This paper reports on efforts of the AICCWG, covering Region N, in 2013. The group is not fully manned and little progress is achieved. There is a need for consolidating in this initial phase and to define the way ahead.

Related documents: - ARHC3-3.1.2 Term of Reference and Rules of Procedure for AICCWG, final version published on the IHO webpage for ARHC.
- ARHC2-04 D INF1 Status of Arctic Ocean Nautical Chart Coverage

Related projects: None

Introduction/Background

The AICCWG was established at the ARHC meeting in Tromsø, Norway, October 2012. A Draft Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure (ToR) was presented at the meeting. Norway was tasked to circulate the draft AICCWG ToR for ARHC approval. Members were asked (Action Item ARHC3-11) to provide comments and suggested amendments to the proposed ToR by 1 December 2012. No change was proposed.

All Member States were asked to nominate a member to AICCWG. Norway accepted to chair the working group. The current membership of the AICCWG is:

- Norway: Kjetil Wirak Kjetil.Wirak@kartverket.no
- Canada: Laura Colombe Laura.Colombe@dfo-mpo.qv.ca
- Denmark: Peter Ladegaard Sørensen
- Russia: NN
- USA: Shep Smith Shep.Smith@noaa.gov

Analysis/Discussions

An extensive collocation of all existing Charts and ENCs were made by Canada to the ARHC2 meeting in 2011, see http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/ArHC/ArHC2/ARHC2-04D-INF1_Status_of_Arctic_Ocean_Nautical_Chart_Coverage.pdf. The report gives an overview for all Charts and ENCs in the Arctic region. It is important to keep this report up to date as this will be a highly useful tool for reporting of status of charting in the Arctic to the WENDWG and others.

The working group is not yet properly established and the expected progress has not taken place. The main reason for this is that the group is not fully manned.

The five countries have very different approach to the publishing of INT-charts. The variation spans from issuing all charts as INT-chart to more or less no INT-chart. The area covered by ARHC is to a great extent within national waters of the Member States and the charting (paper and ENC) is taken care of by the respective countries.

The AICCWG intend to focus on the following tasks:

1. To establish a complete group.
2. To develop an international chart scheme for the region.
3. To decide on how to organize the maintenance and updating of the scheme.

In this initial phase it will be important for the AICCWG to meet physically. One option could be to organize a meeting back-to-back with an ordinary ARHC meeting.

INT Charts

In cooperation with IHO, the Arctic region has been given Numbers for the Paper charts.

- For 1:10M or smaller-scale chart(s) schemed for the Arctic region should be allocated a two-digit number (in the range 90-99)
- For scales in the range 1:1 100 000 -1:9 900 000 charts should be allocated a three-digit number (in the range 930-959)
- For scales of 1:1M or larger, charts should be allocated a four-digit number (in the range 9200-9599 assuming this provides enough numbers).

The above numbering follows the convention adopted for Region M, Antarctica, and still leaves plenty of 'spares' for additional charts in either polar region and for 'special' charts. In Region M, groups of chart numbers have been used on a geographical basis rather than the convention used in other regions of grouping chart numbers by scale. This same logic could be applied within the Arctic region.

IHO is working on the publication S-11, part B, Region N. It will soon be available on their web-site.

Recommendations

It is suggested that the AICCWG have a physical meeting during 2014. A prerequisite is that all Member States have nominated a delegate.

Action required of ARHC

The ARHC is invited to:

1. To review the 2013 report
2. Consider the recommendation above