

20 APR 2017

Arctic Regional Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group (ARMSDIWG) & Arctic SDI Cooperation

The ARMSDIWG held its first workshop (ARMSDIWG1) in Copenhagen, Denmark 04 - 05 APR 2017. The representatives from Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, and United States were in attendance. Two of the deliverables you will find accompanying this letter are the ARMSDIWG Consolidated Work Plan 2017-2020, and the ARMSDIWG White Paper for use to engage external organizations. This was a very successful initial meeting which established the direction for this group to approach MSDI from an Arctic perspective.

On 06 APR 2017, the ARMSDIWG representatives from ARMSDIWG1 met with 8 National Mapping Agencies of the Arctic nations (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and United States) organized within the Arctic SDI. This was an extremely successful in-person engagement in which both working groups (ARMSDIWG and Arctic SDI) were aligned in their MSDI/SDI approach for the Arctic Region. The Arctic SDI is a longer-standing group that has been eager to make this connection with the Marine Domain for some time. The ARMSDIWG identified great benefits in working more closely with the Arctic SDI for a stronger, foundational SDI in the Arctic. Examples of further, close cooperation include:

- Continued yearly meetings.
- Organized web presence (e.g., marine.arctic-sdi.org).
- Combined White Papers and coordinated outreach.
- Consistent reference of each group's existence and activities, regardless of our respective progress.

Both groups see themselves as facilitating the foundational spatial data (topography and hydrography) for which all other data contributors can reference their data for a comprehensive and meaningful infrastructure. The ARMSDIWG Terms of Reference states to "cooperate specifically with the Arctic SDI" and it is seen by both groups that a collaboration is the best approach for a fully connected SDI in the Arctic.

Should any of the ARHC Member States at the ARHC Special meeting - Monaco (26 APR 2017, in conjunction with IHO-A1) find any reserve in continuing this close cooperation with Arctic SDI, I would be happy to provide more information and formally propose this working relationship for approval at the 7th ARHC meeting in Ilulissat, Greenland, Denmark (22 - 24 AUG 2017).

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