

**7TH MEETING OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Busan, Republic of Korea, 9-13 November 2015**

Report of the Advisory Board on Law of the Sea (ABLOS)

ABLOS is a joint board established by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)
and the International Association of Geodesy (IAG)

Submitted by:	Chair, ABLOS
Related Documents:	C-51
Related Projects:	None

Chair:	John Brown, United Kingdom (IHO Member)
Vice-Chair:	Niels Andersen, Denmark (IAG Member)
Secretary:	David Wyatt, IHB
Members IHO:	Brazil, Japan, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom
Members IAG:	Canada, Chile, Denmark, Indonesia
Ex Officio:	UN DOALOS and IHB
Observers:	Australia, Bangladesh, India, Japan, United Kingdom
<i>see Annex A for full details</i>	

Meetings Held During Reporting Period

ABLOS 21	21 – 22 October 2014	Copenhagen, Denmark
ABLOS 22	19 & 23 October 2015	IHB, Monaco
ABLOS 8 Conference	20 – 22 October 2015	IHB, Monaco

Future Meetings

ABLOS 23	26 – 28 October 2016	Seoul, Republic of Korea
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Work Program

The 21st meeting of ABLOS was hosted by the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), and held at the First Hotel King Frederik in Copenhagen, Denmark from 21 – 22 October 2014. It was followed by a seminar titled 'UNCLOS and the Arctic – Changes Now and in the Near Future' on 23rd October 2014 held at the DTU. ABLOS members and IHO appointed observers from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Japan, Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom were present.

The meeting continued preparations for the 8th ABLOS Conference, which is planned to be held in Monaco in 20 – 22 October 2015 under the title "UNCLOS: Advances in Governing the Blue World". Detailed information for the Conference was announced by IHO Circular Letter 80/2014 dated 12 December 2014 and on the ABLOS page of the IHO web site.

The meeting discussed the next round of revisions identified during the final stages of review of Edition 5.0.0 of the Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - 1982 (TALOS

Manual - C-51). An Editorial Board was appointed, under the leadership of Mr Chris Carleton, to progress this work.

ABLOS members and observers discussed notable topics from the various conferences, seminars and workshops that they had attended and undertaken since the previous Business Meeting. The meeting also discussed the material for the ABLOS capacity building training course and reviewed ways to develop it further.

The meeting reviewed the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the ABLOS, noting there was no requirement for amendments at present. The status of current Board members was reviewed, the Chair was directed to contact one IAG Board member, whose term is due to end in July 2015, to confirm his willingness and ability to serve a further 4 year term, which the Board unanimously supported and recommended that the IAG approve the additional term.

The ABLOS meeting was followed by a Law of the Sea seminar, which was attended by approximately 65 delegates from across the region, including United Kingdom, Faroe Islands and Greenland, as well as representatives from a wide selection of Danish government ministries, technical authorities and universities. The seminar covered presentations on: What is ABLOS; The demonstration of entitlement to the Northern Continental Shelf of the Faroe Islands; Submission of the Kingdom of Denmark regarding Greenland, including the Arctic Ocean; UNCLOS extended continental shelf and ridges; Korean Arctic policy; Overview of the challenges in the Arctic; Contrasting arenas for conflict and cooperation: considerations the Arctic and the South China Sea; and Necessary Arctic space infrastructure for a sustainable Arctic development. The presentations were followed by a question and answer session for the ABLOS members.

The 22nd meeting of ABLOS was hosted by the IHB, and held at the Bureau in Monaco on 19 and 23 October 2015. It was followed by the 8th ABLOS Conference titled '*UNCLOS: Advances in Managing the Blue World*' from 20-22 October 2015 held at the Novotel, Monaco. Presenters from Australia, Canada, Chile, Denmark, France, Greece, Indonesia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and UK gave a wide ranging series of presentations to about 70 delegates from 28 different IHO Member States. All abstracts and presentations are available from the ABLOS section of the IHO website.

The 22nd meeting discussed final preparations for the conference and conducted a post conference analysis. Preparations for the 9th ABLOS Conference were initiated with the formation of the organizing committee. The revisions identified for chapter 3 of Edition 5.0.0 of the Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - 1982 (TALOS Manual - C-51) were discussed, the revision time frame and process were decided with a target completion of HSSC8 in 2016. At the same time it was agreed a proof review of the entire manual would be conducted to correct any errors. The location and dates for the 9th ABLOS Conference were discussed and it was agreed to hold it in Monaco 10-11 October 2017. Conference themes were discussed and it was tentatively agreed 'Pushing the Limits of UNCLOS'.

A presentation was given at the 8th ABLOS Conference by DOALOS, which highlighted the effectiveness of S-121 (Marine Limits and Boundaries) as a medium for maritime limits and boundaries data. It was strongly recommended that States Parties consider using this format for lodging information to which they desire the UN to give due publicity.

Progress on HSSC Action Items

HSSC6.1 – amendment of ABLOS Terms of Reference to allow chair to designate a representative, other than the vice-chair, to report to HSSC meetings agreed with IAG.

Problems Encountered

It is noted that 4 of the 8 ABLOS members are now serving their second term; it is of concern that, whilst there are 4 IHO observers, there are no IAG observers gaining experience potentially to progress as IAG appointed members. IAG members have been requested to seek suitable individuals.

Any Other Items of Note

N/A

Conclusions and Recommended Actions

N/A

Justification and Impacts

N/A

Action Required of HSSC

The HSSC is invited to:

- a. Note this report
- b. Endorse the continuation of ABLOS to pursue its work under its Terms of Reference
- c. Review and endorse the work program at Annex B

MEMBERS OF ABLOS

IHO representatives:

John Brown (Chair) {October 2012-October 2014; October 2014 – October 2018}

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12. ABLOS WORK PLAN 2016-17

12.1 ABLOS Tasks

A	Organise the 9 th ABLOS Conference in 2017 (IHO Task 2.12.2)
B	Maintain IHO Publication C-51 "Technical Aspects of the Law of the Sea (TALOS) Manual" (IHO Task 2.12.3)
C	Deliver a standard training program on the hydrographic aspects of maritime delimitation (IHO Task 3.5.2)
D	Provide advice and guidance on the technical aspect of the Law of the Sea to relevant organizations, bodies and Member States (IHO Task 2.12.3)
E	Organize and prepare ABLOS business meetings in 2016 and 2017 (IHO Task 2.12.1)

Task	Work item	Priority H-high M-medium L-low	Next milestone	Start Date	End Date	Status P-planned O-ongoing C-completed	Contact Person(s) * indicates leader	Related Pubs / Standard	Remarks
A1	Organise 9 th ABLOS Conference	H	Begin advertising Identify key note speaker Attract presentation abstracts	2015 2015 2015	2017 2016 2017	O O O	All members of ABLOS through Niels Andersen*	N/A	
B1	Prepare draft 6 th Edition of C-51 (TALOS Manual) for adoption by Member States	M H H	 Generate draft new structure for chapter 3 Review contents of chapters and identify areas requiring revision	 2014 2014	 2016 2016	 O O	Chris Carleton*	IHO Publication C-51	
C1	Deliver standard training programmes for the CBSC	H		2011	Continuous	O	John Brown*		Workshops planned in 2017 in the CBSC Work Plan.

Task	Work item	Priority H-high M-medium L-low	Next milestone	Start Date	End Date	Status P-planned O-ongoing C-completed	Contact Person(s) * indicates leader	Related Pubs / Standard	Remarks
D1	Provide advice and guidance on the technical aspect of the Law of the Sea	H		Continuous		O	All members of ABLOS through the Chair		

12.2 ABLOS Meetings (Tasks A & E)

Date	Location	Activity
1 - 6 October 2012	IHB, Monaco	ABLOS 19 and 7 th ABLOS Conference
28 - 29 October 2013	Muscat, Oman	ABLOS 20
21 - 22 October 2014	Copenhagen, Denmark	ABLOS 21
19 - 23 October 2015	IHB, Monaco	ABLOS 22 and 8 th ABLOS Conference
26 - 28 October 2016	Seoul, Korea	ABLOS 23
9 - 12 October 2017	IHB, Monaco	ABLOS 24 and 9 th ABLOS Conference

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