

HCA HYDROGRAPHY PRIORITIES WORKING GROUP

Revised Terms of Reference

(as agreed by the 12th HCA meeting, Montevideo, Uruguay, October 2012)

Preamble

Recognising that accurate and up to date navigational products are essential to support safe maritime activities,

Acknowledging that the HCA recommends that mariners navigate in areas where suitable navigational products exist,

Recognising the limited resources available for hydrographic surveying and charting and the limited weather window for conducting Antarctic survey operations

Acknowledging the increasing levels of Antarctic maritime activities,

The HCA Hydrography Priorities Working Group.....

Aims

To create and maintain a prioritized charting and survey plan for the Antarctic region to support science, the protection of the environment and safety of life at sea, and to coordinate INT Chart and ENC production boundary allocation.

Purpose

To support improvements to the standard of Antarctic charting where it is needed most.

Outputs

1. A prioritised list of charting requirements, taking into account:
 - a. Sensitivity of the Environment
 - b. Needs of scientific research
 - c. Demands of the tourism industry
 - d. Other identified maritime activities
2. A prioritised list of survey requirements to support the prioritised list of charting requirements
3. An INT chart schema created and maintained in accordance with the guidance in S-11 Part A.
4. An ENC chart production schema.
5. Updated "Guidelines for Collection and Rendering of Hydrographic Data for non-survey vessels"

Method

6. Record and list areas of significance for urgent charting or chart improvement and present this in a tabular and graphical format.
7. Refine and maintain the previously identified main shipping routes (MSR) and branch corridors defined by usage categories;

Considerations

1. The following factors will be considered:
 - a. The frequency of vessel visits/transits

- b. The status (ZOC) of the current chart
 - c. The currency of the charting with respect to whether the existing survey data is incorporated
 - d. Draught of shipping
 - e. Number of people onboard
 - f. Density of Traffic
 - g. Type of Vessels
 - h. Hydrographic conditions; tides, currents
 - i. Climatological conditions: sea ice, winds
2. For convenience of analysis the Antarctic should be considered in regions as follows:
- a. Region M-A - Western Region (Antarctic Peninsular) 0-180 west
 - b. Region M-B – Eastern Region 0 – 180 East