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**IHO PUBLICATION C-55 -
STATUS OF HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYING AND NAUTICAL CHARTING WORLDWIDE
- REQUEST FOR UPDATED INFORMATION**

References: A. IHO Publication C-55 - *Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide*
B. IHO Resolution 1/1997 as amended - *Principles for the Worldwide Electronic Navigational Chart Database – WEND*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. During the 7th meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) in June, the IHB reported on the development of the IHO Geographic Information System (IHO/GIS). In particular, the IHB reported that the “Category of Zone of Confidence” (CATZOC) information available in ENC^s could be used to create a GIS layer that would serve as a very useful proxy for the quality of survey coverage worldwide, to supplement the current percentage figures which are approximate estimates and have very limited geographic context.

2. Having a more refined assessment of survey coverage and quality is a very important requirement in the proper assessment of requirements and the allocation of resources in the IHO Capacity Building Programme. Accordingly, the IHB requested the IRCC to task the Regional ENC Co-ordinating Centres (RENC^s) to seek the consent of their contributing countries to allow access to the CATZOC data available in ENC cells in order to create an enhanced database that will support IHO Publication C-55 - *Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide* (Reference A).

3. The IRCC was informed that most ENC producers distribute their ENC^s via RENCs as recommended by IHO Resolution 1/1997 (Reference B). As a result, the Committee agreed on the following actions:

Action 24: *RENCs to seek the consent of member Hydrographic Offices and others that distribute their ENC^s through a RENC, to provide CATZOC information to the IHB on their behalf for inclusion in the IHO Publication C-55 (deadline: July 2015).*

Action 25: *RENCs to report the results of their consultations with their members to provide CATZOC information to the IHB as soon as permission is received (deadline: IRCC8).*

4. ENC producers that distribute their ENCs via a RENC, but have not yet provided their consent to IC-ENC and/or Primar are invited to do so as soon as possible.

5. Meanwhile, in order to achieve a fully populated ZOC database, the Directing Committee invites the following Member States that appear not to make all of their ENCs available via the RENC system to send the relevant CATZOC information extracted from ENCs directly to the IHB:

Algeria, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tunisia and the United Kingdom.

6. The ENC producer Member States that do not distribute data via a RENC are invited to provide CATZOC polygons for their ENC coverage as a Shapefile or in a similar GIS compatible format **directly to the IHB (adddt@iho.int)**. Information may also be sent by post. The relevant Member States are invited to provide their first input **no later than 31 December 2015**. Further updates, based on the publication of new or updated editions of the relevant ENCs, should be sent to the IHB on an annual basis.

7. For those areas where Member States do not provide CATZOC polygons, the published GIS layer will display a blank zone, indicating that no appropriate quality information is available.

On behalf of the Directing Committee

Yours sincerely,



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Director

Copied to: General Manager, IC-ENC
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