

Terms of Reference (ToR) for The Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission Strategic Planning Working Group (ARHCSPWG)

The Arctic is undergoing extraordinary transformations facilitating increased natural resource development and marine traffic at a time when little reliable navigational and environmental data exists. With the formation of the ARHC the co-operation between the Arctic Coastal States is expected to make progress within the field of hydrography in pace with the rapid environmental changes taking place.

The ARHC at its 1st Conference recognized the need for developing a strategy for the activities to take place within the Commission. A proposal of establishing an ad hoc Strategic Planning Working Group (SPWG) got extensive support. It was considered that the SPWG could provide an overall view of the needs and gaps in hydrographic services Arctic-wide. The outcome from the two other Working Groups established (the Mariners Routeing Guide WG and the Operations & Technology WG) is expected to give valuable contribution to the strategy work.

Data collection and establishment of infrastructure in the Arctic is a time-consuming and resource-demanding activity. In order to create a basis for efficient co-operation we need to address the most relevant stakeholders operating in the Arctic.

The Working Group should:

- Provide an overview of the status of the surveying of the Arctic based on C-55 and any supplementary information
- Provide a description of the present and expected marine traffic in the region
- Analyze the need for issuing new paper charts (INT, national coastal,...) and ENC's
- Investigate the status of nautical publications and recommend any further development, included harmonization (in co-operation with the Standardization of Nautical Publication WG and ARHCRGWG)
- Identify the most relevant stakeholders within the different fields below and indicate how ARHC should interact with them
 - intergovernmental (IALA, IMO, IHO (GEBCO/IBCAO),
 - national governmental institutions (marine geology, fishery, polar, coastal administration,.....)
 - scientific communities (universities, research institutions, consulting companies,...)
 - political organization (Arctic Council, EU,
 - industry (fishery, extractive, transport,
- Outline a proposal on how to raise awareness of the importance of hydrography to stakeholders (communication strategy)
- Outline the possibilities for enhanced co-operation between the relevant HOs on a regional, sub-regional and bi-lateral level

- Outline the potential for increased bathymetric data collection by utilizing ships-of-opportunity

Rules of Procedures

- ✓ The ARHCSPWG will be chaired by Norway
- ✓ All members of ARHC will be represented by the national delegate and/or a other designated person
- ✓ The ARHCSPWG has the authority to establish sub-working groups when deem expedient
- ✓ The ARHCSPWG should consult the Arctic Council, Task Groups, Committees and Working Groups or other relevant bodies as deemed necessary
- ✓ The work of the ARHCSPWG will be carried out primarily by correspondence (via e-mails). The members are encouraged to reply without unnecessary delay
- ✓ The ARHCSPWG should report the progress of work to the ARHC at least twice before the 2nd Conference
- ✓ The ARHCSPWG should present a report to the ARHC with the main findings and recommendations on how to proceed the work prior to the 2nd Conference

Relevant background documents

- C-55 Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide Information
- B-4 Concerning Recent Bathymetric Data (online publication)
- S-4 Chart Specifications of the IHO and Regulations for International (INT) Charts, Edition 4.000, September 2010
- Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment 2009 Report (Arctic Council)
- Reports from relevant IHO WGs
- Webpages of IHO, included GEBCO, IBCAO and DCDB, and any other stakeholder
- Policy documents from Member states, EU.....
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