

THIS CIRCULAR LETTER REQUIRES YOU TO VOTE

IHB File No. S3/8152

**CIRCULAR LETTER 42/2004
29 June 2004**

8TH WEND MEETING, 5-6 MARCH 2004, TOKYO, JAPAN

**WEND/8 Resolution on Fostering ENC Production and Availability
Observers to WEND
Chairman and Vice-Chairman of WEND**

- Ref: 1) IHB Circular Letter 80/2003 dated 23 December 2003
2) IHB Circular Letter 8/2004 dated 2 February 2004
3) IHO Technical Resolution K2.19 "WEND Principles"

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The 8th Worldwide Electronic Navigational Chart Database (WEND) Committee meeting was hosted by the Hydrographic & Oceanographic Department of the Japan Coast Guard in Tokyo, Japan, on 5-6 March 2004, under the Chairmanship of Rear Admiral K.R. Srinivasan, India. Over sixty representatives of 27 Member States and, for the first time, observers from non-governmental organizations and professional associations deliberated on numerous issues of importance relating to the production and distribution of Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC). The full proceedings are summarized in the minutes that can be found on the IHO website (www.iho.shom.fr > Committees > WEND). A list of actions arising from this meeting is in **Annex A**.

2. A significant focus of the meeting was on the issues of coverage, consistency, availability and user-friendliness of ENCs. These issues, in aggregate, contribute to the limited use of ECDIS as a navigation system satisfying the carriage requirements of Regulation 19 of SOLAS V and impede the improvements in safety of navigation and efficiency in maritime operations that may be realized with the worldwide use of ECDIS. Several measures were introduced to highlight these concerns and improve the state of affairs.

3. An ENC production "cookbook" and ENC encoding recommendations to improve consistency are nearing completion and will be made available to Member States. The definitions of Regional ENC Coordinating Centers (RENC) and "Integrated Services" have been clarified. A high level briefing paper suitable for discussions with government officials at ministry level is under development. This briefing paper will make clear a government's obligation to provide modern navigational information and detail the benefits of ENCs and ECDIS.

4. Continued efforts are required in implementing assistance programs or cooperative agreements in order to expeditiously achieve worldwide availability of ENCs. Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) must be the focal point for identifying training, equipment and capacity needs of their Member States, for recommending initiatives to address these needs and for setting a prioritized production schema and timeline for ENCs within their regional waters. User-

friendly availability of ENC requires individual Member States and RHCs to assess the need to establish new RENCs or align with existing RENCs to ensure ENC consistency and efficient distribution to the mariner.

5. In **Annex B** you will find a copy of a WEND Resolution approved at the 8th WEND meeting. It requests that Member States and Regional Hydrographic Commissions take certain actions to accelerate ENC production and improve ENC availability. RHCs are requested to report the status of these measures to the IHB. The IHB will directly communicate with RHC Chairmen and RHC corresponding members of the WEND Task Group to focus this input.

6. As noted above, observers were admitted to the proceedings for the first time. The Committee noted that the WEND Terms of Reference (TOR) do not provide for the attendance of observers while the CHRIS TOR do. With the recent additions to the WEND Principles to include user-friendliness and other customer oriented perspectives, the attendance of industry organizations – especially the shipping industries – seemed appropriate. Furthermore, the SPWG has formulated criteria whereby international Non-governmental Organizations (NGO) can apply for accreditation as observers to the IHO. As a result, the Committee tasked the IHB to circulate to MS, for approval, the following additional item to the WEND TOR to allow international NGO to participate as observers in WEND meetings:

“The Committee may invite accredited international NGOs and professional associations to participate as observers to Committee meetings.”

The current WEND TOR are reproduced in **Annex C**. It is suggested that the new proposed item be included as Rule of Procedure 2.2 (subsequent items would be re-numbered accordingly). Member States’ approval is sought by completing the response form in **Annex D**, to be returned to the IHB **by 15 September 2004**.

7. Reflecting Action Item 12 (see Annex A), Member States are urged to expedite the process of approving pending applications for IHO Membership.

8. Rear Admiral Srinivasan has informed the Bureau of his forthcoming retirement after 37 years of naval service. On behalf of the IHO and the WEND Committee the Bureau thanks Admiral Srinivasan for his valuable service and guidance, especially as the WEND Chairman for the last two sessions. **Annex E** solicits Member States' to nominate a representative for the WEND Committee and possibly as WEND Chairman and Vice Chairman. Member States are kindly requested to provide this information to the IHB **by 15 September 2004**.

All remaining actions for the IHB are being attended to, or will be in the near future. The 9th WEND Meeting has been planned at the IHB on 7-8 April 2005, i.e. immediately before the 3rd Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (11-15 April).

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

(original signed)

Rear Admiral Kenneth BARBOR
Director

Encl: Annex A – Action Items from the 8th WEND Meeting
Annex B – Resolution from the 8th WEND meeting
Annex C – WEND Terms of Reference
Annex D – Observers to WEND – Response Form
Annex E – Nominations for WEND Membership, Chair and Vice-Chair – Response Form

ACTION ITEMS ARISING FROM THE 8th WEND MEETING

Action No.	Agenda Item	Subject	Actions	Action by	Status (June 2004)
1	3	ENC Production Cookbook	IHB, in liaison with UKHO, to complete a draft ENC Production Cookbook, to be circulated to WEND Members by WEND Letter for comments / approval; final version to be posted on the IHO website.	IHB	In progress
2	3	ICS Bridge Procedure	IHB to communicate with ICS regarding updating of the ICS Bridge Procedure Manual.	IHB	TBD
3	4 (B)	Definition for Integrated Services	IHB to include, as a footnote to the WEND Principles, the definition agreed by WEND for "Integrated Services", as follows: <i>"a variety of end-user services where each service is selling all its ENC data, regardless of source, to the end user within a single service proposition embracing format, data protection scheme and updating mechanism, packaged in a single exchange set."</i>	IHB	Completed
4	4 (C)	IHO World ENC Catalogue	IHB to continue maintaining an IHO World ENC Catalogue on the IHO website, with links to other catalogues (RENCs, MS, etc.).	IHB	Ongoing
5	4 (E)	WEND Resolution	IHB to draft a CL, based on the resolution by WEND (Doc. WEND8-4H), to speed up ENC production.	IHB	In progress
6	4 (F)	ENC Production Assistance	Based on the responses to the ENC Assistance Questionnaire, as contained in Annex A to Doc. WEND8-4F, IHB to propose matching those M/S that can provide assistance with those M/S needing assistance.	IHB	In progress
7	4 (G)	Definition for RENC	IHB to communicate the definition for RENC, agreed by WEND, to CHRIS for consideration and inclusion in S-52 Appendix 3 "Glossary of ECDIS-related Terms", as follows: <i>"RENCs are organizational entities where IHO Member States have established cooperation amongst each other to guarantee a world-wide consistent level of high quality data, and for bringing about coordinated services with official ENCs and updates to them."</i>	IHB	Completed

Action No.	Agenda Item	Subject	Actions	Action by	Status (June 204)
8	5	Guidance for Submission of Proposals to WEND Meetings	IHB to adapt the CHRIS document (Annex B to Doc. WEND8-5A) to WEND needs, then to circulate it to WEND Members for comments / approval.	IHB	In progress
9	6	S-64 ECDIS Test Data	France to communicate to IHB proposed additional features for incorporation into IEC 61174 / S-64. IHB to refer them to CHRIS for further development.	France	TBD
10	7	High Level Paper on ENC / ECDIS	IHB to prepare a briefing paper on the benefits of using ENC / ECDIS, targeted to high level government officials, for use by HOs as necessary.	IHB	In progress
11	7	ENC Consistency	IHB to circulate to MS, when finalized, the TSMAD / C&SMWG recommendations on ENC encoding for improved ENC consistency; also to post them on the IHO website.	IHB	In progress
12	7	Pending IHO Membership	IHO MS to expedite process of approving pending applications for IHO Membership.	MS	Done (CL 3/2004)
13	7	SOLAS ENC Production Requirements	IHB to communicate to IMO/NAV that coastal States should be urged to produce official ENCs, as part of Hydrographic Services required by Regulation 9 of SOLAS V.	IHB	In progress
14	8	Observers to WEND	IHB to circulate to MS an additional item to the WEND Rules of Procedure to allow NGO participating as observers in WEND meetings, as follows: <i>"The Committee may invite accredited international NGOs and professional associations to participate as observers to Committee meetings."</i>	IHB	Done (CL 42/2004)
15	10	RCDS Mode of ECDIS	IHB to issue a CL reflecting the views at the WEND Committee, providing MS with the Norwegian proposal to IMO when available, and soliciting MS' position on the Australian and Norwegian proposals, with a view to formulating IHO's position before IMO.	IHB	Completed (CLs 21, 34/2004, 41/2004)

WEND RESOLUTION

The WEND Committee, at its 8th session,

- *Considering* the insufficient coverage with official ENC^s in several regions,
- *Being concerned* about inconsistencies of official ENC^s both within some regions and amongst different regions, potentially causing confusion with the mariner,
- *Noting* that current official ENC services often are patchy, heterogeneous and not sufficiently user friendly,
- *Noting* that the present problems with availability and user-friendliness of ENC services may adversely affect the acceptance of ENC^s by the mariner for the use of ECDIS in navigation,
- *Being also concerned* that the slow uptake of official ENC^s by the marketplace may jeopardise the goals to improve safety and efficiency of navigation pursued by IMO and IHO with introducing ECDIS as a navigation system satisfying the carriage requirement of SOLAS V/Reg 19 when used with official ENC^s,
- *Recognising* the obligation of Coastal States under SOLAS V/Reg. 9 to provide hydrographic services and to produce nautical charts which results, in conjunction with Reg. 19, in a corresponding obligation to produce official ENC^s,

Resolves,

(a) Where MS are not yet fully involved in ENC production:

1. IHO Members States are encouraged to work together in the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) to speed up ENC production, e.g. through *bilateral or multilateral assistance programmes, or seek cooperation* with any member HO offering training and/or production capacities on conditions to be mutually agreed,
2. RHCs should develop, where not yet existent, ENC production schemes and time schedules for the ENC production *for small scale coverage and prioritised routes and ports*, and should report the details to IHB as soon as possible;

(b) Where MS have already developed ENC^s, but are not yet affiliated to an existing RENC:

1. IHO Member States are requested, where they have ENC^s already produced but not released for public use yet, to make them available in compliance with SOLAS V, Reg. 9 and 19, and to facilitate inclusion with integrated services,
 2. RHCs are asked in their region to *achieve a maximum degree of quality assurance and user-friendliness of services* in compliance with the WEND Principles, and to cooperate to this purpose with each other or with other HOs, e.g. by forming an own RENC, or by seeking the services of existing RENCs, and to inform IHB as soon as possible of the measures they have implemented, or are planning to implement.
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WORLD-WIDE ELECTRONIC NAVIGATIONAL CHART DATABASE (WEND) COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Objective:

To promote the establishment of a World-wide Electronic Navigational Chart Database (WEND) suitable for the needs of international shipping.

1. Terms of Reference

- 1.1 To provide a forum for the coordination of the activities of Member States in achieving the objective.
- 1.2 To harmonize the policies of regional ENC Coordinating Centres (RENC) with respect to matters related to administration, legality, finances, technical processes, etc.
- 1.3 To take account of the Terms of Reference of, and consult with, other IHO bodies as appropriate, particularly CHRIS.
- 1.4 To report to Member States annually through Circular Letter and make a report to the ordinary sessions of the International Hydrographic Conference.

2. Rules of Procedure

- 2.1 The Committee is composed of representatives duly authorized by Member States and an IHB Director will attend WEND Meetings.
- 2.2 Meetings shall be held once a year. The venue and date will be announced at least three months in advance.
- 2.3 The Committee Members will elect the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Committee at its first meeting following each ordinary session of the International Hydrographic Conference.
- 2.4 Recommendations of the Committee will be submitted to the IHO Member States for adoption through the Directing Committee.
- 2.5 The IHB will serve as the Secretariat for the WEND Committee.

Reference: Decision No 17a of the 16th International Hydrographic Conference, 15-19 April 2002, Monaco.

OBSERVERS TO WEND

Additional WEND Rule of Procedure

(to be returned to the IHB by 15 September 2004

E-mail: info@ihb.mc - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)

Member State:

Do you approve the inclusion, in the WEND Terms of Reference, of the following additional Rule of Procedure to allow international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) to participate as observers in WEND meetings?

2.2 The Committee may invite accredited international NGOs and professional associations to participate as observers to Committee meetings.

YES NO

Comments :
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Name/Signature Date :

NOMINATIONS
for the
WORLDWIDE ENC DATABASE (WEND) COMMITTEE
[Chairman and Vice-Chairman]

(to be returned to the IHB by 15 September 2004
E-mail: info@ihb.mc - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)

Member State:

1. Taking into consideration the Terms of Reference for WEND, as in Annex C to this CL, please confirm your representation on WEND or that you wish to participate in the work of WEND?

YES NO

2. If yes, please indicate the name of your representative:

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E-mail:

3. If yes, would your representative be prepared to act as:

- Chairman of WEND : YES NO

- Vice-Chairman of WEND : YES NO

Comments :

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Name/Signature: Date: