

10th Meeting of the Data Quality Working Group Brest, France, 7 - 9 July 2015

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The 10th meeting of the Data Quality Working Group (DQWG) was hosted from 7 to 9 July 2015, in Brest, France, by the French Hydrographic Office (SHOM). The meeting was chaired by Mr Antti Cástren (Finland). Twelve delegates from seven Member States (Australia, Finland, France, Mexico, Netherlands, United Kingdom, and USA) and two expert contributors from industry attended the meeting. Assistant Director Yves Guillam represented the IHB.



The Working Group, in its role as the IHO data/product quality expert group, discussed how best to assist other working groups dealing with new product specifications. The DQWG agreed to draft a guidance document listing the questions that need to be addressed when determining what level of data quality is needed in an S-100 based product specification. This should ensure, in particular, harmonization of the data quality model for different product specifications.

As an example the working group reviewed a proposal made by the S-100 WG on the data quality section of the IHO S-101 – *ENC Product Specification*. Further work will be continued by correspondence on this matter to ensure compliance with other standards such as the ISO 19100 series of geographic standards. Data quality of non-bathymetric data, such as time and velocity attributes in the IHO S-111 - *Surface Current Product Specification*, were also addressed.

The development of indicators reflecting the quality of surveys and of bathymetric data to be portrayed on charts remain the core activity of the DQWG and most of its time was spent discussing a range of issues, including: feature detection, survey coverage, accuracy of measurements, temporal variation of dynamic seabed. One of the objectives of the Working Group is to assist in harmonizing the practices of Hydrographic Offices in the production of future products derived from surveys. Following the conclusions of a pragmatic report by the representative of Australia on the impact of a three-tier bathymetric data classification in future S-101 ENCs, the DQWG nevertheless agreed to retain the six-category S-57 model for Category Zone of Confidence (CATZOC). As for satellite derived bathymetry and portrayal related issues, the DQWG agreed that there was no need for any specific

considerations as the current chart specifications to express uncertainty (position approximate, dashed iso lines, and so on) can be used to inform mariners on this type of data.

The DQWG agreed that the list of nautical shipping incidents, that was tentatively maintained by the DQWG and used by Hydro International, for instance, as an IHO reference, should be removed from the DQWG page of the IHO website. Hydrographic Offices will be invited to share future concerns and lessons learned from nautical shipping incidents with the relevant IHO working groups.

The DQWG initiated the preparation of a new draft work plan to be presented at the 7th meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee in November 2015.

The next meeting of the DQWG is scheduled to take place from 10 to 12 May 2016, in the USA.

Further information concerning the meeting is available on the IHO web site at www.iho.int > Committees & WG > DQWG > DQWG-10.