**HSSCCGxx-xx**

## Paper for Consideration by HSSC CG

## ENCWG/ DPSWG / ABLOS Input into the IHO Strategic Plan

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| ***Submitted by:*** | ENCWG/ DPSWG / ABLOS Chairs |
| ***Executive Summary:*** | This paper presents the collective views of the IHO chairs and to form an input to the IHO Strategic Plan |
| ***Related Documents:*** | N/A |
| ***Related Projects:*** | N/A |

## Introduction / Background

At HSSC7, the technical working groups were informed that a Chair group meeting would be held in Paris to form an input to the International Hydrographic Conference in 2017. This report is a collection of views from the Chairman of the following groups ENCWG / DPSWG / ABLOS.

## Analysis/Discussion

The Chairs are content that the HSSC approved work plans for each of the groups is correct and there are no major changes needed in the work plan content prior to its inclusion in the IHO strategic plan. The main input identified lies mainly within the production tools and final approval of technical standards.

**Standards Production**

**Observation:** It has become a real problem for WGs to manage standards that are being revised. The complexity and length of the IHO technical standards has now reached a point where simple management within Microsoft Word is unsustainable, even in the short term.

**Proposal**: A document management system needs to be procured which all WG can use to manage the authoring, update, tracking and management of standards. This should hold baseline version of all standards and be used by all technical working groups for management of their allocated standards.

**Observation**: A lack of technical expertise within the IHO member state community means that the final checking of technical IHO standards often fails to find required clarifications, corrections and errors.

**Proposal**: IHO working groups should be encouraged and funded to use external contractors for review and checking of standards documents including cross-checking against dependent standards prior to publication.

**Standards Approval**

**Observation:** With continued requirements from HOs to keep updating existing standards there is a need for all stakeholders to fully understand the internal and external impacts of changes to either new or existing technical standards. At the moment no such normative model exists and consequently the process for change and the actions required fail to be fully understood.

**Proposal:** Map all the inter-dependencies of each IHO standard

**Observation:** The current IHO approval procedure 2/2007 is nearly 10 years old and is unsuitable for the adoption of new versions of complex, large and interdependent technical standards. In reality it stalls the approval process and does not help to produce more robust standards. As the technical authority for producing the detail of the standards lie within the working group it should be this group that recommend to member states adoption of a final output. There should be a presumption of acceptance of new versions once they have passed working group approval and only vetoed by exception by member states at HSSC/CL level..

**Proposal:** Re-visit 2/2007 to ensure its fit for purpose and is delivering benefit to member states

With industry focus currently on software updating now would be an ideal time to formulate a more standardised production and approval regime that over two or three year period consistently delivered NEs of IHO standards. This regular IHO standard life cycle would allow OEMS and third party developers the ability to plan for updating software and make customers aware that equipment must be regularly maintained to get the best performance out of the system.

**Proposal:** Adopt a regular updating regime for IHO standard

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that the HSSC CG review the proposals made in this paper and concentrate efforts over the next five years to make the approval procedure quicker and more robust

**Action Required of HSSC CG**

The HSSC CG is invited to:

a. note the paper

b. discuss the proposals

c. discuss the way to progress the concepts