



IHB File N° S3/8151/HSSC

CIRCULAR LETTER 76/2014
28 November 2014

**RE-STRUCTURING OF THE WORKING GROUPS OF
THE HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE (HSSC)**

References:

- A. IHO CL 08/2014 dated 20 January - *Outcome of the fifth meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC)*
- B. IHO CL 39/2014 dated 21 May - *Re-structuring of the Working Groups of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC)*
- C. EIHC-5 - Decision No 7 - *HSSC Report*
- D. Document HSSC6-04.2A - *Report of the Correspondence Group on HSSC Working Groups' Restructuring (CGHR)*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The purpose of this Circular Letter is to report changes to certain Working Groups of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) and to invite Member States to indicate their participation in the new groups that have been formed, in advance of their first meetings.
2. Reference A reported that, at its 5th meeting, the HSSC had approved in principle a new structure in order to reflect the changing focus from paper to digital data based products and services, the best use of limited resources, improvements in its efficiency and to facilitate inputs from industry and other stakeholders. Reference A also indicated that the HSSC had established a correspondence group to develop detailed proposals for the implementation of the new structure and report to the subsequent HSSC meeting (HSSC-6).
3. Reference B invited Member States to:
 - consider the draft proposals developed by the correspondence group;
 - indicate what would be their level of participation in HSSC and its subsidiary organs, subject to the approval of the proposals, and
 - provide their comments on the proposals that might affect their contribution to the activities of the various bodies.
4. The HSSC interim progress report presented at the 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC-5) highlighted the development of the new structure. The Conference noted the report and “*supported the process of restructuring and future activities of the HSSC working groups through active participation and other in-kind contributions*” (Reference C).
5. The Directing Committee would like to thank the following 22 Member States that replied to Reference B: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, UK and USA. Their inputs were reviewed by the correspondence group and commented upon in the report submitted to HSSC-6 (Reference D).
6. After reviewing the report of the correspondence group and the comment papers submitted to the Committee, the HSSC agreed at HSSC-6 on the implementation of a new structure including four new working groups (WG):

- S-100WG
- ENC Standards Maintenance WG
- Nautical Information Provision WG
- Tides, Water Level and Currents WG

The terms of reference of the new working groups, the generic terms of reference for “project teams” and the arrangements for the transition from the current to the new structure were agreed. The HSSC agreed to the continuation - under their current terms of reference - of the Chart Standardization and Paper Chart WG, to be renamed the Nautical Cartography WG, the Data Protection Scheme WG and the Data Quality WG. The continuing existence of these working groups will be subject to annual review and further consideration of their interactions with the new working groups.

7. The HSSC approved the transfer of the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures WG from the HSSC to the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC). The HSSC also decided to further investigate the possible establishment of a Hydrographic Surveys WG.

8. The terms of reference of the new working groups and their work plans for 2015-2016 are available on the IHO web site at:

Home > Committees & WG > HSSC > Past Meetings / Réunions passées > HSSC 6 - Viña del Mar, Chile (11-14 November 2014) Documents > Post Meeting Documents

The new structure and the arrangements for the transition from the current to the new structure are summarized in Annex A. The new working groups will consider the establishment of project teams as appropriate.

9. As requested by the HSSC and in order to assist the transition coordinators to prepare the first meetings of the new groups, the Directing Committee invites Member States to designate their representatives in the new working groups and to consider nominating candidates for WG Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary).

10. Member States are kindly invited to respond to the IHB (info@iho.int) at their earliest convenience and **no later than 15 January 2015**, using the Response Form at Annex B.

11. Any changes to the nominated representatives in the unchanged working groups should be reported to the Chair of the relevant working group, with copy to the Secretary, if applicable, and/or to the IHB.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Gilles BESSERO
Director

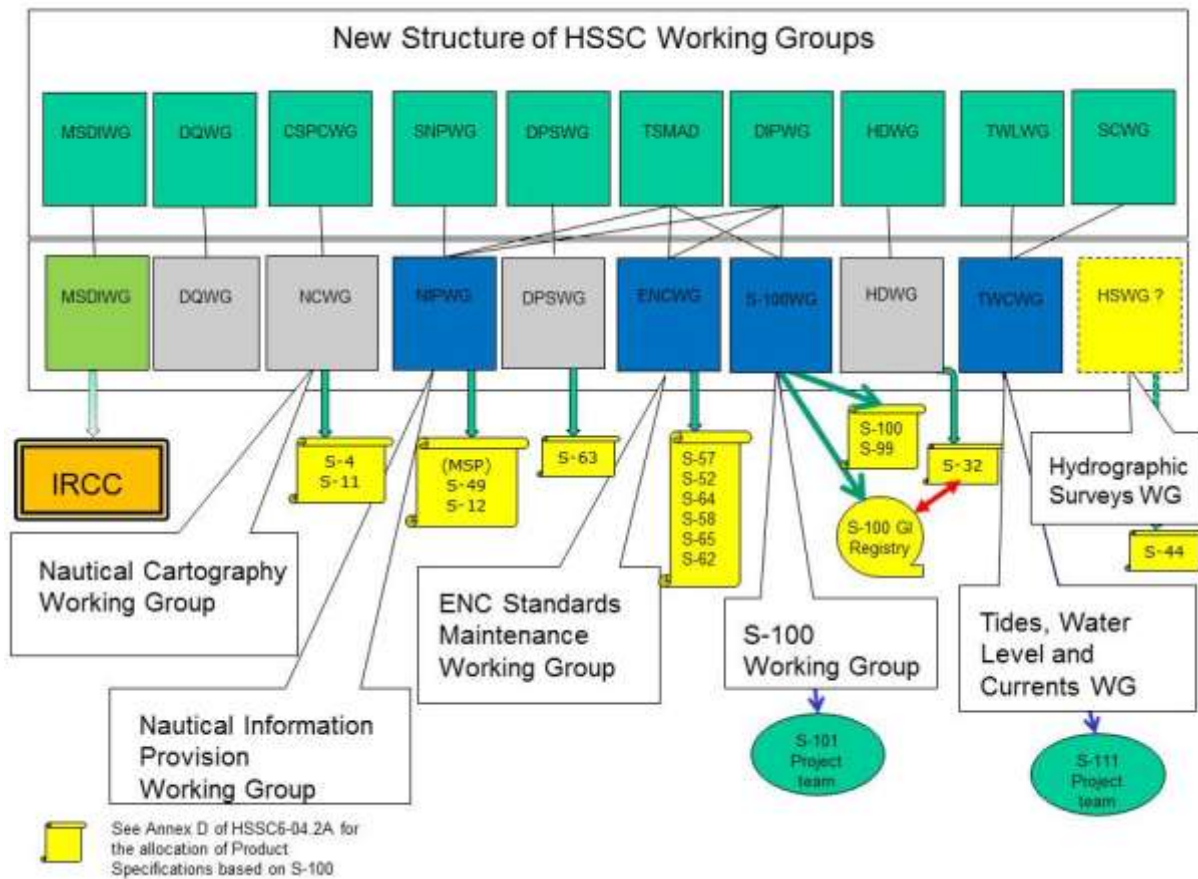
Annexes:

- A. Arrangements for the transition to the new structure of HSSC Working Groups
- B. Response Form

Copy (by e-mail):

- HSSC Contacts representing IHO Member States
- HSSC Stakeholders' Contacts

Arrangements for the transition to the new structure of HSSC Working Groups



New WG Title	Current WG	Last meeting of Current WG	Transition Coordinator	First meeting of New WG	Comments
S-100WG	TSMAD DIPWG	(31 Mar - 4 Apr 2014)	Chair TSMAD	2-6 Feb 2015	Joint meeting aligned with planned dates for TSMAD29 & DIPWG7
ENCWG	TSMAD DIWPG		Chair DIPWG		
TWCWG	TWLWG SCWG	(25-28 Mar 2014) (28-30 May 2014)	Chair TWLWG	21-24 Apr 2015	
NIPWG	SNPWG	1-4 Dec 2014	Chair SNPWG	June 2015	
	DPSWG				Review of the continuation of these WGs at HSSC-7
	DQWG				
	HDWG				
	NCWG				

Note: MSDIWG will report to IRCC from 1 January 2015

Participation in the New Working Groups of HSSC

RESPONSE FORM

(to be returned to the IHB as early as possible and **no later than 15 January 2015**)

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

Date:	<input type="text"/>	Member State:	<input type="text"/>
Contact:	<input type="text"/>	E-mail:	<input type="text"/>

HSSC Body	Representative(s)				
	Status (1)	Surname (Family Name) (2)	First Name	E-mail	Nomination (3)
S-100WG					
NIPWG					
ENCWG					
TWCWG					

Comments (if required):

- (1) A (Active member - present at meetings) or C (Corresponding member - point of contact).
- (2) In the case of multiple surnames, such as in Spanish-speaking countries, underline the name generally used.
- (3) Indicate candidacy for Chair, Vice-Chair or Secretary.