



IHB File No. S3/8152

CIRCULAR LETTER No. 70/2007
20 July 2007

EXTRAORDINARY WEND MEETING

Dear Hydrographer,

1 One of the important and urgent issues that the IHO is facing is the production of the Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) needed to support mandatory carriage requirements of ECDIS and e-Navigation developments, under discussion at IMO. The XVIIth International Hydrographic Conference (IHC) in May 2007 considered this issue and approved two Resolutions calling for the production of ENCs by 2010 and supporting the mandatory carriage requirements of ECDIS which will further accelerate the production of ENCs.

2 The Directing Committee believes that the IHO must examine the status of production of ENCs and the possible problems that are connected with this as soon as possible. After discussions with the Chair of WEND Captain Abri Kampfer, it was concluded that the best way forward is to convene an Extraordinary Meeting of WEND. The Chair and most of the Member States consulted, recommended that this meeting should be open to Member States only. In this meeting we intend to discuss the actions that are required for the IHO to fulfill its commitment to achieve adequate coverage, availability, consistency and quality of ENCs by 2010, in accordance with the relevant Resolutions approved at the XVIIth IHC in May 2007.

3 Possible proposals from UKHO to accelerate ENC coverage to support mandatory ECDIS carriage requirements, e-Navigation needs and the outcome of the IMO meeting of NAV 53 as it relates to ENC developments will be also considered.

4 The meeting will take place at the IHB on Tuesday and Wednesday, 30 and 31 October 2007. Facilities will be available for meetings of RENCs, or other interested bodies the days before and after the Extraordinary meeting. For long-distance travellers it should be noted that the CHRIS meeting will start Monday, 5th November in Rotterdam. The Directing Committee urges all Member States to participate in this important meeting together with representatives of the RENCs, Chairs of RHCs and CHRIS Chair. A first draft Agenda is provided in the Annex. Proposed submissions with responsible parties are delineated and should be prepared and provided to the Bureau by **20th September**. All papers will be posted on the IHO web site. (www.iho.int/Committees/WEND).

5 Member States are requested to provide any comments that they may have.

6 Logistical information in relation to this meeting will be provided at a later date.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Maratos', is written over a horizontal line.

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President

Annex A: Draft Agenda

**DRAFT AGENDA
EXTRAORDINARY WEND MEETING
IHB, Monaco 30 - 31 October 2007**

1. Current coverage of ENCs.

A report to be provided by the IHB based on the IHO catalogue maintained at the Bureau;

2. Consistency, encryption, delivery and pricing.

Reports to be provided by RENCs with possible problems related with these issues and how procedures can be harmonized and improved. RHCs and Member States may also provide reports. The WEND Task Group may provide a report as it considers appropriate for coverage, harmonization and delivery.

3. Outcome of NAV 53.

Report to be provided by the Bureau on the outcome of NAV 53.

4. UKHO to provide a comprehensive report of their proposal and how it relates to IHO.

5. Decisions on actions and procedures that need to be put in place. Monitoring of progress and follow up actions.

6. Report to Member States.