

**CIRCULAR LETTER 14/2006**  
**26 January 2006**

**ON-LINE CHART CATALOGUE**

- References:     a)     CL 64/2005 dated 21 June 2005  
                  b)     CL 111/2005 dated 3 November 2005

Dear Hydrographer,

The IHB would like to thank the following 10 Member States who provided comments as requested in the References: Argentina, Chile, France, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. These comments are attached at Annex A.

The IHB will take account of the comments made as it starts preparing the technical detail for such a catalogue. The basic structure of the catalogue will be to show all available ENC's, available RNC's where ENC's do not exist and a list of the paper charts that Coastal States require to be carried as backup<sup>1</sup>. The NAV Sub-Committee, at paragraph 6.30 of document NAV51/19, Report to the Maritime Safety Committee, recommended that IMO Member States (MS) in consultation with their relevant hydrographic authorities, be invited to inform the IHO of those paper charts within its territorial waters, which comprised "an appropriate portfolio of up to date paper charts" to be used as backup. It is expected that this recommendation will be endorsed by the MSC at its 81<sup>st</sup> session in May 2006 and MS are requested, in conjunction with their MSA, to consider the preparation of such a list if this does not already exist.

The IHB will make an initial report on the technical development of the catalogue to both the Correspondence Group (CG) on ECDIS set up by the NAV Sub-committee, which will meet at the IHB from 20 – 22 February, and to the 52<sup>nd</sup> session of NAV in July 2006. The IHB will of course keep MS informed of progress with this matter, which is expected to be completed in 2007. **MS are requested to provide the IHB (info@ihb.mc) with a technical point of contact who may be consulted during the development of the catalogue.**

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS  
President

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<sup>1</sup> In case of a) Failure of a single ECDIS using ENC's, or b) an ECDIS used in RCDS mode

## Responses to CL111 – On-line chart catalogue

### Argentina:

I inform you that this Service wishes to make the following comments:

ENC Sub-catalogue:	No comments
RNC Sub-catalogue:	The coverage has to be complete, that is all the Raster Charts proposed by the Member State.
Paper Charts Sub-catalogue:	It has to be only the whole set of charts with a national coverage proposed by the Member State.

### Chile:

This Service (SHOA-Chile) supports the work done by the IHB in order to develop an on-line catalogue for ENCs, RNCs and Paper Charts.

### France:

This electronic catalogue should be envisaged as the result of a GIS-type (Geographical Information System) application encapsulated on the IHO web site. The summary could be as follows:

1. Introduction.
  - a. Reference to the context and recommendations of the 51<sup>st</sup> IMO/NAVCOM;
  - b. Reference to SOLAS;
  - c. Reminder concerning back-up systems: 2<sup>nd</sup> ECDIS (and ENC), or ECDIS used in RCDS mode with appropriate set of paper charts;
  - d. Some definitions: chart, planned crossing, official, statutory, etc.
  - e. Acronyms: ECDIS, RCDS, etc.
2. Object of the catalogue:
  - a. Summary
  - b. Statutory nature<sup>2</sup>, *but the Captain remains responsible*.
3. Domain and limits of use of the catalogue:
  - a. Uses covered:
    - Ocean navigation on official nautical charts, adequate for the planned crossing;
    - Navigation following a planned itinerary in order to reach in complete safety one or several places for embarking a pilot;
    - Navigation in complete safety in narrow passages (e.g. Pas de Calais)
  - b. Limits of use:
    - The nautical charts must be up to date; they are to be used in conjunction with the associated nautical instructions and documents.
4. Contents
  - a. Sources, data bases (catalogues used<sup>3</sup>, Traffic Separation Schemes, narrow passages, main ports etc.)

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<sup>2</sup> e.g. in French waters, the nautical charts used (ENC, or paper) must be official, kept up to date and be at an adequate scale and coverage to allow the type of navigation planned. Prior clarification of the carriage regulations concerning carriage of charts as laid down by the flag state and by the coastal state to be undertaken and verification of the number and consistency.

- b. Charts (INT, ENC, RNC) and the different categories
  - c. Algorithms used:
    - i. To define and trace the route;
    - ii. To identify the main ports and narrow passages;
    - iii. To extract the charts by category, depending on the voyage, the ports for re-routeing and the sensitive zones crossed (typology to be defined).
5. Availability of catalogue and use
- a. Access to the IHB site<sup>4</sup>
  - b. Voyage routeing<sup>5</sup>
  - c. Automatic extraction from the regulatory catalogue corresponding to the “appropriate set of paper charts” to use as back-up;
  - d. Possible recording of a results file with list of charts, sources and reference catalogues, and if possible links to sites for ordering charts.
6. Implementation, maintenance and availability of the service.
- a. Trial period;
  - b. Management of the configuration of catalogues, sources and software and of the different algorithms;
  - c. Putting in place of the tool and of the associated systems or equipment for a service responding to operational requirements<sup>6</sup>

#### **Japan:**

As a result that we consider the draft online chart catalogue in Annex C to CL 64/2005, we propose that following 3 entries be added into ENC sub-catalogue:

- Edition number
- Update date
- Update number

Also we propose that a thumbnail of the ENC be added into ENC and / or paper chart sub-catalogue as an option in order that users can see coverage and simplified topology of each ENC cell.

#### **Netherlands:**

Herewith the NL comments on the creation of an on line IHO-Chart catalogue. These comments have been communicated with the NL Marine Safety Authorities.

1. NL supports the creation of an on-line IHO Chart catalogue.
2. NL prefers the IHO Web catalogue should give a complete overview of all official nautical publications (SOLAS-IHO) and not be limited to charts. This may imply the renaming of the catalogue.
3. NL prefers the IHO Web catalogue should contain web-links to national HO's/RENCs and not contain product-details. Product-details are to be presented on the national HO's websites. This way double maintenance on product details (national website vs. IHO website) can be avoided. To standardise the data to be provided on national HO's websites the draft specs are a good starting point and may require further development.

#### **Norway:**

NHS participates in the ongoing work of the ECDIS correspondence Group together with our MSA

#### **Peru:**

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<sup>3</sup> Establish “hierarchy” of catalogues used: for paper charts, preference should be given to INT catalogues of Regional Hydrographic Commissions.

<sup>4</sup> Include a warning: the IHO is a consultative organization and the results obtained are of a regulatory nature in spirit, but it is always up to the captain to assess the value and pertinence of the contents.

<sup>5</sup> GIS-type functions.

<sup>6</sup> To be defined: 24-hour service, redundancy, average repair time of the service, etc.

I wish to inform you that this Directorate agrees with the development of the on-line Catalogue, as well as with the proposed Sub-catalogues and attributes for electronic, raster and paper charts respectively.

Likewise, this Directorate has initiated the work corresponding to the coastal charts of Peru coverage, both Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) and paper charts, taking into consideration the specifications in Annex C of your Circular Letter No. 64/2005.

**Poland:**

The Hydrographic Office of the Polish Navy (HOPN) supports the idea to create the on-line Catalogue of ENCs, RNCs and Paper Charts carried as a back up.

We have no comments on the preliminary Draft Specification.

If the project is implemented, we will commit to it the metadata, which makes up the Polish ENCs and paper charts.

**Ukraine:**

In response to the IHB Circular Letters 111/2005 and 64/2005 regarding Draft Specification of a World-Wide Internet Based Chart Catalogue Provided by IHO on Behalf of its Member States, State Hydrographic Service of Ukraine decided to support the development of the IHO Member States' on-line chart catalogue for the categories of ENCs and paper charts and has no objections in respect of the above Specification.

**United Kingdom:**

UKHO welcomes the production of an on-line chart catalogue, especially as this will link the use of ENCs with the use of RNCs and paper charts.

We would like to point out that, if the catalogue is to provide real value to the shipping industry, it is essential that it is kept up to date in line with product changes. Therefore we would emphasise the importance of an automatic updating mechanism that can deal with multiple data input formats as they become available.

To assist the Sub-Committee Correspondence Group in their view, we would suggest the specifications for the catalogue need to be simplified considerably to make it workable as there appear to be too many attributes associated with RNC and paper charts.

If required, UKHO can provide IHB with our catalogue csv files on a weekly basis, to ensure up to date information for our products/services is always available.