

CIRCULAR LETTER 9/1999
19 February 1999

WORKSHOP ON ENC UPDATING
Mobile, Alabama, USA, 3-4 May 1999

Dear Sir,

Production and dissemination of ENC updates, and their implementation on ECDIS, are governed by the IHO Transfer Standard S-57 (which includes an updating mechanism) and the IHO Publication S-52 Appendix 1 "Guidelines on Updating the ENC". Both documents were developed at a time (1996) when little experience had been gained in the matter.

During the 2nd SHARED (Singapore, Hong Kong Admiralty Raster and ENC Demonstration) Meeting held in Singapore in October 1998, it became evident that a workshop on ENC updating needed to be held. As a result, the 10th CHRIS Meeting, held in Singapore on 30-31 October 1998, requested that the IHB organize a workshop on the subject.

Following informal contacts with the United States' NOAA, it is the intention to organize a workshop on ENC updating at the Adams Mark Hotel in Mobile, Alabama, USA, on 3-4 May 1999. This will be in conjunction with the 1999 U.S. Hydrographic Conference (26-28 April) and the subsequent intersessional meeting (29-30 April) of the Electronic Chart Work Group of the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico Hydrographic Commission (CGMHC). Mobile is about 200 km east of New Orleans, and has the largest international airport in the region.

It is requested that delegates from Hydrographic Offices and RENCs (Regional Electronic Navigational Chart Centres) involved in the production and distribution of ENC updates and commercial firms with related experience, should attend. The workshop will be chaired by RAdm Neil GUY, IHB Director and Chairman of CHRIS.

The room rate in the Adams Mark Hotel will be \$50 (USA) per night. Participation in the workshop by IHO delegates will be free of charge. It is possible that a small participation fee will be charged to commercial representatives in order to cover ancillary expenses.

You are kindly requested to advise the IHB whether your Office will be represented at this workshop and to provide the name of any attendee. To allow the IHB to develop an appropriate agenda for the workshop, you are further requested to indicate which topic(s) should, in your view, be addressed by the workshop. Responses should reach the I.H. Bureau **before 15 March 1999**.

The workshop will be advertised on the IHO Web Site (www.iho.shom.fr), with the expectation that interested commercial firms will thus be informed. It is advisable, however, that relevant companies in your country be informed of this workshop.

A subsequent IHB Circular Letter will provide further details on hotel registration, a provisional agenda and a provisional list of participants.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Rear Admiral Neil GUY
Director