

WEND-WG Issues

[5 September 2011]

1. Introduction

WEND-WG is a working group under the IRCC Committee. Its tasks are:

1. Monitor the development of adequate ENC coverage to meet any carriage requirements for ECDIS;
2. Develop proposals for speeding up ENC production and ensuring uniform ENC quality and consistency, and for making data available worldwide, including SENC distribution, taking advantage of any offers for production assistance, or other ways of mutual assistance and co-operation;
3. Advise MS, where appropriate, on the need, as well as on methods and tools for validating the data, and on any assistance which could be offered by the RENCs;
4. Monitor the implementation of the WEND, in response to Decision 21 of the XVIIth IHC, and advise IRCC of appropriate measures for speeding-up the implementation process;
5. Assist in harmonizing the policies of regional ENC Coordinating Centres (RENC) with respect to matters related to administration, legality, finances, technical processes, et cetera.

The WEND-WG is chaired by *Capt. Jamie McMichael-Phillips*, UK. Each Regional Hydrographic Commission should have a representative in the WEND-WG. The BSHC has elected *Mr. Juha Korhonen*, Finland, as its representative of the WEND-WG. The NHC has elected *Mr. Jens Peter Hartmann*, Denmark, as their representative.

2. Outcome of the IRCC3 meeting 26-27 May 2011

The IRCC3 meeting was held 26-27 May 2011 in Niteroi, Brazil. *Capt. Henryk Nitner*, Poland, presented the BSHC at that meeting. The Minutes of the meeting are available on the IHO web pages and a summary report of the issues is in IHO CL 53/2011. For preparation to this meeting the BSHC and NHC representatives prepared and forwarded a report of the BSHC and NHC ENC coverages.

The main issues related to the WEND-WG were the further development of the WEND. An analysis of the implementation of the WEND principles¹ adopted by IHO in 1994 was agreed as a priority issue. The IRCC3 agreed the following actions related to the WEND-WG, with the objective of submitting a paper to the IHC before the 1st of November:

- Report to the WENDWG Chair on the implementation of each item of the WEND Principles and on the validity of coverage and overlap analysis submitted by the WENDWG. [IRCC 03/13, RHCs, by 30 June 2011]
- Prepare and circulate to RHC Chairs and IRCC Chair a draft report on the implementation of the WEND Principles, including feedback from industry. The report shall also consider:

¹ PRINCIPLES OF THE WORLDWIDE ELECTRONIC NAVIGATIONAL CHART DATABASE (WEND). M3 Resolution 1/1997 as amended 11/2007 [Previous K2.19]

- a) The USCHC trans-boundary project as a technical solution for handling boundary issues in ENC production and
 - b) MACHC procedure under development for checking the performance of a cross section of ENCs on an ECDIS in operational conditions. [IRCC 03/14, WEND WG, by 01 October 2011]
- Provide to the WENDWG Chair and IRCC Chair comments on the draft report on implementation of the WEND Principles. [IRCC 03/15, RHCs, by 15 October 2011]

On 16 June 2011 the WEND-WG Chair tasked the RHCs to forward information for the Action IRCC03/13 by a questionnaire with the deadline end of June 2011. I asked the BSHC members to provide their replies to that questionnaire. Due the very short time available and the summer holiday season in many BSHC countries I received only few replies from BSHC members (Denmark, Finland, Germany, and Latvia). These were reported to the WEND-WG Chair.

3. Forthcoming WEND-WG1 meeting 13 – 14 October 2011

The IRCC3 guided the WEND-WG to have a meeting and to prepare a report on the implementation of the WEND Principles by Member States, based on input from RHC and individual nations and to report to the XVIII Conference [ref. IRCC3 Minutes]. A WEND-WG1 meeting is scheduled to be held on 13 – 14 October 2011, Wollongong, Australia. More information on this meeting is on the IHO Web pages. The main issues will be:

- WEND Overview – IHO commitment to IMO
- ENC Coverage – Gap/Overlap issues
- Quality, Consistency and Updating issues
- Service provision
- ECDIS related issues
- Capacity building & Cooperation
- RENC discussion
- Work Plan
- Review of WEND Principles/ Implementation Guidance
- WEND Report to IHC XVIII (2012)

The BSHC members need to prepare well for the forthcoming WEND-WG1 meeting by considering the WEND-WG1 issues as listed above.

All BSHC Members are asked to provide relevant information, comments, opinions and proposals to the WEND-WG representative before the WEND-WG1 meeting.

4. Actions for the BSHC 16th Conference:

The BSHC 16th Conference is requested to

- take note on this Report
- highlight the importance to the BSHC members to provide their relevant information and proposals before the WEND-WG1 meeting
- give further guidance to the WEND-WG representative, as seen appropriately