



IHB File N° S3/8151/HSSC

CIRCULAR LETTER 08/2014  
20 January 2014

**OUTCOME OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AND  
STANDARDS COMMITTEE (HSSC)**

References:

- A. IHO CL 31/2013 dated 17 May - *Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) - 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 5-8 November 2013, Shanghai, China*
- B. IHO CL 34/2013 dated 31 May - *Promulgation of Temporary and Preliminary Notices in ENC ER Updates*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The fifth meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) took place in Shanghai, China, hosted by the Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) of China, from 5 to 8 November 2013, as announced in reference A. The meeting, chaired by Dr Mathias Jonas (Germany), was attended by 62 representatives from 25 Member States, PRIMAR Regional ENC Coordinating Centre (RENC), the IHB, and six international organizations accredited as observers.
2. The final minutes of HSSC5, together with the list of actions arising from the meeting and their current status, are now available from the HSSC page of the IHO website ([www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) > Committees & WG > HSSC), at section HSSC 5. The consolidated HSSC Work Plan 2014-2015 is also available from that page, at section Miscellaneous.

**Actions requiring input from Member States**

3. In accordance with the list of actions arising from HSSC5, those actions that require input from Member States are reviewed below, following the order of the list of actions.
4. The HSSC considered the responses to reference B on the status of production and publication of Temporary (T) and Preliminary (P) ENC updates. According to the information available at the IHB, 53 Member States are currently issuing ENCs either for themselves or on behalf of other States. There are 11 Member States known to produce (T) and (P) notices to mariners for paper charts that do not yet produce corresponding ENC updates. Five of these States have indicated that they expect to do so in the period 2013-2015. The Committee agreed that this situation leaves further room for improvement. ***Accordingly, Member States that do not plan to align their ENC and paper chart T&P update regimes are invited to reconsider their position and to report to the IHB on any need for assistance (action HSSC5/02).***
5. The Committee discussed the re-structuring of its working groups to acknowledge the changing focus from paper-based to digital products and services and to best use limited resources. The Committee approved in principle a new structure composed of working groups and project teams and

decided the establishment of a correspondence group (CG), composed of the Chairs of HSSC, TSMAD, DIPWG, CSPCWG, SNPWG, TWLWG, SCWG and an IHB representative, to develop draft terms of reference and rules of procedure, and to consider the composition of the new bodies as well as appropriate and timely transition arrangements. The Committee tasked the CG to report to its next meeting (HSSC6) and agreed that the CG be open to representatives of Member States. ***Accordingly, Member States that wish to participate in the CG are invited to indicate the name and contact information of their representative to the IHB ([info@iho.int](mailto:info@iho.int)), not later than 20 February 2014 (action HSSC5/08 & 09).***

6. Additionally, Member States are informed that they will be requested at a later stage to identify their contribution, in terms of resources, to the new structure (action HSSC5/10).

7. The Committee considered a draft Master Plan for the development and implementation of S-100 and endorsed its structure. The document has been posted on the HSSC page of the IHO web site, under Miscellaneous, for further review. ***Member States are invited to consider the draft Master Plan and to provide comments to the IHB ([info@iho.int](mailto:info@iho.int)), not later than 28 February 2014 (action HSSC5/25).***

8. The USA informed the Committee that it is considering the development of a product specification for sub surface navigation and invited collaboration on this development. ***Member States that are interested are invited to contact the USA ([colby.harmon@noaa.gov](mailto:colby.harmon@noaa.gov)) not later than 28 February 2014 (action HSSC5/38).***

9. The Committee decided to include the preparation of a new or revised edition of IHO Publication S-66 - *Facts about Electronic Charts and Carriage Requirements* in its 2014-2015 work plan. ***Member States are invited to propose to the IHB ([info@iho.int](mailto:info@iho.int)), directly or through the Regional ENC Coordinating Centres and not later than 28 February 2014, experts that could contribute to the task on a voluntary or possibly contractual basis.***

10. The Directing Committee will issue separate Circular Letters to seek Member States' approval of new editions of various IHO Publications (actions HSSC5/16, 17, 18, 34, 42 and 55), revisions to IHO Resolutions (action HSSC5/50) and new definitions in the Hydrographic Dictionary (action HSSC5/53), all endorsed by the HSSC.

#### **Liaison with external stakeholders**

11. The IHB will inform the external stakeholders of the outcomes affecting them and seek their input as appropriate.

12. HSSC reviewed the list of events that could offer opportunities to interact with stakeholders in 2014 and considered which events would justify the involvement of representatives from IHO Member States and/or from the IHB, taking into account the available resources. The participation currently envisaged is indicated in the table in Annex A. ***Member States are invited to liaise with the IHB if they are in a position to represent the IHO at those events where no participation is currently planned.***

#### **Revision of the terms of reference of HSSC working groups**

13. The Committee approved amendments to the terms of reference (TOR) of the following working groups (WG):

- Transfer Standard Maintenance and Application Development WG (TSMAD),
- Digital Information Portrayal WG (DIPWG),
- Standardization of Nautical Publications WG (SNPWG),
- Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure WG (MSDIWG),
- Surface Current WG (SCWG).

The amended TOR have been posted on the relevant WG page of the IHO web site.

14. The Committee also endorsed amendments to the TOR of the Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea (ABLOS). The Chair of ABLOS will now seek the approval of its other parent organization, the International Association of Geodesy (IAG).

#### **List of HSSC Contacts**

15. The list of HSSC Contacts used for intersessional correspondences is maintained by the IHB and posted on the HSSC page of the IHO web site (Home > Committees & WG > HSSC > Members). *Member States are requested to ensure that the relevant contact information is current and to inform the IHB ([info@iho.int](mailto:info@iho.int)) of any changes.*

#### **Next HSSC Meetings**

16. At the kind invitation of the Hydrographic Office of Chile (SHOA), the next HSSC meeting (HSSC6) will be held from 10 to 14 November 2014, in Valparaiso, Chile.

17. *Member States are invited to propose venues for the subsequent HSSC meetings to be held in early November 2015 (HSSC7) and early November 2016 (HSSC8).* Proposals are welcome at any time and preferably in advance of HSSC6.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,



Gilles BESSERO  
Director

Annex A: Potential Stakeholders' Events planned in 2014

**Potential Stakeholders' Events planned in 2014**

*Reviewed by HSSC*

<b>Events</b>	<b>Date (2014)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Construction (SDC 1)	20-24 Jan	London, United Kingdom	IHB participation (agenda item on the Polar Code)
2 <sup>nd</sup> International Workshop on Global e-Navigation Test Bed	27 Jan	Copenhagen, Denmark	IHB participation
E-navigation Underway 2014	28-30 Jan	Ferry Route Copenhagen, Denmark - Oslo, Norway - Copenhagen, Denmark	Event supported by the IHO. IHB participation
IIC Technologies Workshop on Electronic Charting	29-30 Jan	Vancouver, Canada	CHS to consider representing the IHO.
IHO/MSDI Open Forum	4 Feb	Silver Spring, Maryland, USA	IHO event In conjunction with MSDIWG-5
World Ocean Summit 2014	24-26 Feb	San Francisco, California, USA	
5 <sup>th</sup> Polar Shipping Summit	26-27 Feb	London, UK	
IHO Capacity Building Stakeholders' Seminar	05-06 Mar	Monaco	IHO event
IHO Standards of Competence Stakeholders' Seminar	07 Mar	Monaco	IHO event
Oceanology International 2014	11-13 Mar	London, UK	
E-navigation Underway North America	03-04 Apr	Vallejo, California, USA	Event supported by the IHO. IHO MS in the Americas invited to attend.
XXII IMPA <sup>1</sup> Congress	7-11 Apr	Panama City, Panama	
ENC-GNSS 2014	14-17 Apr	Rotterdam, Netherlands	

<sup>1</sup> IMPA : International Maritime Pilots' Association.

<b>Events</b>	<b>Date (2014)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Comments</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> Seoul International Maritime Forum	23 Apr	Seoul, ROK	IHB invited to attend
CIRM Annual Meeting	28 Apr - 02 May	Annapolis, Maryland, USA	IHB participation
93 <sup>rd</sup> Session IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 93)	14-23 May	London, United Kingdom	IHB participation
XVIII IALA Conference	25-31 May	A Coruña, Spain	IHB participation
15 <sup>th</sup> CARIS International User Group Conference	02-05 Jun	Brest, France	SHOM to consider representing the IHO
64 <sup>th</sup> Session IMO Technical Cooperation Committee (TC 64)	11-13 Jun	London, United Kingdom	IHB participation
XXV FIG International Congress	16-21 Jun	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	IHB participation
112 <sup>th</sup> Session IMO Council	16-20 Jun	London, United Kingdom	IHB participation if required (subject to the agenda)
1 <sup>st</sup> Session IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR 1)	30 Jun - 4 Jul	London, United Kingdom	IHB participation
ESRI International User Conference	14-18 Jul	San Diego, California, USA	
Oceanology International China 2014	03-05 Sep	Shanghai, China	
Sea Tech Week	13-17 Oct	Brest, France	
2da Convencion Mexicana de Hidrografia	22-24 Oct	Manzanillo, Mexico	Postponed to December in connexion with MACHC15
Euronaval 2014	27-31 Oct	Paris-Le Bourget, France	
Hydro 2014	[27-31 Oct]	Aberdeen, UK	Dates to be confirmed IHO forum
2 <sup>nd</sup> International Ocean Research Conference	17-21 Nov	Barcelona, Spain	

<b>Events</b>	<b>Date (2014)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Comments</b>
94 <sup>th</sup> Session IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 94)	17-21 Nov	London, United Kingdom	IHB participation
113 <sup>th</sup> Session IMO Council	1-5 Dec	London, United Kingdom	IHB participation if required (subject to the agenda)