



IHB File No. S3/8151/DQWG

CIRCULAR LETTER 51/2013
16 August 2013

Request for Information on Hydrographic Office Publications Explaining Data Quality

Reference: Action 30 from the 4th meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC)

Dear Hydrographer,

1. A task of the IHO's Data Quality Working Group (DQWG) is to investigate ways to improve mariners' understanding about data quality. One of the ways that mariners gain knowledge on data quality is by reading material issued by a Hydrographic Office (HO). Some examples of publications issued by Member States that include information on quality matters are:

- Australian Hydrographic Office AHP20, 'Seafarers Handbook for Australian Waters';
- Danish Hydrographic Office, 'Behind the Nautical Chart';
- French Hydrographic Office (SHOM) 001FNOA, 'L'hydrographie, les documents nautiques, leurs imperfections et leur bon usage'.
- UK Hydrographic Office NP100, 'Mariners' Handbook';
- UK Hydrographic Office NP231, 'Admiralty Guide to the Practical Use of ENC's';
and
- US NOAA, 'Coastal Pilot'.

2. At its 4th meeting, the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) tasked the DQWG "to review, in liaison with training institutions, the adequacy of existing HO publications on the quality aspects of the practical use of ENC's" (Action HSSC4/30). In order to address this task, the DQWG at its 7th meeting in late July, identified the need to access and consider as many existing reference publications produced by Member States as possible.

3. The DQWG wishes to consider as many relevant publications from Member States as possible with the intention of compiling an inventory that would reside on the IHO web site. This would then be available as a resource from which other Member States could derive input for their own publications. In this way, the data quality information presented by the various publications, web pages, pamphlets, etc. could be made more consistent. This, in turn, should assist and improve the levels of understanding by mariners of the implications of data quality on safe navigation.

4. Member States are therefore requested to complete the response form at Annex A and also to provide the IHB (Assistant Director Michel Huet, adcs@iho.int) with digital copies of any of their publications that refer to data quality matters. These can then be considered by the DQWG. Response forms and publications should reach the IHB **not later than 15 October 2013**.

5. Any comments on the topic of improving mariners' understanding about data quality will be welcome as they may help inform future related activities of the DQWG.

On behalf of the Directing Committee,
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gilles Bessero', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Gilles BESSERO
Director

Annex A: Response Form

Request for Information on Hydrographic Office Publications Explaining Data Quality

Response Form

(to be returned to the IHB by 15 October 2013)

E-mail: info@iho.int - Fax: +377 93 10 81 40)

Note: The boxes will expand as you type your entries.

**Member
State:
Contact:
E-mail:**

Do you produce any publications in English, French or Spanish that inform mariners about data quality matters?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide the references/titles of the publication(s).

Please also supply digital copy(ies) to the IHB - Assistant Director Michel Huet, adcs@iho.int)

Publication(s):

Title	Reference No	Language	Relevant section(s) in publication

Comments:

--

Signature:

--

Date:

--