

## ENC COVERAGE

Reference: IHB Circular Letter 31/2001, dated 29 June 2001

Dear Hydrographer,

Circular Letter 31/2001 requested Member States to provide information on their ENC production and plans, with a view to check the adequacy of ENC coverage with the requirements for international shipping and to identify the gaps in ENC production. This initiative resulted from a decision by the WEND Committee at its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting (18-19 May 2001, Norfolk, Virginia, USA).

Responses to the questionnaire attached to CL 31/2001 were collated through contribution by Regional Hydrographic Commissions. All MS' replies were passed on to the Portuguese Hydrographic Office (IHPT) who had offered to compile the data and produce a report on this so-called "WEND Study". This was done and a report on the matter by Portugal was presented to the 14<sup>th</sup> CHRIS Meeting (Document CHRIS-14-11.2.1A refers<sup>1</sup>) which, unfortunately, did not include graphic maps of ENC coverage. Presentation of the results in a convenient graphical form would have required the availability of ENC cells limits that CL 31/2001 regrettably failed to request.

Further thoughts have been given to this issue within the IHB and capabilities are now available to display, on a chart background, ENC cells which limits are provided in a given format. With a view to showing the current ENC coverage on the IHO website, on a worldwide scale and for each navigational purpose, and to being able to re-direct any potential ENC user to an appropriate website or e-mail address (RENC, HO, commercial distributor etc.) where further information on how to get the relevant ENC data may be obtained, Member States are kindly requested to provide the information below for every ENC cell already produced, under production or planned.

- ENC Cell name, which includes the two-letter producing agency code, the one-figure navigational purpose code and the cell number, e.g. JP300452 for a cell produced by the Japanese Hydrographic Office, intended for coastal navigation and which number is 452;
- Navigational purpose code, separately to facilitate its use;
- Cell limits in the following order<sup>2</sup>: SW (lat, lon); NW (lat, lon); NE (lat, lon); and SE (lat,lon);
- S-57 Edition, i.e. 3.0 or 3.1;
- Date of production;
- Date of issuance, i.e. when the ENC cell is on the market;
- Website and/or e-mail address where further details on the cell and information on how to obtain the data can be found.

---

<sup>1</sup> Available from the IHO website ([www.iho.shom.fr/general/ecdis/ecdisnew1.htm](http://www.iho.shom.fr/general/ecdis/ecdisnew1.htm))

<sup>2</sup> Values in degrees and decimal degrees, with negative values (-) for southern latitudes and western longitudes, eg. 65.54, -42.20, 67.36, -42.20, 67.36, -40.42, 65.54, -40.42.

<sup>3</sup> In addition to the comma delineated text format, ArcView (.shp) and MapInfo (.tab) formats will also be accepted.

The latter information may be given once for all, if appropriate and convenient. It is requested that the above information be given in **digital form**. These data will be used as input to a program which will allow drawing the cell limits. The fields 'date of production' and 'date of issuance' will be left blank for those ENC cells under production or which have been planned.

Responses should reach the IHB ([pac@ihb.mc](mailto:pac@ihb.mc) and [pad@ihb.mc](mailto:pad@ihb.mc)) **before 15 March 2003**, so that a presentation on the current ENC coverage can be made at the 7<sup>th</sup> WEND Meeting (12-14 May 2003, Lima, Peru). As said above, it is intended that the resulting ENC coverage be shown through diagrams on the IHO website. It is also planned that updating of the diagrams be made directly by MS.

The IHB is grateful to the Portuguese HO for its valuable contribution on the matter. We also would like to thank all those MS that provided information on their ENC production in response to CL31/2001.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

*(original signed)*

Rear Admiral Kenneth BARBOR  
Director