



IHB File N° S3/0104-S3/8152

CIRCULAR LETTER 72/2014
7 November 2014

RESULTS OF THE ENC DISTRIBUTION CENSUS

References:

- A. IHO CL 57/2014 dated 12 August - *Outcome of the Sixth Meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC6)*.
- B. IHO CL 59/2014 dated 13 August – *ENC Distribution Census*.
- C. IHO Resolution 1/1997 as amended - *Principles of the Worldwide Electronic Navigational Chart Database (WEND)*.
- D. EIHC-5 – CONF.EX5/G/03 (*Red Book*) and Draft Summary Record No 6.

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Following a decision made at the sixth meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (Reference A, Action IRCC6/38), the IHB Directing Committee issued the Circular Letter in Reference B, asking ENC producer nations whether they distribute their ENCs via the established system of RENCs and, if not, what are their reasons for not doing so. Those Member States who do not produce ENCs were also requested to indicate their primary ENC charting authority, in order to get a complete census of ENC distribution.

2. As explained in Reference B, this question relates to the implementation of the WEND Principles, as stated in clause 2c of Reference C concerning the provision of services:

c) Member States are encouraged to distribute their ENCs through a RENC in order to share in common experience and reduce expenditure, and to ensure the greatest possible standardization, consistency, reliability and availability of ENCs.

3. The question of the implementation of the WEND Principles was also discussed at the 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC-5) under the Proposal PRO-7 (Reference D). The IHB presented the interim results of the responses to the ENC distribution census during the Conference. This Circular Letter reports the final results.

4. The Directing Committee would like to thank the following 58 Member States that replied to Reference B: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Latvia, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, UK, Uruguay and USA.

5. Specific comments from Member States are provided in the Annex to this letter. In summary:

- a. Among the 57 Member States that are ENC Producers:
 - 41 (84 %) of the 49 who responded to the CL indicated that they distribute all their ENCs through the RENCs, either as RENC Members or through distribution agreements.

- b. Among the 8 ENC Producers who responded to the CL and indicated that they do not distribute all their ENCs through the system of RENCs:
- Three do not distribute their ENCs yet,
 - One has set up an “open” web-based distribution system,
 - Two are constrained by national regulations related to international agreements,
 - One does not distribute some ENCs in order to recover the costs involved,
 - One refers to the absence of a RENC in its region.
- c. Nine non-ENC Producers indicated their Primary Charting Authority (PCA). Seven of those have a PCA who does not distribute all of the ENCs through the system of RENCs.

6. In accordance with the outcome of the discussions of PRO-7 at the EIHC-5, the results of the census will be considered by the IRCC in its assessment of the long term consequences of not achieving full implementation of the WEND Principles (Conference Decision 12 refers).

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mustafa IPTES', is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

Mustafa IPTES
Director

Annex: Member States' comments provided in response to the questions in Reference B.

Copy: - Chair of the Inter Regional Coordination Committee
- Chair of the WEND Working Group

MEMBER STATES' RESPONSES¹ TO CL 59/2014

The three questions Q1, Q2 and Q3 were arranged in two groups (ENC producers, and non-ENC producers) as follows:

“Member States that are ENC producers:

Q1: Do you distribute all the ENCs you produce via the established system of RENCs?	Yes	No
Q2: If no, please indicate the reason(s) for not distributing any ENCs via the established system of RENCs:		

Member States that are not ENC producers:

Q3: Please indicate your Primary Charting Authority for the production of ENCs for waters within your national jurisdiction:

Please provide any additional comments in section below.”

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Member States' Comments are provided here below

ALGERIA

Q 1: NO

Additional Comments

Le Service Hydrographique des Forces Navales is progressing with the implementation of S-63 as recommended by the IHO.

AUSTRALIA

Q1: YES

Additional Comments

Australia also provides a local distribution service to commercial vessels and pilots operating exclusively in the Australian Charting Area. This addresses concerns over the high price of ENC distributed through RENCs and their affiliated Value Added Resellers.

BANGLADESH

Q3: Primary Charting Authority is Bangladesh Navy, but not producing ENC at the moment.

Additional Comments

Planning to produce ENC shortly with the help of other competent HO.

BRAZIL

Q1: YES

Additional Comments

Brazil is affiliated to 2 RENCs: PRIMAR and IC-ENC.

CHILE

Q1: YES

¹ When comments only.

Additional Comments

All SHOA's ENC production is distributed directly and through IC-ENC RENC.

CUBA

Q1: YES

Additional Comments

Through the RENCs system, the security in the exchange of information and its standardisation are guaranteed; it allows sharing the experiences between the Member States, the IHO databases are updated.

CYPRUS

Q3: UKHO

Additional Comments

Cyprus' Primary Charting Authority for the production of ENCs for waters of national jurisdiction is UKHO.

ECUADOR

Q1: NO

Q2: This Member State does not distribute ENCs as we are in the national process of release. The charts having already bypassed the IC ENC verification process will be released at the end of the current year.

Additional Comments

This Member State supports the proposal to set up a South American RENC.

EGYPT

Q1: YES

Additional Comments

A contract dated 29 Sept 2014 has been signed with IC-ENC to distribute ENHD ENCs.

FINLAND

Q1: YES

Additional Comments

Our ENCs distributed via PRIMAR.

FRANCE

Q1: YES

Additional Comments

France distributes via the RENC system all the ENC that it produces including those for the waters of the following countries with whom bilateral agreements have been made:

Member States: Morocco, Monaco
Non Member States: Benin, Comoros, Rep. of Congo, Djibouti, Senegal, Togo.

GUATEMALA

Q1: NO

Q2: Currently Guatemala is not producing its own ENCs

Q3: National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA)

INDIA

Q1: NO

Q2: The concept of WEND with Regional RENC did not fructify and there were many Value Added Resellers (VARs) who were ready to market the ENC. VARs thus established itself as a viable alternate to distribute ENC.

IRELAND
Q3: UKHO

JAMAICA
Q3: UKHO

MEXICO
Question 1: YES

Additional Comments

Up to this date, this Member State has sent to the IC-ENC for validation: 14 new ENC's and 3 new editions, to be distributed and sold.

MONACO
Q3: SHOM

MOROCCO
Q3: SHOM

Additional Comments

Nautical paper charts covering Moroccan coasts are co-produced with SHOM. Preparation and production are under the responsibility of DHOC, quality control, validation and publication are done by SHOM. Production of equivalent ENC's is carried out by SHOM.

NIGERIA
Q3: UKHO

Additional Comments

Nigeria is not among Member States that are ENC producers that is the reason why that question was not answered.

PERU
Q1: YES

Additional Comments

The Hydrography and Navigation Directorate of the Navy of Peru distributes its ENC's through the IC ENC, whose headquarters are based in the United Kingdom since 2006.

PHILIPPINES
Q1: YES

Additional Comments

The Philippines ENC's are about to be distributed through the IC-ENC.

QATAR
Q3: UKHO

Additional Comments

Qatar as no bilateral agreement for cooperation in chart production.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION
Q1: NO

Q2: ENC's produced by the Hydrographic Office of the Russian Federation are distributed by the company Transas. Transas is an official distributor of the electronic products manufactured by the Department of Navigation and Oceanography (DNO) of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence (MoD) and liaises with the Regional ENC Coordinating Centres (RENCs). The principal reason for the lack of direct interaction between the DNO of the RF MoD and RENCs refers to the lack of relevant authority under the national legislation.

Additional Comments

Noticing the increasing requirements for the quality and availability of ENC's, we believe it would be advisable to expand the established system of RENC's, using the benefits of further engagement of the potential of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions, with a view of pursuing the regional approach to issues on ENC's data coverage in accordance with the paragraph 3(c) of the IHO Resolution 1/1997 as amended - Principles of the Worldwide Electronic Navigational Chart Database (WEND) and taking into account local specifics of various Regions.

SAUDI ARABIA

Q1: NO

Additional Comments

The General Commission for Survey has just commenced production of ENC's, based on fresh hydrographic surveys and pending quality control/quality assurance. The distribution is not being done through established RENC so far, since the modalities for distribution is still under consideration.

ROMANIA

Q1: YES

Additional Comments

Maritime Hydrographic Directorate distributes their ENC's via the International Centre for Electronic Navigational Charts (IC-ENC) from 2012.

THAILAND

Q1: NO

Q2: Distribution of ENC's via RENC falls into international agreement practice. We are required by the domestic laws and regulations that any international agreement to be made must be approved by the government. The submission for approval has been processed by our Office; however it takes longer than expected and it is still in progress. The internal political situation in recent years is another factor which prolongs the process.

TUNISIA

Q1: NO

Q2: A distribution contract for Tunisian ENC's is currently being signed with the UKHO.

TURKEY

Q1: YES

Additional Comments

TN-ONHO distributes its own ENC's to Turkish Navy from TN-ONHO. Besides, TN-ONHO produces and distributes the ENC's of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus via RENC.

URUGUAY

Q1: YES

Additional Comments

SOHMA is registered as IC-ENC Member since August 2010.

UNITED KINGDOM

Q1: NO

Additional Comments

The overwhelming majority are distributed through IC-ENC.

A small and reducing number of ENC's (those that resulted from UKHO's work to enable IMO's ECDIS mandation) are yet to be released to the RENC.

This work was carried out at significant expense and UKHO is still required to recover these costs.

USA

Q1: NO

Additional Comments

While the U.S. is not a member of a RENC, it has established an open distribution mechanism via the web. In addition, it has a certified ENC distributor program where ENC distributors can apply and be approved to distribute NOAA ENCs. There are currently 10 approved distributors, including PRIMAR. The United States feels that the combination of open distribution and our Certified Distribution program complies with the WEND principles regarding open distribution.

The U.S. also produces the ENCs for Panama (non IHO MS) and will soon release the ENCs for Haiti. Any ENCs that the U.S. produces as the charting authority are distributed using our ENC distribution process.