



IHB File No S3/8151/SCWG

CIRCULAR LETTER 56/2013
09 October 2013

**SURFACE CURRENT WORKING GROUP (SCWG)
NOTIFICATION OF A QUESTIONNAIRE TO ASSESS USER REQUIREMENTS**

- References:
- A. CL 102/2012 dated 29 November - *Outcome of the fourth meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) and associated IHO ECDIS Stakeholders' Forum.*
 - B. IHO Resolution 2/2007, as amended.

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As instructed at Reference A, the recently created Surface Current Working Group (SCWG), a subordinate body of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC), has been tasked to develop standards for the delivery and presentation of navigationally relevant information about horizontal water movement (currents, tidal flow and river flow). It is anticipated that the standard will enable such information to be used with Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) in an Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) or in an Electronic Chart System (ECS) as an aid to navigation.

2. In accordance with Reference B, the SCWG has developed a User Requirements Survey Questionnaire, which is available online via the survey application SurveyMonkey (https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/IHO_SCWG1). A pdf version of the Questionnaire can be downloaded from the SCWG page of the IHO website (http://www.iho.int/srv1/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=598&Itemid=838). The survey will be available for a three-month period from 1 October to 31 December 2013 and is designed to identify user needs and requirements as well as to identify the present capabilities and products provided by individual Member States. The User Requirements Survey is also intended to identify what needs to be specified in the standard in order to allow the mariner to visualise and best use current information to navigate safely and to make informed navigational decisions.

3. In parallel with the information being requested from IHO Member States, Member States are requested to raise awareness of the Questionnaire amongst all relevant parties such as maritime administrations, equipment manufacturers, data distributors, users and other professional and educational organizations so as to gain the widest possible consultation and input. The IHB is including all relevant Non Governmental International Organizations registered as observers to the IHO in the distribution of this Circular Letter and invites them to also complete and advertise the Questionnaire.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Gilles BESSERO
Director

Information copy to relevant NGIO accredited as observers to the IHO:

Comité International Radio Maritime (CIRM)
Chart & Nautical Instrument Trade Association (CNITA)
Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA)
Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO)
Inland ENC Harmonization Group (IEHG)
International Association of Institutes of Navigation (IAIN)
International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)
International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH)
International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)
International Federation of Hydrographic Societies (IFHS)
International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)
International Maritime Pilots' Association (IMPA)
International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO)
Navigational Electronic Charts System Association (NECSA)
Professional Yachting Association (PYA)
Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services (RTCM)