



THIS CIRCULAR LETTER REQUIRES YOU TO VOTE

IHB File S3/8151/MSDIWG

CIRCULAR LETTER 78/2009
18 November 2009

NEW IHO PUBLICATION C-17

Spatial Data Infrastructures: "The Marine Dimension" - Guidance for Hydrographic Offices

References:

- a) CL 41/2008 dated 28 April - *IHO Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group - Request for Information*
- b) CONF.EX4/REP/03 - *Report and Proposals Submitted by the MSDIWG*
- c) IHO Resolution K4.7 - *Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) Policy*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The 17th International Hydrographic Conference, in May 2007, directed that CHRIS (now the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC)) establish a Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG) to identify the Hydrographic Community inputs to National Spatial Data Infrastructures (NSDI). The MSDIWG terms of reference included that the WG should:

- *Propose any Technical and/or Administrative Resolutions that may be required to reflect IHO involvement in the support of NSDI; (Item 3.c) and*
- *Identify actions and procedures that the IHO might take to contribute to the development of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and/or MSDI in support of Member States. (Item 3.d)*

2. The first task above resulted in IHO Resolution K4.7 on MSDI policy, adopted by the 4th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference in June 2009 and stating *inter alia* that:

"The IHO will support Member States in the identification, development and implementation of an appropriate role in national Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) and MSDI initiatives. This will be achieved through:

- *The development and maintenance of a Special Publication that will provide a definitive procedural guide to establishing the role of the national hydrographic authority in MSDI."*

MSDI Guidance Document

3. The compilation of a *"procedural guide to establishing the role of the national hydrographic authority in MSDI"* has now been completed by the MSDIWG. A draft was made available to delegates at the 4th EIHC for information. More recently, the final version of the document *Spatial Data Infrastructures: "The Marine Dimension" - Guidance for Hydrographic Offices* was considered by the HSSC at its 1st meeting (Singapore, October 2009). At that meeting the HSSC endorsed the document and recommended that Member States adopt it as a new IHO publication.

4. A reference copy of the document has been posted on the IHO website at: www.iho.int → Committees & WGs → MSDIWG → Marine SDI Documents.

5. The IHB considers that because the document provides general guidance to HO's on how to support MSDI infrastructures, rather than technical guidance on procedures and processes, it should be included in the IHO C-series of publications, and take the number C-17.

MSDI Supporting Material

6. The MSDIWG terms of reference also included the following task:

- "Identify any IHO capacity building requirements" (item 3.g)

which, in IHO Resolution K4.7, was reflected as:

... *this will be achieved through:*

- *developing an MSDI capacity building plan comprising knowledge transfer and training to Member States.*
- *developing and managing the IHO web site to include material and information to support and encourage knowledge transfer, best practice and provision of on-line guidance and training material.*

7. In support of these objectives, the MSDIWG developed the following documents which are available from the MSDIWG page on the IHO website:

- SDI - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)
- SDI - Capacity Building Material - SDI Awareness Training Course (Template)
- Stakeholders to be Considered by IHO Member States in Developing their Understanding and Engagement in SDI
- SDI Hydrographic Data Policy - Best Practice Guidelines for Hydrographic Offices

Action Requested of Member States

8. Member States are invited to take note of the work completed by the MSDIWG and in particular the visionary leadership of its then Chairman, Mr John Pepper (until recently of the UKHO).

9. Member States are requested to consider the recommendation of the HSSC to adopt C-17 *Spatial Data Infrastructures: "The Marine Dimension" - Guidance for Hydrographic Offices* as a new IHO publication and to indicate their support using the Voting Paper, provided in Annex A, **by 15 January 2010**.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Robert WARD
Director

Annex A: Voting Form

VOTING FORM
(to be returned to the IHB by 15 January 2010
E-mail: info@ihb.mc - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)

Member State:

Contact: **E-mail:**

ADOPTION OF C-17 AS A NEW IHO PUBLICATION

1. Do you agree that C-17 *Spatial Data Infrastructures: "The Marine Dimension" - Guidance for Hydrographic Offices* be adopted as a new IHO publication?

YES

NO

Comments (if required)

Name/Signature:

Date: