

CIRCULAR LETTER 16/2004
18 February 2004

IHO CATALOGUE OF WORLD ENC COVERAGE

Ref: 1) IHB Circular Letter 67/2002 dated 20 December 2002
2) IHB Circular Letter 58/2003 dated 4 September 2003
3] IHB Circular Letter 80/2003 dated 23 December 2003

Dear Hydrographer,

At the 7th WEND Committee Meeting (Lima, Peru, May 2003), a presentation of the world ENC Coverage diagrams (displayed on the IHO website), based on Member States' responses to CL 67/2002, was made by the IHB. WEND consequently decided that the IHB should solicit Member State feedback on the IHO website presentation by CL, further inviting RENC/RHC/MS to provide updates on their ENC coverage in a specified format, that would be provided by the IHB.

The same presentation was also made at the 15th CHRIS Meeting (IHB, June 2003), which agreed that the Member States should be encouraged to provide up to date ENC coverage information.

Following the WEND and CHRIS discussions / recommendations, Norway offered to assist the IHB in developing an interactive web catalogue that would show worldwide ENC coverage, and would provide functions to pan, zoom and interrogate ENC cells. As a result, a simple data exchange format containing minimal metadata elements has been designed, and the prerequisite hardware and software put in place. The system is available from the IHO website and it provides a mechanism for Member States to update their ENC cell information, through accessing the system via an individual password. Information received in response to CL 67/2002 has been used to initially populate the database.

In keeping with comments made by Member States during the WEND and CHRIS meetings, the following criteria were followed in the design of the catalogue:

- It must be possible to keep the catalogue updated. A simple text data format and update mechanism (via Internet) has been developed accordingly.
- The system should be optimized so that relevant IHO bodies (WEND and CHRIS), other RHCs and MS can use it as an aid to determine areas lacking in ENC coverage and for planning purposes. A three-colour notation has been used to differentiate between: charts that are planned or are in production (red); charts that have been issued but are not yet on the market (blue); and charts that are commercially available (black).
- The catalogue should not provide metadata that is irrelevant to its intended purpose, and typically duplicates metadata displayed by commercial catalogues belonging to RENCs, MS, VARs (Value Added Resellers), etc. (e.g. data limit and cell title). Wherever possible, it should provide pointers to more detailed catalogues.
- Ship routing information and port information should also be included in the catalogue.

The catalogue can be accessed in an unrestricted Browser mode or in Administrator mode (via a password). The latter provides restricted access that enables data producers to update their own metadata and to upload new ENC cell coordinate limits.

Member States are requested to review the world ENC catalogue on the IHO website (www.iho.shom.fr > ENC > ENC Coverage) and provide their comments on its content, presentation and functionalities, with a view to improving the system, **before 30 April 2004**. Member States are also encouraged to update their own ENC coverage information, under the Administrator mode. Login account information will be given individually to Member States on request to the IHB (info@ihb.mc). Furthermore, the IHB will provide assistance, as needed, to Member States in familiarizing themselves with the ENC metadata updating mechanism.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

(original signed)

Rear Admiral Kenneth BARBOR
Director