

PRIMAR Report 2012

1. Introduction

The PRIMAR international co-ordinating centre for electronic navigational charts (ENCs) has been operated by the Norwegian Hydrographic Service (NHS) since 1. April 2002.

No new nations has joined as new member since last NSHC meeting, but 106 GB cells is made available through the agreement with IC-ENC. Including the agreement with IC-ENC, the PRIMAR ENC service now distributes ENCs from 44 nations. The following countries are members of the Regional ENC Coordination Centre regime (RENC): Brazil, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Latvia, Mozambique, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden. Lithuania will most likely become a member of PRIMAR within a few weeks.

PRIMAR makes its database of ENCs available through 65 distributors located in 25 countries, and serving all the major markets. This also includes data from the other RENC and HOs, and is distributed within their own tailored, integrated service as described in the WEND Principles.

PRIMAR today provides the world's widest official ENC coverage with 6833 ENCs from PRIMAR cooperating nations (RENC members and non-members) and 3919 ENCs from IC-ENC, a total of 10752 ENCs; an increase of more 1000 ENCs since the last meeting. A total of 24386 ER- updates have been provided last year.

2. Quality Assurance

All ENCs that are delivered to PRIMAR undergo a set of checks before they are released into the market. The Virtual PRIMAR Network (VPN) technology give Hydrographic Offices or other data producers access to a set of tools for securing the quality.

The VPN gives all members full access to and control over own data within a secure network. The integrated functionality check the data quality, particularly in overlap zones. This provides additional security, allowing charts from different nations to work together without problems. Maintaining good control of data is also important in ensuring than none of the available navigation systems have problems reading the formats.

3. Distribution

During 2011 3 new distributors were added to the distribution network,

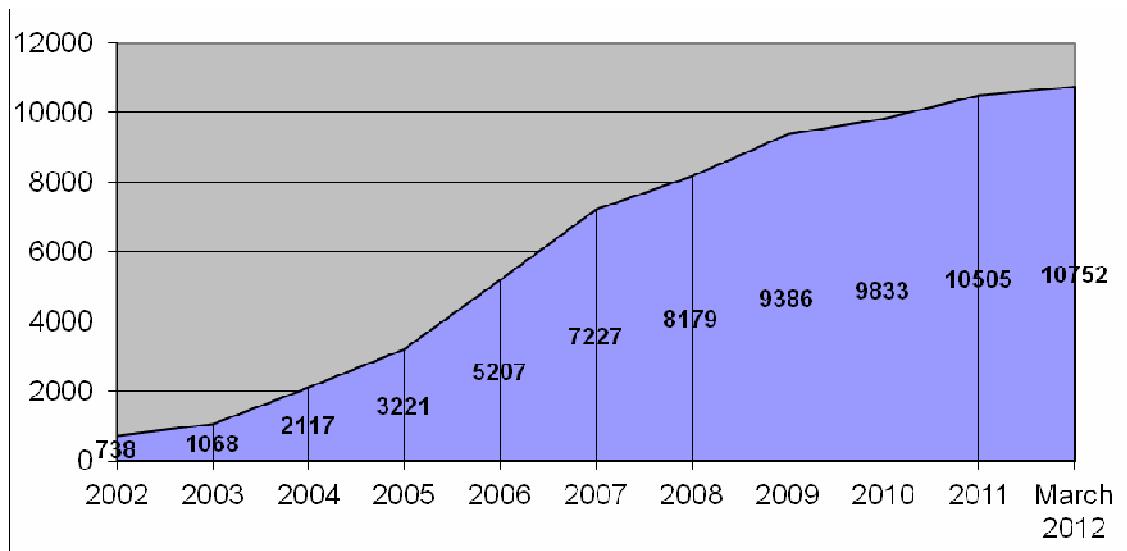


Figure 1 Development of PRIMAR database. Numbers of ENCs

Customer folio planning and ordering is automatic via the PRIMAR Chart Catalogue enabling distributors to perform ordering and sales 24/7. A new version of the Chart Catalogue, version 4.6, with some new functionality was launched in January 2012.

PRIMAR Coverage March 2012

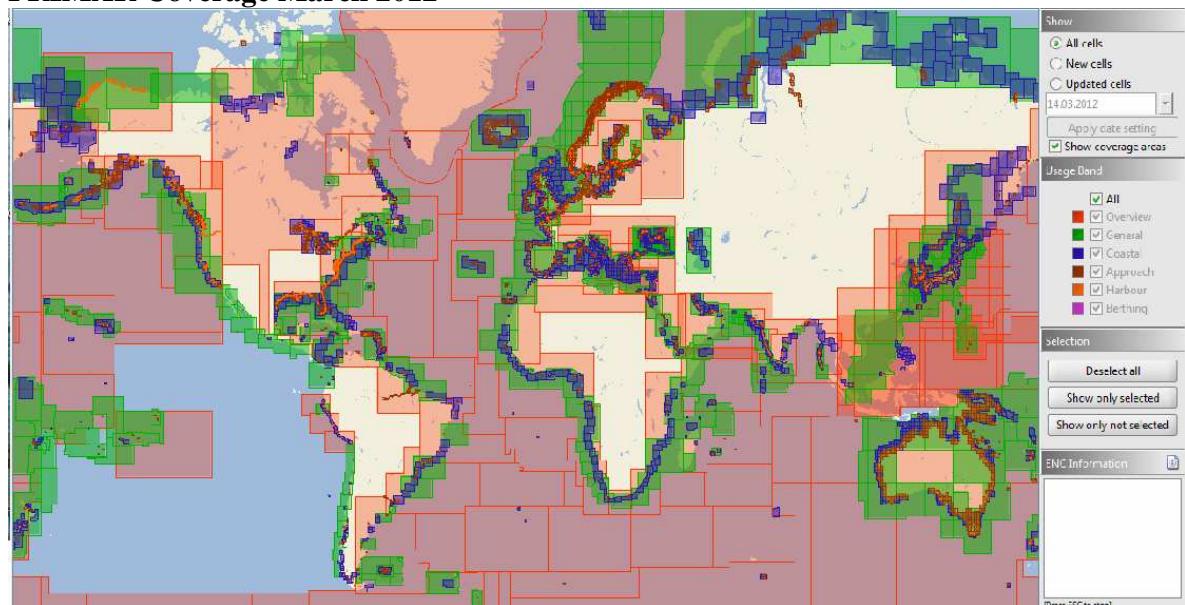


Figure 2 Coverage in PRIMAR database March 2012

Increasing demand for ENCs

The PRIMAR service continues to experience substantial growth in the number of ENC subscriptions and the number of end users. By March 2012 we had 7148 unique users and more than 1, 4 mill ENCs in daily use.

PRIMAR has also been focusing on implementing efficient national services for navies and governmental organisations (pilots, VTS, maritime authorities etc). The Web Map Service (WMS) based on the ENC data has been in operation since 2009, but it is still only available to national governmental users.

The Inspector tool which was released in 2009 as a project between the Norwegian Maritime Directorate and PRIMAR/ECC has also proven to be an efficient tool and provides port state control inspectors with information of the status of ENCs on board the vessels, and enables them plan the PSC inspections more efficiently.

RENC- RENC Cooperation

The two RENCs and the operators have agreed on an improved cooperation, including a formal annual programme of meetings and agendas. In addition, it has been agreed an annual programme of meetings between the two RENC operators, combined PAC and IC-ENC meetings and a joint RENC conference for all members

It has been recognized that the two RENCs have evolved two different operating models, which both comply with the WEND principles. At the same time it has been agreed that the Concept Model from 2009 will be very difficult to fulfill. Nevertheless, agreement has been reached on several important topics.

For more information visit www.primar.org

Actions required from the NSHC 30th Conference:

The Conference is invited to take note of the information