

IHB File S3/5050

<b>CIRCULAR LETTER 19/1999</b> <b>16 April 1999</b>
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### **STANDARDIZATION OF SAILING DIRECTIONS**

Reference: IHB Circular Letter 49/1998 of 14 October 1998

Dear Sir,

The IHO WG on Standardization of Sailing Directions, which had originally been established to deal with paper sailing directions, has been in abeyance for several years.

New Terms of Reference for this Working Group were agreed at the XVth IH Conference (Decision 39) and it was decided that the IHB would issue a Circular Letter calling for nominations from Member States for participation in the Working Group.

Following a Symposium on Digital Sailing Directions which was held at St. Johns, NF, Canada, on 8-10 October 1998, and taking into consideration the findings of this symposium (<http://www.ndi.nf.ca/dsd98/index.html>), Circular Letter 49/1998 was distributed together with a Questionnaire asking whether Member States wished to participate in the work of the IHO WG on Standardization of Sailing Directions, and whether they wished to nominate a representative for the Working Group. Member States were also requested to advise whether their representative would be prepared to act as Chairman or Secretary of the WG.

Thirty-two Member States responded to CL 49/1998. A synopsis of the answers received in response to the Questionnaire are attached as Annexes A and B. Also attached as Annex C is a report by the 23<sup>rd</sup> North Sea Hydrographic Commission entitled "STANDARDIZATION OF NAUTICAL PUBLICATIONS" provided by SHOM together with some additional comments.

A majority of respondent MS's indicated that they would like to participate in the WG and proposed nominees. Three nominees will be available to stand for election as Chairman and two as Secretary of the WG.

A large majority of responses were in favour of opening the Working Group membership to selected representatives from the mariners' community and industry, as observers. The IHB will therefore take the necessary actions to involve non-IHO observers in the WG's activities. A majority of responses were also in favour of the Working Group being placed under the umbrella of the CHRIS Committee, that the WG addresses all nautical publications, with sailing directions being the top priority, and that the WG be re-named accordingly, as follows:

STANDARDIZATION OF NAUTICAL PUBLICATIONS W.G. (SNPWG)

The SNPWG will therefore be one of the five WGs of CHRIS, the others being TSMAD (Transfer Standard), C&SMWG (Colours and Symbols), DQWG (Data Quality) and TAWG (Technology Assessment).

It is proposed that a three day inaugural meeting be convened to take place at the IHB in Monaco. Proposed dates are **13-15 September 1999**. Meanwhile, election of a Chairman and Secretary for the SNPWG will be conducted by correspondence through a CHRIS letter.

Interested Member States are requested to indicate before **15 June 1999**, whether they agree with the proposed dates and to supply suggested agenda items

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

Rear Admiral Neil GUY  
Director

Encls: 3 annexes



Country	1.1 Participate in WG ?	1.2 Nominee	1.3 Chairperson ?	1.3 Secretary ?	2. Open to non IHO members	3. CHRIS Sep WG
Argentina	Y	Capt. R. Ecusquiza	N	N	Y	CHRIS
Bahrain	Y	Mr. O. Gravgaard		N	Y	CHRIS
Brazil	Y	Cdr. R. Figueira Carvalho	N	N	Y	CHRIS
Canada	Y	Mr. D. Jackson	Y	N	Y	CHRIS
Chile	Y		N	N	Y	CHRIS
Cuba	Y	Lt Cdr I. Sosa Chango	N	N	Y	CHRIS
Cyprus	N				Y	CHRIS
Denmark	N				Y	CHRIS
Ecuador						
Estonia	Y	Mr A. Rytinen	N	N	Y	CHRIS
Finland	Y		N	N	Y	CHRIS
France	Y	Capt. N. Blanluet	N	N	Y	Sep WG
Germany	Y	Mr J. Melles	N	N	Y	CHRIS
Greece	N				Y	CHRIS
Iceland	N		N	N	Y	CHRIS
India	Y	Lt. Cdr. M. Joshi	N	N	N	Sep WG
Japan	Y	Mr. S. Noishiki	N	N	Y	CHRIS
Monaco	N				Y	Sep WG
Norway	N				Y	Sep WG
Oman	N				Y	CHRIS
Peru	N		N	N	Y	CHRIS
Poland	Y	Lt. Cdr. Andrej Kowalski	N	N	Y	Sep WG
Portugal	N				Y	CHRIS
Rep. of Korea	Y	Mr. Choi	Y	Y	Y	CHRIS
Russian Fed.	Y	Capt. A. Elagin	Y	Y	Y	CHRIS
South Africa	Y	Capt. W.M. Leith	N	N	Y	Sep WG
Spain	Y	Lt. Cdr. M. Castro Haro	N	N	Y	CHRIS
Sweden	N				Y	CHRIS
Thailand	N				Y	CHRIS
UK	Y	Capt. R.J. Lowndes	N	N	Y	CHRIS
USA - NOAA	Y	Mr. O. E. Stembel	N	N	Y	CHRIS
USA - NIMA	Y	Mr. R.G. White	N	N	Y	CHRIS
Yugoslavia	N				Y	Sep WG
	Y = 20		Y = 3	Y = 2	Y = 31	CHRIS = 25
	N = 12		N = 18	N = 20	N = 1	Sep WG = 7

<b>Replies to Question 1.3. If willing to participate, would your representative be prepared to act as Chairperson / Secretary ?</b>	<b>Replies to Question 2. Would you be in favor of opening the membership of the WG to selected representatives of the mariners' community and the industry, as observers ?</b>	<b>Replies to Question 3. Would you be in favor of opening the membership of the WG to selected representatives of the mariners' community and the industry, as observers ?</b>
<b>Argentina</b> We do not consider it convenient taking up responsibility posts, as it is not possible to ensure the assistance and continuity of the assigned staff.	We agree with the inclusion of nautical community representatives (mariners, pilots, etc...) in the WG, to assist you in your suggestions as users, but not private or government companies, to avoid commercial incidence in the decisions of the WG.	We think that it is co interaction between b
<b>Brazil</b> The Representative will act only through correspondence	The representatives of the mariners community and industry will be valuable collaborators in development of guidance or specifications for digital sailing directions.	It seems reasonable CHRIS committee.
<b>Chile</b> Lack of available personnel.	Consider it important and necessary to have the final user participate actively, as observer, in the final proposals development.	We believe that, not c it would meet the De should be closely link
<b>Finland</b>		Finland proposes that be organized in a m concentrates on issue should be given to ot should be establishe between CHRIS and IHB tasks or by direc <i>IHB Note: This matte 2/1999.</i>
<b>France</b> See letter No 136 SHOM/EG/NP dated January 1999 (Appendix C)	See Appendix C	See Appendix C
<b>India</b> We wish to participate in WG as a member only.	The Working Group can take the opinion of experts in industry rather than including them in the WG.	Initially the WG shou publications can be in
<b>Japan</b>	As the newly formed tidal committee is also working on the Tide Table, this group should keep close liaison with the IHO Tidal Committee.	Taking into account t I recommend that the
<b>Norway</b>	Very limited in number	However, the WG sh to the IHB.
<b>Peru</b>	We agree with the recommendations of the International Symposium of Sailing Directions, in the sense of taking into account the opinion of the final users of the product.	Due to its close relc CHRIS Committee.
<b>South Africa</b>	Suggest that it be open to professional seamen such as Master Mariner Societies Trinity House, pilot associations and yacht club representatives.	CHRIS is a very larg with CHRIS.
<b>Spain</b>	They can inform the hydrographic offices about the most adequate contents and formats.	It should work mainl exploited in ECDIS s
<b>Thailand</b>	It allows more views to be expressed by varieties of users.	Since the digital sailli with IHO Transfer St
<b>U.S.A - NOAA</b>	Their participation should be encouraged.	
<b>U.S.A - NIMA</b>	Initial Meeting should be opened to MS only. After the WG formulates its direction or approach, then industry should be invited to participate.	Since sailing directio report to CHRIS.
<b>Rep of Yugoslavia</b>		In the case of being t liaison with CHRIS.



NSHC  
23rd Conference  
September 1998

Item B6  
Explanatory Note  
FRANCE

## STANDARDIZATION OF NAUTICAL PUBLICATIONS

### 1. BACKGROUND

Regulation 9 of the draft revised chapter V of the SOLAS Convention defines hydrographic services to be provided by hydrographic offices. They include preparing and issuing official nautical charts, sailing directions, list of lights, tide tables, and other official nautical publications. Table 1 indicate the status of nautical publications issued by NSHC Members. Since March 1, 1998, UK is the only Commission Member which offers a worldwide coverage in the four domains of sailing directions, list of lights, list of radio signals, and tide tables.

Technical Resolution A 3.4 as adopted by the 15<sup>th</sup> International Hydrographic Conference (IHC) notes that “*Hydrographic Offices should avoid creating products where another Hydrographic Office has charting responsibility for the waters concerned*” and that they “*should cooperate to meet the needs of their customers by ensuring appropriate availability of adequate and up-to-date products*” (Decision No 12). While continuous progress has been made in that direction regarding nautical charts (INT Regulations and Schemes, Chart Specifications of the IHO, WEND principles), little has been done about nautical publications.

This note reviews the situation of lists of lights, lists of radiosignals, and sailing directions and discusses potential ways to optimize and rationalize their production and updating.

Recalling that Conclusion No 72 of the 22<sup>nd</sup> NSHC tasked the Tidal Working Group “*to investigate, in conjunction with the IHO TWG, the potential for efficient dissemination of official tidal data (e. g. on the Internet)*”, the situation of tide tables is not discussed here.

### 2. LISTS OF LIGHTS

A draft standard for the contents of the lists of lights was prepared by the NSHC (Conclusion No 58). It was finalized at the IHO level in 1995 and formally endorsed by the 15<sup>th</sup> IHC (Decision No 40). France intends to implement the IHO standard with the next edition of volume DD (Western Mediterranean) by the end of 1998. Based on the IHO standard, an INT collection of list of lights could be envisioned along the same principles as the INT chart portfolio. More specifically the following steps could be considered:

- definition of the contents, design and adoption of a common structure and format for a light database (based on the IHO standard and on IHO Special Publication S-57),
- identification of the sources of information,
- definition of procedures for constituting and maintaining the database (distributed database versus centralized database),
- definition of an INT collection of lists of lights and identification of the potential producers (including provision of updates) and printers,

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- analysis of the requirements for INT digital products which could complement the information included in ENCs,
- definition of the production process for INT digital products if required.

IALA could be associated to the process if appropriate.

### **3. LISTS OF RADIO SIGNALS**

Although no standardization has been considered so far, those publications are very well structured and mainly contain codified information. The updating of these documents is very cumbersome in the paper version for both HOs and users and much could be gained through a coordinated approach. This could be implemented through the following steps:

- review of existing publications,
- review of existing IHO Technical Resolutions (see Publication M-3, Chapter E)
- design and adoption of a common structure and format for a radio signal database,
- identification of the sources of information,
- definition of procedures for constituting and maintaining the database (distributed database versus centralized database),
- definition of an INT collection of lists of radio signals and identification of the potential producers (including provision of updates) and printers,
- analysis of the requirements for INT digital products which could complement the information included in ENCs,
- definition of the production process for INT digital products if required.

ITU could be associated to the process if appropriate.

### **4. SAILING DIRECTIONS**

The issue of the standardization of sailing directions (SD) was discussed during the 18<sup>th</sup> NSHC Conference based on a paper tabled by France. Following Conclusion No 60 of the NSHC, the IHB tabled a proposal at the 14<sup>th</sup> IHC and the formation of a working group was decided to review the issue (Decision No 30). Little progress was then made and in its report to the 15<sup>th</sup> IHC, the WG recommended its continuance but directed towards digital publications and the sharing of ideas concerning research and development (see document CONF.15/N/02). The Conference decided that the WG should continue with the following objective: “*develop guidelines for the preparation of Sailing Directions in digital format, compatible with ECDIS*”. The WG should keep close liaison with CHRIS (Decision No 39).

It is recognized that SD standardization is difficult because local users need local and detailed publications while international shipping has different needs. Although different contents and presentation (including language) and different production arrangements (involving or not the private sector) are acceptable to meet national requirements with “local SDs”, there may be some merit in coordinating the production of a collection of “INT SDs”. Such a collection should not be based solely on the compilation of local SDs.

The following approach is suggested, in parallel with the work of the IHO WG:

- review of international shipping requirements for SDs (in digital or paper form),
- review of existing publications intended for international shipping,
- review of existing IHO Technical Resolutions (see Publication M-3, Chapter C)



- identification of the sources of information,
- definition of specifications for INT SDs (content, geographical coverage),
- identification of the potential producers (including dissemination of updates) and printers,
- definition of the production process for INT SDs.

## **5. PROPOSAL**

Noting that the NSHC has always played a precursor role within the IHO, it is suggested to set up a NSHC Working Group to progress the issue. Preliminary draft terms of reference are attached in the annex, to be considered by the Conference.

**Table 1**  
**Status of nautical publications produced by NSHC Members**

<i>Country</i>	<i>Sailing Directions</i>	<i>Lists of Lights</i>	<i>Lists of Radio</i>
Belgium	None	National	None
Denmark	National	National	None
France	International (partial)	International (worldwide)	International (wo
Germany	International (partial)	International (partial)	International (par
Iceland	None	National	None
Netherlands	National	National	None
Norway	National	National	None
Sweden	National	National	None
United Kingdom	International (worldwide)	International (worldwide)	International (wo

Notes :

- (1) The French SD collection was worldwide until 1<sup>st</sup> March 1998 with 48 volumes. 9 SDs (Northern A 1998. 17 SDs (North and South America - except the West Indies- and the Pacific Ocean - except F) will be withdrawn on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1999.
- (2) German SDs cover Europe, Northern Africa and the Mediterranean Sea. German Lists of Lights cov Sea.

## **Annex to Explanatory Note by France – Item B6**

### **NSHC Working Group on Nautical Publications Preliminary draft terms of reference**

The North Sea Hydrographic Commission during its 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference in Brugge, September 1998.

*Noting* IHO Technical Resolution A 3.4 on arrangements for the exchange and reproduction of nautical products (Decision No 12 of the 15<sup>th</sup> International Hydrographic Conference),

*Considering* the requirement of Regulation 9 of the Draft Revised Chapter V of the SOLAS Convention (IHO Circular Letter No 7/1998 of 9 February 1998),

*Resolved* to set up a Working Group on Nautical Publications with the following objectives:

- to review the requirements of international shipping for nautical paper and digital publications in the NSHC area,
- to review the existing publications intended for international shipping in the NSHC area,
- to review the existing IHO Technical Resolutions,
- to identify the sources of information within the NSHC area,
- to study specifications and procedures for constituting and maintaining databases covering the NSHC area when appropriate,
- to study draft specifications for INT nautical publications (Lists of Lights, Lists of Radio Signals, Sailing Directions),
- to study possible arrangements for the elaboration, production, distribution and updating of INT nautical publications,
- to prepare proposals for possible extensions to areas outside the NSHC.

The Working Group should work mainly by correspondence and should keep close liaison with the IHO Committee on Hydrographic Requirements for Information Systems as well as with the IHO Working Group on Standardization of Sailing Directions.

The Working Group shall report to the 24<sup>th</sup> NSHC Conference.

## FRANCE'S ATTACHMENT TO QUESTIONNAIRE REPLYING TO CL 49/1998

### Composition

Expanding the group's composition to include mariners, the main recipients of the products, and to industry which is the essential link between hydrographic services (HS) and the users for digital products destined to supply information systems, is essential in order to extend the reflection to the whole of the chain, going from the HS to the user and to better adapt the new products to actual needs and to technologies which are available or conceivable.

Nevertheless, prudence should be exercised in the selection of participants from the private sector to avoid the risks of unfair competition. Therefore SHOM suggests either to invite representative authorities (professional associations) or to limit the access of industry to open forums or to technical sub-groups on specific questions.

### Status

The standardization of nautical documents comprises two aspects:

- the rationalization of the geographic division of the areas of responsibility of the "primary" producers permitting the constitution of an INT collection in accordance with principles similar to those adopted for the INT paper charting scheme and the WEND electronic charting scheme.
- the creation of specifications related to formats and content.

SHOM is not certain that the CHRIS Committee is competent for these two aspects, even if we limit ourselves to only digital products. It is therefore suggested that a specific body be created inviting it to more precisely define the questions which might be examined by the CHRIS Committee or by one of its working groups, and those which necessitate particular consideration.

### Objectives

The long-term objective must be to deal with all nautical publications but priorities need to be fixed to avoid efforts being dispersed and to develop a realistic plan of action. It should be noted that the concept of sailing directions is much more complex than the concept of other nautical documents. Lists of Lights, Radiosignals, Tide Tables have a list structure sufficiently simple to rather easily envisage their inclusion in the medium term, in the form of MIO (maritime information objects) or additional levels in "enriched" ENC. In the absence of a standardization of paper documents as advanced as the one for paper charts, one can fear that the development of digital SD specifications may be a very laborious task, taking into account the precedents for S-52 and S-57. The time needed to develop IHO specifications for Lists of Lights (paper version) does not incline us to be optimistic.

Like many Hydrographic Services, SHOM is confronted with budgetary restrictions and staff restrictions which impose in the first place the need to limit unnecessary duplication of work between HS. Only a rationalization of the zones covered by the original publications of the main HS, regardless of the medium (paper or electronic) or of the original language ("international" English or national language), would reveal the potential which could be devoted to studies of new products which are better adapted to the needs of modern navigation. SHOM therefore reiterates its wish that this rationalization be handled with priority, in a pragmatic spirit in accordance with TR A 3.4.

Finally SHOM would like to point out that the French abbreviation for SD (Sailing Directions) is IN (Instructions nautiques).

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