

**8<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AND  
STANDARDS COMMITTEE (HSSC)  
IHO Secretariat, Monaco, 15-18 November**

The eight meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) was hosted by the IHO Secretariat in Monaco, from 15 to 18 November 2016. The meeting was opened by Robert Ward, Secretary General of the IHO, and Dr Mathias Jonas, National Hydrographer of Germany, and Chair of the HSSC.

HSSC-8 was attended by 74 representatives from 22 Member States, nine international organizations accredited as observers and the IHO Secretariat. Director Gilles Bessero and Assistant Directors Tony Pharaoh and Yves Guillam provided the input from the IHO Secretariat and secretariat support. Jeff Wootton, recently appointed as Technical Standards Support Officer, demonstrated the use of the IHO Geospatial Information Registry ([registry.iho.int](http://registry.iho.int)).

The Chair Group, composed of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the HSSC, the Chairs of its subordinate bodies and representatives of the IHO Secretariat, met on 14 November to discuss the major items on the agenda and prepare consolidated proposals for further consideration by the Committee.

The Committee reviewed the activities, proposals, and work plans of its subordinate bodies and the decisions of other organs and organizations affecting its work. Following this review, the Committee agreed on the key messages to be delivered to the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the IHO Assembly (A-1) in April 2017, in relation to hydrographic standards and services. The Committee endorsed the input from the Chair Group related to the revision of the IHO Strategic Plan and the preparation of the draft 3-year Work Programme of the IHO for 2018-2020 that will be submitted to the Assembly for its consideration.

The main outcomes of the meeting are given below:

**S-100 development and related activities**

The Committee acknowledged the significant efforts of the S-100 Working Group (S-100WG) and the outstanding support provided by the Republic of Korea (ROK) to progress the upgrade of the web interface of the S-100 Registry. The delegation of the ROK reported on the first sea-trial of S-10x test data sets, including dynamic data such as S-111 (*Surface Currents*) and S-112 (*Dynamic Water Level Data Transfer*), together with static data such as S-101 (*ENCs*) and S-102 (*Bathymetric Surface*) data.

The Committee endorsed the draft new Edition 3.0.0 of S-100 - *IHO Universal Hydrographic Data Model* and welcomed the progress of the work of the Project Teams responsible for developing product specifications: S-101 (*ENCs*), S-121 (*Maritime Limits and Boundaries*), S-124 (*Navigational Warnings*)<sup>1</sup> and S-129 (*Under Keel Clearance Management Information*). The Committee noted that the complexity of S-100 developments and the limited resources available had resulted in some delays to progress. Taking in to account the various user requirements together with the constrained resources available, the Committee invited the Nautical Information Provision Working Group to place priority on the development of two product specifications related to nautical information: S-122 (*Marine Protected Areas*) and S-123 (*Radio Services*).

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<sup>1</sup> This Project Team reports to the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS SC) and keeps the HSSC informed.

The Committee decided to disband the Data Protection Scheme Working Group (DPSWG) and to continue the development of the protection scheme (the S-63 equivalent component) of S-100 based-products as well as the monitoring of cyber security requirements through a Project Team under the S-100WG. The expertise required to support the Secretariat as Scheme Administrator for the existing S-63 - *Data Protection Scheme* will now be under the responsibility of the ENC Standards Maintenance Working Group (ENCWG).

The Committee endorsed the proposal of the Chair of the Hydrographic Dictionary Working Group (HDWG) to seek contractor support for the development of an experimental multi-lingual wiki-based demonstrator to support a subsequent upgrade of IHO Publication S-32 - *Hydrographic Dictionary*. The Committee tasked the HDWG to develop a draft policy and road-map taking into account the S-100 framework.

### **ECDIS matters and Nautical Cartography**

The Committee endorsed the principles of the draft revised editions of S-58 - *ENC validation checks*, S-65 - *ENCs: Production, Maintenance and Distribution Guidance* and S-66 - *Facts about Electronic Charts and Carriage Requirements* proposed by the ENCWG and tasked the working group to finalize the drafts and forward them to the Secretariat for subsequent consideration by IHO Member States. The Committee also endorsed the ENCWG proposal to use ECDIS Chart 1 to assist mariners in checking ECDIS operating with Edition 4.0 of the IHO S-52 *Presentation Library*.

The Committee tasked the Secretariat, in liaison with the ENCWG, to describe the procedure in a new edition of the IHO webpage on “*ECDIS Data Presentation and Performance Check in Ships*”.

In response to the concerns raised in a submission from the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO), the Committee tasked the ENCWG and the Nautical Cartography Working (NCWG) to draft a consolidated, authoritative IHO document addressing the issue of “equivalent” Temporary and Preliminary Notices (T&Ps) for ENCs, with the intention of distributing the completed document to Hydrographic Offices, Port State Control (PSC) authorities and mariners. In order to facilitate this task, the Committee requested the Secretariat to invite IHO Member States to liaise with their national maritime administration in order to provide feedback on PSC issues related to the carriage and operation of ECDIS.

The Committee endorsed proposed changes to Edition 4.6.0 of S-4 - *Chart Specifications of the IHO* and tasked the NCWG to finalize the draft new edition 4.7.0 and forward it to the Secretariat for subsequent consideration by the IHO Member States. The Committee reached a similar decision with regard to the new draft Edition 3.0.0 of S-11 Part A - *Guidance for the Preparation and Maintenance of International Chart Schemes*, which now includes a separate section on ENC schemes. The Committee reminded the NCWG of the importance of completing its work item on the future of the paper chart.

The provisional results of a study addressing the possible development of an additional bathymetric layer for S-57 ENCs that would provide higher density contour lines to mariners were presented by Germany. The Committee agreed that this matter should be considered further, under a new task and work item of the ENCWG. The representatives of the stakeholders took this opportunity to highlight the pressing requirement for all IHO Member States that produce ENCs to populate them with *assessed* CATZOC values (1 to 5) to assist mariners in their decision-making process for safe navigation.

### **Consideration of the need to establish a Hydrographic Surveys Working Group**

The Committee considered the report provided by the Chair of the Hydrographic Surveys Scoping Project Team (H2S PT) established in 2015, and decided to establish a Project Team on Standards for Hydrographic Surveys (HS PT), primarily tasked to review S-44 - *IHO Standards for Hydrographic*

*Surveys*, draft a new edition, if appropriate, and identify additional tasks, if any, that might require the establishment of a standing Hydrographic Surveys Working Group.

### **Relations with Stakeholders**

The Committee welcomed the various presentations given by the stakeholders and expert contributors and benefited in particular from the user perspective provided by the representative of INTERTANKO. The Committee invited the IHO Secretariat to monitor the activities of the newly established Marine Domain Working Group of the Open Geospatial Consortium and agreed a set of enabling actions to address the topics reported in the presentation provided by the representative of the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) that might impact current charting specifications, the GEBCO Seabed 2030 project and the on-going development of S-100-based product specifications in relation to the protection of cables. Taking note of the terms of the MoU on cooperation between the IHO and ICPC and the subsequent creation of an ICPC Focus Group, the Committee agreed to initiate the development of a road-map to guide the practical implementation of the MoU. The representative of the Comité International Radio-Maritime (CIRM) informed the Committee on the development of e-navigation training. The Committee welcomed the participation of a representative of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). He provided input to further develop the draft submission on activating the IMO/IHO Harmonization Group on Data Modelling (HGDM) that is being prepared by the IHO Secretariat, at the invitation of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee, for consideration by the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue.

### **Next Meetings**

The next meeting of the HSSC (HSSC-9) is scheduled from 6 to 10 November 2017, in Ottawa, Canada. HSSC-10 is scheduled to be held in Rostock, Germany in May 2018. The Committee agreed to schedule HSSC-10 and subsequent annual HSSC meetings in May in order to provide its input to the annual meetings of the Council scheduled in October.

### **More Information**

All documents considered at the meeting and further information are available on the IHO web site at Home > Committees & WG > HSSC.