Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC)
Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, October 28-30, 2015

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

Submitted by: Chair of AICCWG, Norway.

Executive summary: This paper reports on the efforts of the AICCWG during 2014-15. The group is still not fully manned and the progress has been slow. There is a need for consolidating the group and defining 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

- CL 64/2015 Revised management, review and monitoring of new INT Charts

Related projects: None

Introduction/Background

The AICCWG was established at the ARHC meeting in Tromsø, Norway, October 2012. The Draft Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure were 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 any amendments to the proposed ToR by 1 December 2012. No changes were 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   pls@gst.dk
- Russia: NN
- USA: John Nyberg   John.Nyberg@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 very 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. There are several reasons for this: the group is not fully manned, the five countries have very different approach to publishing charts as INT-charts and the region is to a great extent within national waters of the Member States.

The AICCWG intend to focus on the following tasks:

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

CL64/2015 task the INT Chart Coordinators/ICCWGs and the INT Chart Producer Nations with some new responsibilities.

INT Charts

In cooperation with IHO, a numbering scheme has been established for INT Paper charts in the Arctic region. This numbering scheme was described in the last report and has been used for the current INT charts in Region N.

Status

On 5th August 2015 an email was sent to all nominated representatives of AICCWG asking for status, plans and comments. No responses were received.

For the time being, the INT Chart Portfolio of Region N consist of eight charts, all Norwegian. Further four Norwegian coastal charts are planned to be included in the scheme.

The publication S-11, part B, Region N (http://www.iho.int/iho_pubs/standard/S-11/S-11_PartB_RegionN_e2.0.1.pdf) was updated in September 2015.

Recommendations.

- A prerequisite for an adequate group is that all Member States are represented. The Russian Federation is encouraged to nominate a delegate.

- All Member States should create a plan for the publishing of INT Charts in their respective areas for the next few years (if relevant).

Action required of ARHC

The ARHC is invited to:

1. Note the report

2. Consider the recommendations