



IHB File No. S3/0302

CIRCULAR LETTER 43/2014
13 June 2014

**MANUAL ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS
CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA - 1982**
Publication C-51, New Edition 5.0.0

Reference: A. IHO CL 69/2013 dated 29 November - *Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - 1982 (Publication C-51 – New Edition 5.0.0)*
B. IHO CL 28/2006 dated 7 March - *Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - 1982 (IHO Publication S-51 – 4th Edition)*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The Directing Committee would like to thank the following 44 Member States that replied to Reference A: Algeria, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom.

2. 43 Member States supported the proposed new Edition 5.0.0 of C-51 - *Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - 1982*. Eight States provided specific comments on the texts which, together with explanatory responses, are provided in Annex A. These comments have been considered by the IHB, jointly with the Chair and Vice-Chair of ABLOS.

3. At the date of Reference A there were 82 IHO Member States with three States suspended. Therefore in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article VI of the Convention on the IHO, the majority required for adoption of this new edition is 40.

4. Following the majority approval by IHO Member States as reported above, the new Edition 5.0.0 of C-51 has been reviewed and subsequently approved by the Executive Council of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG). As a result, Edition 5.0.0 of C-51 is adopted by both the IHO and IAG. Edition 5.0.0 will be available from the IHO publications download section of the IHO website shortly. Member States are invited to advertise and make use of the new edition as appropriate.

5. Edition 5.0.0 of C-51 supersedes the previous edition which was announced in Reference B.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Gilles BESSERO
Director

Copy: Chair, ABLOS

Annex A: Member States' responses to CL 69/2013 and consolidated remarks from the ABLOS Chair and Vice-Chair and the IHB.

**MEMBER STATES' RESPONSES TO CL 69/2013 AND CONSOLIDATED REMARKS
FROM THE ABLOS CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR AND THE IHB**

CANADA (Vote: YES)

Canada agrees with the changes to the content of the manual in the geodesy section (major overhaul) and other sections on the baselines and bilateral boundaries (minor changes).

Notes:

Some of the figures are of low quality (low resolution copies). This is apparently compensated by the fact that several of them are part of animations that can be downloaded from the IHO site.

Remarks: figures of better quality will be inserted in the final edition.

CHILE (Vote: YES)

We congratulate ABLOS for the preparation of this 5th edition of the publication C-51. We hope that the Spanish version will be made available as soon as possible after the approval of this new edition by the Member States.

Remarks: the IHB is looking forward to offers of support from Spanish-speaking Member States to prepare the Spanish version of the new edition.

FRANCE (Vote: YES)

SHOM proposes deleting the sentence added under para. 6.6 as compared to Edition N°4: (“It is now generally accepted by these juridical bodies that the correct procedure for the delimitation of a maritime boundary is to calculate the equidistant/median line and then, if necessary, adjust this line to produce an equitable result.”).

Indeed, it does not seem appropriate, in a technical manual, to fix a procedure based on the interpretation of the jurisprudence at a given moment.

Remarks: these comments have been taken into consideration and the text has been amended accordingly.

GREECE (Vote: NO)

Greece would like to comment that the following sentence should be placed at the main body of the document:

“The figures of this Manual do not intend to create any additional rights or additional obligations other than the provisions of UNCLOS (1982)”.

Remarks: these comments have been taken into consideration and the text has been amended accordingly.

JAPAN (Vote: YES)

Well done. Looking forward to further development.

MEXICO (Vote: YES)

It is convenient for the IHO Member States to have this publication to ensure an international standardization on the technical aspects related to UNCLOS.

NETHERLANDS (Vote: YES)

NLHO wishes to compliment the authors on their excellent work. Some minor comments:

1. pp 3-4 “ENC” is an acronym for Electronic Navigational Chart (as in S-32 and old ED).
2. Section number “3.4.1” is unnecessary as there is no section “3.4.2” etc.

Remarks: these comments have been taken into consideration and the text has been amended accordingly.

PERU (Vote: YES)

Inclusion and development of the concept of “relevant coast”.

Remarks: ABLOS will consider any need to develop the concept of “relevant coast” when preparing the next edition.