



MEETING OF THE ROPME SEA AREA INTERNATIONAL CHART COORDINATION WORKING GROUP (RSAICCWG)

Muscat, Oman, 29-30 April 2015

The ROPME Sea Area International Chart Coordination Working Group (RSAICCWG), a subordinate body of the ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission (RSAHC), is tasked with the coordination of INT Chart and ENC coverage of INT Chart Region I. The RSAICCWG held a meeting in Muscat, Oman, from 29 to 30 April 2015 under the chairmanship of Mr Saeed Parazi (IR of Iran), the Region I Coordinator. Representatives from the IR of Iran, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, UK and the IHB attended. David Wyatt, IHB Assistant Director, represented the IHB.



RSAHC ICCWG in session

The IHB gave an introductory presentation on the INT Chart concepts, which provided background knowledge for the participants during the subsequent discussions. The IR of Iran, Oman and Saudi Arabia presented proposed amendments and up-dates to their national schemes, highlighting proposed changes to charts to be designated for inclusion in the INT Chart Region I scheme. The UK provided details of proposed adjustments to their current chart coverage in the region. It was agreed that some further changes were required before the final versions were approved through the Region I Coordinator and passed to the IHB as up-dates to IHO publication S-11 Part B - *Catalogue of INT Charts*.

The UK provided a short introduction on ENC scheming, which generated considerable further discussion. Pakistan then highlighted some inter-Regional coverage issues, for which advice was sought from the group. The relevant outcomes of the recent North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC) meeting were presented, including proposed solutions to the inter-Regional issues. The meeting agreed that the IR of Iran, as Region I Coordinator, and Pakistan should discuss the issues with India, the Region J Coordinator, using the NIOHC proposals as the starting point of the discussions.

The IR of Iran will now submit the meeting report to the Chairman of RSAHC for endorsement by the Commission and propose a second separate meeting of the RSAICCWG prior to the 7th meeting of the RSAHC. The IR of Iran also offered to investigate hosting this next meeting during the second half of 2016 and approximately four months ahead of the 7th meeting of the RSAHC in early 2017.

The report of the meeting and all documents will be available from the RSAHC section of the IHO web site.



1ST MEETING OF THE NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHY WORKING GROUP (NCWG) Rostock, Germany, 27 – 30 April

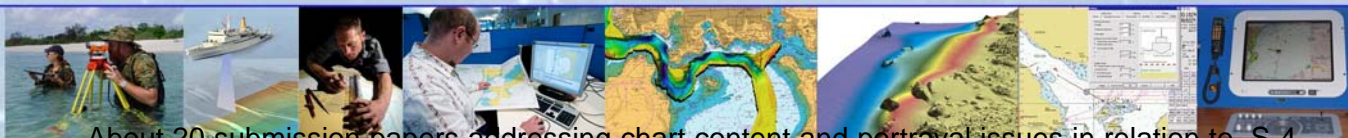
The first meeting of the Nautical Cartography Working Group (NCWG) took place in Rostock, Germany, hosted by the *Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie* (BSH), from 27 to 30 April. The meeting was chaired by Mr Jeff Wootton (Australia), supported by Andrew Heath-Coleman, Secretary (UK). Twenty-six delegates from 17 Member States (Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia, Korea (Rep. of), Latvia, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA), one Expert Contributor (ESRI), and the IHB attended the meeting. Assistant Director Yves Guillam represented the IHB.



NCWG-1 participants at BSH, while VWFS “Deneb” is berthing

Dr. Mathias Jonas, National Hydrographer of Germany, welcomed the members and participated in some of the discussions providing views and guidance as Chair of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) to which the Nautical Cartography Working Group is subordinated.

As a result of the reorganised structure of the Working Groups of the HSSC, the members of the former Chart and Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG) reviewed the draft Terms of Reference of the “new” Nautical Cartography Working Group for submission to the HSSC. The maintenance regime of IHO Publication S-4 - *Regulations for the International (INT) Charts and Charts Specifications of the IHO* - was discussed with arguments given by the NCWG Officers to consider adjusting IHO Resolution 2/2007 - *Principles and procedures for making changes to IHO technical standards and specifications*, so that changes to S-4 could be implemented more quickly. Proposals will be submitted to the HSSC accordingly.



About 20 submission papers addressing chart content and portrayal issues in relation to S-4 were considered at the meeting. Following discussions, the NCWG agreed to prepare *clarifications*, as well as proposals for a *revision* of S-4. It is worth noting that the Chair systematically considered the impact of these proposed changes on ENC's encoding/portrayal and on the operation of ECDIS. As a consequence, some actions will be undertaken in close liaison with other HSSC WGs.

As tasked by the HSSC, the NCWG considered the various positions of its members on standards-related issues raised by the Admiralty Information Overlay (AIO) service. Proposals were agreed to incorporate additional recommendations in S-4 in order to address consistency issues between ENC's, paper charts and nautical products in general. It was acknowledged that the principles leading to the provision of AIO by the UKHO, acting here as an End-User Service Provider, had to be addressed by other IHO bodies and that this was in hand.

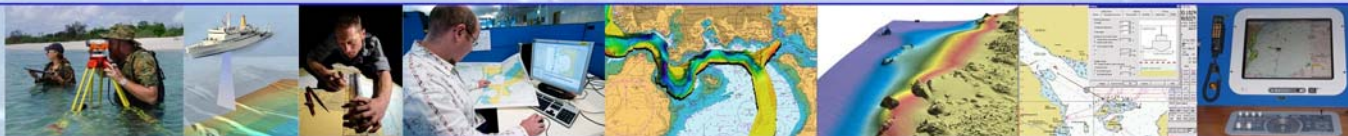
The future of IHO Publication S-4 was discussed together with a topic on the future of the paper chart. Several options were considered, including the use of on-line tools such as the IHO Digital Reference Tool for Cartographers developed by the Republic of Korea. Finally, it was agreed that an ad hoc Correspondence Group will prepare terms of reference for an NCWG Project Team that will look into future directions.

The next meeting of the NCWG is scheduled to take place on 26 to 28 April 2016, at the IHB in Monaco.

Further information concerning the meeting is available on the IHO web site at www.iho.int > Committees & WG > NCWG > NCWG-1.



NCWG-1 participants in session



COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL RADIO-MARITIME (CIRM) ANNUAL MEETING

Kouklia, Cyprus, 27 to 29 April

The Comité International Radio-Maritime (CIRM) held its Annual Meeting in Kouklia, Cyprus from 27 to 29 April. CIRM is the body representing the maritime electronics industry in the development of relevant international regulations and standards and enjoys observer status with the IHO as a Non-Governmental International Organization. CIRM maintains an active role in the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC), with a number of its members also participating as Expert Contributors on various HSSC Working Groups.

President Ward represented the IHO at the Annual Meeting where he participated in a panel discussion on various topics in which CIRM is taking an active interest: in particular, e-navigation, the need for established software maintenance requirements for navigational systems in ships and cyber-security.

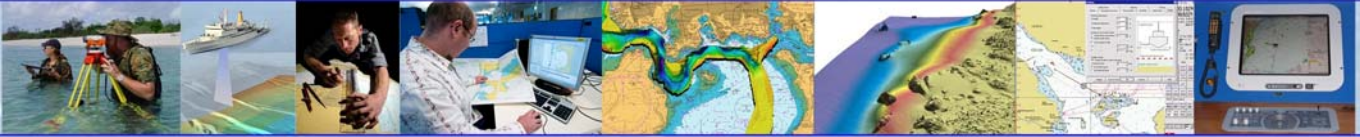
During the meeting, the members re-elected Mr Michael Bergmann as their President and re-appointed the governing Board.

Alongside the President representing the IHO, the Secretaries-General of the following IHO Observer Organizations also attended the meeting as observers: the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), and the International Maritime Pilots' Association (IMPA). Mr Thomas Mellor, Chair of the IHO ENC Working Group, also attended the meeting and provided a progress report on the relevant IHO standards governing ECDIS.

The next Annual Meeting of CIRM will take place in Genoa, Italy.



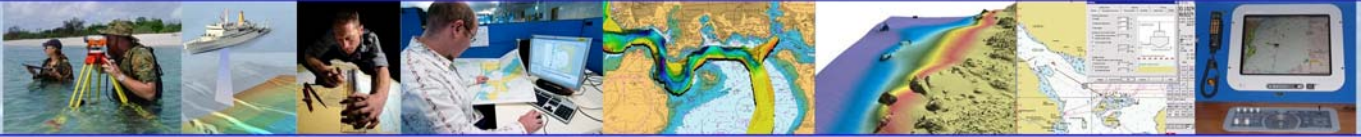
President Ward (right) congratulates the President of CIRM on his re-election



Department of Lands and Surveys
Nicosia, Cyprus, April 29, 2015

**Mr Andreas Sokratous,
Director of the Department of Lands
and Surveys of Cyprus
and President Ward**

After the meeting, the President visited the Cyprus Hydrographic Office, where he was greeted by Mr Andreas Sokratous, Director of the Department of Lands and Surveys of Cyprus with overall responsibility for hydrography and nautical charting in Cyprus. The President was given a tour of the facilities by Ms Georgia Papatoma Economidou and Mr Giorgos Kokosis, before discussing topical IHO issues with senior members of the Department. President Ward was particularly impressed with the way that the Department was focussing on spatial data infrastructures and successfully incorporating hydrography and the fundamental hydrographic data sets into the national geodata infrastructure, even with a limited staff and constrained financial resources.



**7TH MEETING OF THE IHO TIDAL AND WATER LEVEL WORKING GROUP
Silver Spring, Maryland, USA, 21-24 April**



Rear Admiral Gerd Glang, Hydrographer of the USA, welcoming TWLWG7 participants

Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, UK, USA, and the IHB. David Wyatt, IHB Assistant Director, represented the IHB.

Progress was made on a standard for digital tide tables with the development of a list of fundamental attributes. It was agreed to highlight the inventory of tide gauges through Regional Hydrographic Commissions with a view to raising awareness and encouraging additional inputs. The compiled list of Actual Tides On-line Links was highlighted, a process for validating and updating the list was agreed so that the list can be uploaded to the website and maintained as a resource for Member States.

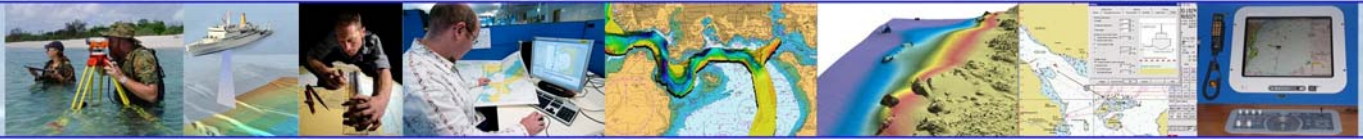
A full day was set aside to work on the S-100 based product specifications guided by the Chair of S-100WG. The Chair provided briefs on S-100 and S-101 - the *ENC Product Specification*, as well as work undertaken at TSMAD29 on S-112 - *dynamic water level data product specification*. The meeting also received presentations on various aspects of the work of the Surface Current Working Group and S-111 -

Surface Current Data Product Specification. Significant progress was achieved in reviewing a draft Tidal Height product specification and work was started on developing the Tidal Zone feature attributes; it is intended that an application for a S-1xx number will be made to the 7th meeting of the HSSC in November.

The Tidal and Water Level Working Group (TWLWG) is tasked by the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) to monitor and develop the use of tidal and water level information as well as to advise on tidal and water level observation, analysis and prediction. The Working Group held its 7th meeting at the Civic Building, Silver Spring, Maryland, USA from 21 to 24 April. In the absence of the chair of the TWLWG, Ms. Gwenaële Jan (France), Mr Christopher Jones (UK), Vice-Chair of the TWLWG, ran the meeting of representatives from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, UK, USA, and the IHB. David Wyatt, IHB Assistant Director, represented the IHB.



TWLWG7 viewing the 1910 US Coast and Geodetic Survey Tide-Predicting Machine at NOAA Science Center



Proposed revised wording of IHO Resolution 3/1919, as amended, was agreed after a review of the comments received in response to IHO CL 17/2014 - *Proposed Revisions to IHO Resolutions on Tides, Water Levels and Tidal Publications*. The proposed revision will be submitted to the 7th meeting of the HSSC for endorsement prior to seeking its adoption by IHO Member States.

The intended outcomes and the presentation for the Tide and Water Level Capacity Building course, developed by South Africa, were reviewed and a process for incorporating proposed amendments was agreed.

As a result of the reorganization of the subordinate bodies of the HSSC, the 7th meeting was the last meeting of the working group. At the end of the meeting, the participants reformed as the Tides, Water Level and Currents Working Group (TWCWG) and elected Ms Gwenaële Jan (France) as Chair and Mr Louis Maltais (Canada) as Vice-Chair. The new working group requested that the IHB continue to provide the secretary, which will be Assistant Director Wyatt.

Brazil offered to investigate hosting the next meeting which will be TWCWG1, with proposed dates of 18 to 22 April 2016.

The report of the meeting and all documents will be available from the TWCWG section of the IHO web site.