

Status of the Proposal for Fairway Area Symbol

(31 January 2005)

Introduction

The concept of *Digital Fairways* representing surveyed and cleared fairway areas has been taken into use widely. However, there is no common definition or symbology has been established yet. Finland has already earlier proposed the adoption of *Fairway Area*¹ as a part of chart specifications of IHO charts.

Finland will send in the near future a revised proposal to the CSPCWG for further actions. The main features of this proposal are described below. Sweden is also in favour of this proposal.

National symbol currently in use in Finland

Finland has used a *Fairway Area* symbol on national large-scale charts for many years. The feedback from mariners has been very positive. Sweden has also tested Fairway area symbology.

Presently in Finland, the main cleared fairway areas intended for navigation are shown in screened green tint. Different tones of green tint are used for separating different draughts. Adequate draught is explicitly defined by controlled, systematic high accuracy survey. The accuracy of the surveys of these areas must meet the requirements of *Order 1* of the IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys.

Proposal for INT Symbology for Fairway Area

An international term and symbol for *Fairway Area* should be defined.

Definitions of Fairway Area:

The term *Fairway Area* shall be used to describe cleared fairway areas intended for navigation. These areas have to be explicitly designated by agencies responsible for survey quality. The accuracy of a survey must meet the requirements of classification category Special Order or Order 1².

¹ Clarification: The meaning of *Fairway Area* differs from the meaning of *Archipelago Sea Lane*. *Archipelago Sea Lanes* are not intended to indicate any routes or recommended tracks. (Ref.: IMO paper SN/Circ.199, 1998)

² Ref.: IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys, Special Publication No. 44.

The S-57 Edition 3.1 defines Fairway as follows³:

Object class: **Fairway** Acronym: **FAIRWY** Code: **51**

Set Attribute_A: DATEND; DATSTA; DRVAL1; NOBJNM; OBJNAM; ORIENT;
QUASOU; RESTRN; SOUACC; STATUS; TRAFIC; VERDAT;
Set Attribute_B: INFORM; NINFOM; NTXTDS; SCAMAX; SCAMIN; TXTDSC;
Set Attribute_C: RECDAT; RECIND; SORDAT; SORIND;

Definition:

That part of a river, harbour and so on, where the main navigable channel for vessels of larger size lies. It is also the usual course followed by vessels entering or leaving harbours, called "ship channel".
(International Maritime Dictionary, 2nd Ed.)

References:

INT 1: not specified;
M-4: not specified;

Remarks:

Distinction: deep water route centerline; deep water route part;
traffic separation scheme lane part;

Proposed symbology:

A screened grey tint is proposed to be used to designate the fairway areas intended for navigation.

The recommendation is that a single grey screened tint be used containing a centre-line in black with the recommended draught inserted in the line. In cases where two or more fairways intersect, the fairway demarcation is indicated by a blank break-line. See an example in Annex 1.

Some justifications:

This colour has been used and tested on Swedish charts. According to the INT 1 it is not used for any other purposes.

A green tint was also considered but rejected since it is already in use in some national charts for other purposes, e.g., tidal areas. Magenta and blue tints were also under consideration, but were rejected because of other usage (blue: Shallow Water, Magenta: Traffic Separation Schemes).

Actions required by the NHC/49 Meeting:

The NHC/49 may wish to present comments on the proposal.

Annex 1: An example of the use of the proposed *Fairway Area* symbology on 1:50 000-scale chart INT1254.

³ S-57 Appendix A - Chapter 1 November 2000 Edition 3.1.

Annex 1:

An example of the use of the proposed *Fairway Area* symbology on 1:50 000-scale chart INT1254.

