

5th Meeting of the Worldwide ENC Database (WEND) Working Group (WENDWG), Singapore, 3-5 March

The fifth meeting of the Worldwide ENC Database Working Group (WENDWG) took place in Singapore, hosted by the Hydrographic Department of the Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) of Singapore, from 3 to 5 March. The meeting was chaired by Captain Jamie McMichael-Phillips, UKHO. Twenty-six delegates from 14 Member States (Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA), representing ten Regional Hydrographic Commissions (ARHC, BSHC, EAHC, EAHC, MACHC, MBSHC, NHC, NSHC, SAIHC, USCHC), two Regional ENC Coordinating Centres (IC-ENC and PRIMAR), and the IHB attended the meeting. Australia (representing the SWPHC), which could not participate, provided written comments. Director Mustafa Iptes and Assistant Director Yves Guillam (Secretary) represented the IHB.



5th WENDWG Meeting
March 2015
Singapore



The meeting considered the decisions and actions affecting WENDWG activities arising from the 6th meeting of the Inter-regional Coordination Committee (IRCC-6) and the 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC-5). Subsequent actions were included in the WENDWG 2015-16 proposed programme of work, now aligned in its format with those of the other IHO subordinate organs. This programme of work will be submitted to the next meeting of the IRCC (IRCC-7) in June for approval. The meeting considered issues associated with ENC information overlays and prepared a way ahead to address this matter in accordance with existing IHO Resolutions and Standards. The meeting also prepared suggestions for the consideration of IRCC-7 to progress EIHC-5 Decisions No 10 concerning ENC coverage, and Decision No 12 on the full implementation of the *WEND Principles*. Two ad hoc subgroups met during the meeting to make progress on various standing issues including how to manage the collation of the strategic and working level performance indicators that are within the scope of the Working Group and are required for the IHO Annual Report. Methods and timelines for delivering them were agreed.

The WENDWG agreed that it would monitor RENC harmonization activities related to technical and distribution issues as a new permanent item of the WENDWG programme of work. As a consequence, it was agreed that the RENC Harmonization Sub-Group could be disbanded.

Two initiatives were agreed to further address ENC overlap issues:

- one led by Singapore (on behalf of the East Asia Hydrographic Commission) and IC-ENC will consider ECDIS scenarios and ENC overlapping test dataset cases. Results are expected in early 2016; and

- the second to establish an IHO on-line repository of useful documents such as the report of the US-Canada Hydrographic Commission trans boundary ENC agreement intends to share best practises.

The continuing re-development of the IHO ENC Catalogue was noted and its principles agreed. The offer made by PRIMAR (on behalf of the RENCs) for the International Charting Regions Co-ordinators and the IHB to use its on-line RENC ENC database catalogue and overlap checker tool was most welcomed. These password-protected tools will be made available to the Regional Hydrographic Commissions so that they can monitor ENC coverage, overlaps and gaps in their regions.

The WENDWG agreed to recommend to IRCC that there was no need to further amend or enhance the existing *WEND Principles* and the *Guidelines for the implementation of these WEND Principles* at this stage. However, some work is considered necessary to align IHO publication S-65 - *Electronic Navigational Charts, Production, Maintenance and Distribution Guidance* - with the guidelines and principles.

The next meeting of the WENDWG will take place in early March 2016, in Stavanger, Norway.

Further information concerning the meeting is available on the IHO web site at www.iho.int > Committees & WG > WENDWG > WENDWG-5.