

IHB File No. S3/1000

CIRCULAR LETTER 52/2003
21 July 2003

REPORT ON STATUS OF IHO MANUAL ON HYDROGRAPHY

References: A – IHB CL 48/1998 dated 12 October 1998
B – IHB CL 5/1999 dated 25 January 1999
C – IHB CL 37/2000 dated 4 September 2000
D – IHB CL 8/2001 dated 9 February 2001
E – IHB CL 32/2001 dated 11 July 2001

Dear Hydrographer,

At Reference A the IHB sought Member States' (MS) approval for the production of an IHO Manual on Hydrography, which was duly received. At Reference B the IHB reported this approval to MS and set out its intended plan to implement this decision with the assistance of those representatives nominated by MS. Subsequently, at Reference C, the IHB submitted a detailed plan for approval by MS and sought nominations for a Working Group (WG) to complete this task. This plan set out a 24-month timetable from the establishment of a WG to the completion of the project. Once again MS supported this proposal and 20 representatives were nominated to the WG as reported at Reference D.

The first meeting of the WG was held at the IHB from 20 – 22 June 2001. At this meeting the contents of the Manual were reviewed and responsibilities were assigned. Team leaders were appointed to oversee the production of each chapter. The outcome of this first meeting, including the detailed editorial responsibilities, was reported to MS at Reference E. It was also stated that the second meeting of the WG, to review the final draft, was expected to take place in February 2003 (12 months notice to be given of date and venue).

Due to delays in the receipt of contributions, members of the WG were advised that this second meeting would be delayed until November 2003. In May 2003 a letter was sent to members of the WG, highlighting that Chapters 3, 4, 5 and 7 had still not been received. In view of the time required by the IHB to merge the chapters together and to circulate them to the WG for review, it was further suggested that the final editorial review meeting be held either from the 1 – 3 or 8 – 10 March 2004 -at the IHB. Despite the request to acknowledge the receipt of the letter, expedite the production of the outstanding chapters and to state a preference for the date of the meeting, only 4 replies have been received. The IHB has been informed that one of the outstanding chapters should be ready by early November 2003 but has received no clear indication as to when the others might be received.

The IHB does not wish to delay the final meeting beyond March 2004 as this already represents a 13-month delay in the 2-year plan. The IHB believes that this is an important publication which has a key role to play in Capacity Building. In order to be able to retain the March 2004 meeting, Member States are urged to:

- Provide every assistance and encouragement to their nominated representatives to complete the outstanding work and to forward it to the IHB at the earliest opportunity and, in any event, no later than **31 October 2003**.
- Confirm the availability of their designated WG members to attend the final editorial meeting at the IHB in March 2004 and to state their preference for the period 1 – 3 or 8 – 10 March 2004 so that the appropriate arrangements can be made to ensure maximum attendance. **Please reply by 15 September 2003.**

On behalf of the Directing Committee,
Yours sincerely,

(original signed)

Captain Hugo GORZIGLIA
Director