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CIRCULAR LETTER 35/2018
14 June 2018

**OUTCOME OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES
AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE (HSSC)**

References:

- A. IHO CL 70/2017 dated 14 December - *Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) - 10th Meeting, 14-17 May 2018, Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany*
- B. IHO CL 55/2017 dated 31 October – *Outcome of the 1st Meeting of the IHO Council*
- C. IHO CL 25/2018 dated 12 March – *Report of the fifth session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR5)*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As announced in Reference A, the tenth meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) was hosted by the Hydrographic Service of Germany (BSH). After the HSSC Chair Group meeting held on 14 May at the BSH, the HSSC meeting took place at the Leibnitz-Institute for Baltic Sea Research in Warnemünde (IOW), Germany, from 15 to 17 May 2018. Rear Admiral Luigi Sinapi (Italy), the Chair of the HSSC, opened the meeting and invited Dr Mathias Jonas, the Secretary-General of the IHO and Mr Thomas Dehling, the National Hydrographer of Germany, to provide opening addresses. The meeting was attended by 72 participants from 26 Member States, 11 stakeholder organizations, and the IHO Secretariat.

2. The list of decisions and actions arising from the meeting as well as any other working documents and presentations associated with the meeting, are available from the HSSC page of the IHO website (www.iho.int > Committees & WG > HSSC), at section HSSC-10.

Report and Proposals to the IHO Council

3. The report of HSSC to the 2nd meeting of the IHO Council (C-2) is under preparation and will serve as the minutes of the HSSC-10 meeting as decided by the IHO Council (See Reference B, Action C1/06).

4. Based on the decisions made at HSSC-10, the main items to be reported to C-2 will be:

- The progress made on the work programme for the top priority items selected by the IHO Council in 2017 (See Reference B, paragraph 25);
- The status report on the revision process of IHO Resolution 2/2007 (*Principles and Procedures for Making Changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications*) which includes a new review cycle for working groups and project teams for the development phase of Product Specifications and an annex providing some guidance on the conduction of an impact study;
- The proposed amendments to the HSSC Terms of Reference (See Reference B, Action C1/05)
- The need for strategic discussions and guidance on the development, the implementation and the provision of future S-100 based products.

S-100 and related activities

5. The S-100 Working Group highlighted the extensions included in the next edition of the S-100 Framework Standard. HSSC endorsement for Edition 4.0.0 of S-100 will be sought by HSSC Letter, after which Member States approval will be sought by IHO Circular Letter (IHO CL). Edition 2.0.0 of S-102 (*Bathymetric Surface*), and Edition 1.0.0 of S-122 (*Marine Protected Areas*) and S-123 (*Radio Services*) Product Specifications were endorsed by the HSSC for circulation by IHO CL to Member States seeking their approval. The meeting also endorsed a draft new document that provides guidance on developing S-100 Product Specifications, which will be published as S-97 when it is finalized.

6. The meeting agreed that Edition 1.0.0 of S-101 (*ENC*), S-111 (*Surface Currents*) and S-121 (*Maritime Limits and Boundaries*) Product Specifications will be distributed, for evaluation and testing, under the terms of a new process that will be included into the proposed amendments to IHO Resolution 2/2007 that are in preparation.

7. The meeting noted the progress made by the Data Quality Working Group with the development of a Data Quality Checklist for S-100 Product Specifications.

ENC Standards and Notices to Mariners

8. New Edition 6.1.0 of S-58 (*ENC Validation Checks*), containing several corrections, was endorsed by the HSSC for circulation by IHO CL to Member States seeking their approval.

9. The HSSC welcomed the proposal by the Nautical Information Provision Working Group (NIPWG) for a workshop to be held in Genoa, Italy, from 1 to 2 October 2018, on the harmonization of XML based chart corrections in Notices to Mariners.

Relations with the IMO

10. With the support to be provided by the other HSSC Working Groups, the Nautical Information Provision Working Group (NIPWG) was tasked to coordinate the responses for the description of Maritime Services in the remit of the IHO, in preparation of the 2nd meeting of the Harmonization Group on Data Modelling (HGDM) planned to be held at the IMO Headquarters in London, United Kingdom, from 29 October to 2 November 2018.

11. In addition to the invitation already mentioned in Reference C (see paragraph 7), Member States were again invited to consider greater involvement and participation in IMO NCSR and HGDM meetings.

Next HSSC Meetings

12. Member States are invited to note, for planning purposes, that the next HSSC meeting (HSSC-11) will be held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 6 to 9 May 2019. According to the arrangements outlined at HSSC-10, HSSC-12 is planned to be held in Taunton, United Kingdom, in May 2020; and HSSC-13 in Indonesia in 2021.

On behalf of the Secretary-General

Yours sincerely,



Abri KAMPFER
Director