

**Meso-American and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC)**  
14<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Sint Maarten  
9-13 December 2013

HSSC-5 Report

## 1. General Information

The fifth meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) took place in Shanghai, China, hosted by the Maritime Safety Administration of China (China MSA), from 4 to 8 November 2013. Mr Chen Xiao Guang, Deputy Director General of Shanghai MSA, welcomed delegates at the beginning of the meeting which was chaired by Dr Mathias Jonas (Germany). 62 representatives from 25 Member States, PRIMAR Regional ENC Coordinating Centre, the IHB, and six international organizations accredited as observers were present. FIG (International Federation of Surveyors) was represented for the first time. President Robert Ward, Director Gilles Bessero and Assistant Directors Michel Huet and Tony Pharaoh represented the IHB.

The Committee reviewed the activities, proposals, and work plans of its working groups and the decisions of other bodies and organizations affecting its work.

## 2. IHO Publications and Documents

The Committee endorsed three draft new editions of IHO publications (draft edition 4.0.0 of S-57 - Appendix B1 - Annex A - Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC, S-57 Supplement 3 - IHO Transfer Standard for Digital Hydrographic Data, Supplementary Information for the Encoding of S-57 Edition 3.1 ENC Data, draft edition 5.0.0 of C-51 - Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 [TALOS]) and invited the IHB to circulate them to Member States for approval.

The Committee reviewed the progress in preparing other draft new editions of IHO documents (draft edition 6.1.0 of S-52 - Specifications for Chart Content and Display Aspects of ECDIS, draft edition 4.0.0 of the Presentation Library [Annex A to S-52], draft edition 5.0.0 of S-58 - ENC Validation Checks and draft edition 3.0.0 of S-64 - IHO Test Data Sets for ECDIS) and agreed to endorse them by correspondence after finalization by the relevant working groups. The significant effort devoted to enhancing these IHO publications is intended to address various issues related to ECDIS operational anomalies and was conducted in close liaison with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the Comité International Radio-Maritime (CIRM). A process of approval by correspondence was agreed by the Committee to ensure that new editions of S-52, S-52 Presentation Library and S-64 can be approved by IHO Member States before the end of October 2014, in line with the target date for the publication of the associated new edition of the IEC standard 61174 - Operational and performance requirements, methods of testing and required test results for ECDIS. The Committee also agreed on the actions that will be required to coordinate the implementation of these revised editions of the standards with the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

## 3. S100 and S101 Development

Progress in developing the next generation of standards for digital hydrographic products and services, the S-100 Universal Hydrographic Data Model and associated Product Specifications was reviewed. The Committee agreed the structure of an S-100 master plan for framing this development. The Committee approved a technology roadmap intended to guide the completion of the S-101 ENC product specification, which has encountered some delay due to resource constraints. The elements requiring further work and the establishment of a thorough test bed programme are now progressing well. Several test bed projects presented by the Republic of Korea will provide a significant contribution to the development programme.

The opportunities offered by a new phase of the Marine Electronic Highway Project in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore that will incorporate dynamic tides in ECDIS and the presentation of chart quality indicators were also acknowledged.

The Committee adopted a standardised method for identifying S-100 based product specifications and endorsed the development of a new standard - IHO S-121 - Maritime Limits and Boundaries Product Specification, to be progressed by Geoscience Australia on behalf of the IHO. The Committee also supported the development of IHO S-124, a new Product Specification for Navigational Warnings, to be progressed by the IHO World Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS) in liaison with the Transfer Standard Maintenance and Application Development Working Group (TSMAD). The Committee reviewed the coordination of S-100 related activities with the development of the IMO e-navigation strategy implementation plan which should be the main driver for the uptake of S-100 based products and services.

#### **4. Proposed Re-structuring of HSSC Working Groups**

The Committee discussed the re-structuring of its working groups to acknowledge the changing focus from paper to digital data based products and services and to best use limited resources. The Committee agreed principles aimed at improving its efficiency and facilitating inputs from industry and other stakeholders through a reduction in the number of long-term working groups and the establishment of time-limited project teams. The proposed new structure will be further developed inter-sessionally and presented to the next meeting for implementation. Taking into account the central role that S-100 will play in future standards developments within the IHO as well as outside the IHO, the new structure will include a dedicated S-100 working group.

#### **5. Other matters**

The Committee endorsed several revisions to IHO Resolutions dealing with tidal matters and invited the IHB to circulate them to Member States for approval. The Committee endorsed a number of new definitions proposed by the Hydrographic Dictionary Working Group to be circulated to Member States for approval.

The Committee warmly thanked China for the excellent meeting arrangements and the support provided to the participants and acknowledged that this support contributed significantly to the success of the meeting. The next meeting of the HSSC will take place from 10 to 14 November 2014, in Valparaiso, Chile.

#### **6. Action Requested of MACHC-14**

MACHC-14 is invited to note this report.