

Leisure and small fishing boats – use of official electronic charts

Arguments given during IV. EIHC (CONF.EX4/INFODOC3) with regard to ENC's:

Leisure boat community face some other key issues in reference to the use of the ENC's:

- Excluding main ports, lack of ENC's of small ports and marinas.
- Lack of information concerning available facilities in small ports and marinas like power, oil, telephone, food, supplies, etc.
- On the contrary, this information is provided from producers of non official electronic chart systems.

Appreciating some of the major benefits of the ENC's:

- developed based on international standards,
- being official products of the HOs,
- kept up-to-date continuously,
- provide functionality that guarantees safe navigation,

PRIMAR Advisory Committee wants to know:

whether it is necessary
to propose the establishment of an ad hoc Working Group, coordinated by
HSSC but not limited to IHO MS, which will investigate in detail the leisure
boats and small fishing vessels needs and propose actions that will
promote ENC's to this market,

or if it is more appropriate,
due to the current low priority in the IHO work program, to consider these
issues primarily at a national level and to investigate the possibility of using
the existing mechanisms and bodies such as the Licensing Forum.

More specifically, points that might need to be assessed are:

- The registration of small ports and marinas, worldwide, that are of main interest to the yachters with the corresponding ENC not being available yet. This list could be forwarded to the HOs with the incitement to consider the development of the appropriate ENCs.
- The registration of lacking information of marinas facilities and the design of the appropriate layers that could be available to the mariners as additional layers to the ENCs.
- The investigation of the interest of the manufacturers of leisure boats electronic equipment, in the design and construction of small devices with ECDIS functionality being capable of loading and displaying encrypted ENCs.
- The investigation of alternative options based on official services such as the provision to the manufacturers of S-57 updated data from HOs and the following harmonization of distribution procedures and pricing policies among HOs.

Furthermore, and if there is agreement to promote effectively the use of ENCs in the leisure boat and small fishing boat market, suggestions could be made to the RENCs to consider a special pricing policy in order to make the ENCs more affordable.

Question raised by Germany/Chair:

- Is there a market for ENC-based, official digital navigation charts for small crafts?

if yes:

- is it a need for HOs to issue such products, or an option?
- should HOs cooperate in a joint service as they do for the regulated market?
- should the products be produced solely by HOs (individually or in cooperation), or with private partners?
- should IHO define requirements to maintain the status of data being official along the data supply chain through private chart data supplier?
- should IHO develop a specific standard for digital small craft chart data?

and, finally

would BSHC be able to present a common view on this task at the upcoming HSSC?