Pilot project for
quality controlled ENC for leisure markets

[Submitted by Finland]

[8 August 2014]

Introduction

There is no official electronic navigational chart for non SOLAS use in Finland. This has caused confusing situation in the market and unofficial ECS i.e. chart plotters and mobile apps are in practise widely used as a primary navigational chart.

It was notified in Finnish Transport Agency's survey 2013 that about 80 % of leisure crafts use chart plotters but just 45 % users know the origin and update date of the data.

It is now understood that the usage of ECS might cause potential risks in navigation. The debate regarding the risks has been in Finnish media.

For these reasons FTA has started pilot project for quality controlled ENC for leisure market and also for authorities' special purposes.

The aims of pilot project

FTA's major aims for the project are:
- to improve general knowledge of navigational charts
- to provide quality controlled ENC for non SOLAS vessels
- to clarify the confusing situation in the market
- to improve safety at sea

The concept

The foundation for the project is the ENC database which is been kept up to date all the time. The coverage and the data content still need some improvement for satisfying leisure craft and authorities needs especially in shallow areas where small crafts are navigating.

No limitations been set for the devices at this point. PCs, tablet devices and chart plotters can be used. However, appropriate standards i.e. IEC 62376 and use of standard presentation are under consideration.

The role of Finnish HO is to establish the web based service, make agreements, inform automatically about the updates and monitor the usage.

The role of distributor is to develop the software, download and convert data to SENC and keep the chart data up to data in the end user service.

The role of Finnish Transport Safety Agency (TraFi) and Finnish Boat Association is to prepare national regulations and approve appropriate procedures and standards.

The status of the project

FTA has established the service for distributors based on ECC's Geoview HO software.

Karttakeskus (the publisher of Finnish paper charts) is developing compatibility of S57 for their Loisto software for leisure crafts.

Furuno Finland is developing their processes for downloading automatically updates of the Finnish data for the mobile devices for authorities' small crafts which can't use ECDIS.

TraFi is following the project and considering appropriate standards and processes for approving the devices and software.

Actions asked from NHC58

The NHC58 is asked to note this information.

_____