

**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC
ORGANIZATION**

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HDWG 03/2017

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Plymouth, 26 January 2017

To : HDWG members and HSSC observers concerned with the Hydrographic Dictionary
Subject : HDWG meeting and revised Terms of Reference

Dear Colleagues,

1. At the 8th session of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC8) meeting, I presented, as the WG Chair, a new method to revive the Hydrographic Dictionary Working Group (HDWG) and tackle the challenges resulting from a changing world and emerging technologies. In particular, the inclusions of authoritative definitions arising from the IHO Geospatial Information Registry and the issue of languages have to be addressed in the light of modern experience.

To this effect, the WG Secretary (David Wyatt) and I have drafted revised Terms of Reference, Annex B, that need to be considered by the Working Group for endorsement and subsequent HSSC approval, the main changes affecting the dictionary being as follows:

- Unique IHO reference;
- Optional translations in an unlimited number of languages, under National HOs' responsibility;
- Recourse to Crowdsourcing;
- Ingestion of all unambiguous terms contained into the IHO Geospatial Information Items; and
- (GII) registry without further HDWG interference.

2. At the end of the presentation, the US representative correctly observed that the changes proposed amounted to a new strategy that the HSSC did not have the opportunity to assess properly. This should need to be further considered at an HDWG meeting as appropriate, extract of HSSC8 meeting report, see Annex A.

This meeting, the first in fifteen years, could be organised in May, June or July 2017 either in London or in Paris, with a view, amongst other agenda items, to discuss the proposed revised ToRs and present the draft HD online demonstrator developed by the Wikimedia Foundation, who it is hoped will also participate.

3. You are invited to consider the proposed draft ToRs attached at Annex B and submit your comments and feedback to the Secretary and me prior to the meeting.

4. In addition, you are requested to express your choice of venue (London or Paris or other) and date (sometime in May to July), see Annex C. The final date will be decided after a further doodle consultation with all current members of the HDWG, see Annex D. It is considered that a period of 2 to 3 days is required to complete the necessary preliminary work identified in the Work Plan 2017-2018 approved at HSSC8, see Annex E.

Looking forward to meeting you and wishing you a happy “Rooster” new year,

Yours sincerely,



Jean Laporte
Chairman HDWG



Enclosures :

- Annex A - Excerpt of the draft minutes of the 8th Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (Monaco, 14 – 18 November 2016)
- Annex B: HDWG Terms of Reference_rev5
- Annex C: Questionnaire (choice of date and venue)
- Annex D: Current list of HDWG members
- Annex E: Approved HDWG Work Plan P2017-2018

Excerpt of the draft minutes of the 8th Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee
(Monaco, 14 – 18 November 2016)

5.9 Hydrographic Dictionary (HDWG)

Doc: HSSC8-05.9A Report and Recommendations of HDWG (HDWG Chair) - Presentation

The HDWG Chair highlighted the progress made with the IHO Hydrographic Dictionary (HD), thanks to the excellent work undertaken by the seconded officer from Peru at the IHO Secretariat, who has sorted out many inconsistencies with the existing documents. The HDWG Chair also reminded that the transformation of the HD to the wiki version had led to the loss of ability to maintain cross language links. Thanks to the work carried out by the seconded officer from Peru, the HD documents have been harmonised, and a common unique identifier has been allocated which can be used for linking common language items.

The HDWG Chair introduced attractive suggestions for the development and improvement of the HD in the future such as optional translations in an unlimited number of languages, to be implemented under the responsibility of national HOs. The US noted though that no-one had the opportunity to assess this new strategy prior to the HSSC-8 meeting and as a consequence, this new policy should first be considered at the HDWG meeting to be planned early 2017.

The location and the maintenance of authoritative definitions (IHO Geospatial Information Registry vs S-32 – *Hydrographic Dictionary*) were also questioned.

Outcome:

- The Committee noted the report of the HDWG and agreed on the way forward.

→Actions [HSSC8/43](#), [HSSC8/44](#)

→Decision [HSSC8/45](#)

IHO WORKING GROUP ON THE HYDROGRAPHIC DICTIONARY (HDWG) Terms of Reference_rev5

Ref: 1st HSSC Meeting (Singapore, October 2009)

1. Objectives

- To provide to all users a unique definition of hydrographic terms validated by the IHO.
- To review and update systematically the hydrographic definitions which fall within the IHO technical and scientific domain.
- To incorporate all unambiguous terms contained in the IHO Geographical Information Items (GII) registry for the digital use by nautical cartographers
- To facilitate the consultation of the Hydrographic Dictionary by IHO Member States, regardless of language issues by use of unique identifiers (ID).
- To offer the dictionary users additional definitions of technical terms that do not fall within the IHO technical and scientific domain, but are nonetheless relevant to hydrographic sciences and activities.

2. Authority

The HDWG is a subsidiary of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) and its work is subject to HSSC approval.

3. Operating principles

- Each hydrographic definition should be unique and expressed in one of the IHO languages from which other language versions will be derived.
- Unambiguous definitions used in digital cartography are provided under the responsibility of the custodians of the IHO GII registry.
- Additional non-hydrographic definitions are provided as a convenience and are only the result of the HDWG best effort, without guaranteeing exhaustivity either of the definition or of the sources.
- Each hydrographic term will be associated with a unique identifier to facilitate further multilingual cross-comparisons.
- Whilst the format of multilingual versions of the HD dictionary is defined by the HDWG, the content and details of translations, either complete or simplified, shall remain under the responsibility of the Member States wishing to develop their national versions at their own expense.
- Member states will be encouraged to liaise with the Wikimedia-Foundation to contribute to the Wiki worldwide hydrographic database with their national definitions based on the translation of IHO reference terms and definitions.
- HD national versions will comprise a table of cross-comparisons between the following entries: Identifier, IHO reference term and definitions, National term.
- These principles will be implemented progressively with the assistance of the Wikimedia-Foundation. In the meantime, the existing Wiki versions will continue being used and maintained.

4. Procedures

a. The HDWG should conduct its business mainly by correspondence. Meetings will be held whenever deemed necessary by the HSSC but should be at least once between Conferences (Conference to be replaced by Assembly when established). When meetings are scheduled, and in order to allow any WG submissions and reports to be submitted to HSSC on time, WG meetings should not normally occur later than nine weeks before a meeting of the HSSC.

b. The HDWG may establish individual language sub-groups as necessary. These sub-groups should work by correspondence only and their work will be coordinated by a leader appointed by the HDWG.

- c. The HDWG should liaise with other IHO bodies developing publications containing glossaries to ensure consistency. 'Terms and Definitions' should be a standing agenda item for meetings of all HSSC subordinate bodies.
- d. The WG should liaise as appropriate with other organisations developing dictionaries and/or glossaries.
- e. The WG should develop a work programme for each year that includes target completion and dates where appropriate.

5. Composition and Chairmanship

- a. Membership of the HDWG is open to all Member States wishing to participate. The IHO Secretariat will maintain a list of nominated members. The HDWG should have one representative from each HSSC subordinate body.
- b. The HDWG may invite expert contributors to participate in its deliberations during and between meetings. Accredited Non-Governmental International Organizations (NGIO) may also participate as observers in the work and meetings of the HDWG.
- c. Expert Contributor membership is open to entities and organisations that can provide a relevant and constructive contribution to the work of the WG. These may include, in particular, the Wikimedia-Foundation in a position of permanent consultant.
- d. The Chair and vice-Chair shall be representatives of Member States and be independent of any HSSC subordinate body. The election of the Chair and vice-Chair should normally be decided at the first meeting following each ordinary session of the Assembly and, in such case, shall be determined by vote of the Member States present and voting. If no qualified candidates are members of the HDWG, the IHO Secretariat will call for suitable volunteers from Member States and submit the list to HDWG members for election.
- e. Decisions should generally be made by consensus. If a vote is required, only Member States may cast a vote. Votes shall be on the basis of one vote per Member State represented.
- f. If a secretary is required it should normally be drawn from a Member State representative of the HDWG.
- g. If the Chair is unable to carry out the duties of the office, the Vice-Chair shall act as the Chair with the same powers and duties.
- h. Expert Contributors shall seek approval of membership from the Chair.
- i. Expert Contributor membership may be withdrawn in the event that a majority of the M/S represented in the WG agree that an Expert Contributor's continued participation is irrelevant or unconstructive to the work of the WG.
- j. All members shall inform the Chair in advance of their intention to attend meetings of the WG.
- k. In the event that a large number of Expert Contributor members seek to attend a meeting, the Chair may restrict attendance by inviting Expert Contributors to act through one or more collective representatives.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Choice of date and venue

1. In order to ease the travel requirements of participants, it is suggested the meeting is held near an international air hub. The preferred locations are London or Paris, where the chair and the secretary are confident of obtaining free use of meeting facilities with adjacent hotel accommodation. There is a need to de-conflict with other events already in the IHO calendar, both IHO events and other organizations' events. It is considered the period after the 1st session of the IHO Assembly, 24-28 April, is the most feasible and the following dates are suggested as available:

Tuesday 2 to Friday 5 May
Monday 15 to Wednesday 24 May
Monday 19 to Wednesday 21 June
Monday 3 to Friday 7 July
Monday 24 to Friday 28 July

2. You are requested to identify all the dates for which you are available and indicate your preferred venue, London or Paris, or another accessible location with meeting facilities which can be easily hosted. Please respond to David Wyatt (adso@iho.int) and me (jlaporte@shom.fr), copying all other members for the working group detailed in Annex D.

3. You are also invited to provide any general initial comments and feedback on the proposed revised ToRs for wider consideration, prior to more details comments and discussion at the meeting.

Membership of the Hydrographic Dictionary Working Group (HDWG)

Corrected to January 2017

Lt. Cdr. Maria Alejandra Allignani (Argentina)	malignani@hidro.gov.ar
Capt Izabel King Jeck (Brazil)	izabel@chm.mar.mil.br
Jean Laporte (France) (chair)	jlaporte@shom.fr
Capt Luis Hernandez (Peru)	lhernandez@dhn.mil.pe
Cdr Jose M Quijano de Benito (Spain)	ihmesp@fn.mde.es
John Macek (USA)	john.macek@noaa.gov
Tim Hallock (USA)	Timothy.j.hallock@nga.mil
David Wyatt (IHO) (secretary)	david.wyatt@iho.int

Estimado Alejandro (Caris, Canada) alejandro.gerones@caris.com

Note: names in italics are expert contributors.

11. HDWG WORK PLAN 2017-18

11.1 HDWG tasks

A	Maintain and extend the definitions in the IHO Dictionary in French, English and Spanish (IHO task 2.11.1 refers)
B	Liaise with other IHO bodies preparing publications containing glossaries (IHO task 2.11.1 refers)
C	Liaise with other organizations developing dictionaries and/or glossaries (IHO task 2.11.1 refers)
D	Develop the Spanish language Wiki version of S-32 with commercial contract support (IHO task 2.11.2 refers)

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	Review all terms currently included in S-32 for their relevance in accordance with the S-32 Business Rules and propose which definitions should be removed from S-32	M	a. Terms a – d b. Terms e – l c. Terms m – r d. Terms s – z	2012 2012 2013 2013	2013 2015 2016 2017 2013 2015 2016 2017 2014 2016 2017 2018 2014 2016 2017 2018	P P P P	All	S-32	
A2	Review the approved definitions of Altitude, Elevation and Height	H		2012	2013 2014 2016	O	Laporte	S-32	Alternative definitions to be submitted by HDWG to TSMAD27 (Dec 2013) and CSPCWG10 (Jan 2014) before endorsement

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
C	Develop multi language on-line dictionary	H		2015	2017	O	Laporte	S-32	Propose contract with Wikidictionary developers
D	Create Spanish version from Word file	H		2015	2017	O	Hernandez	S-32	

11.2 HDWG Meetings (IHO WP task 3.1.8 refers)

No meetings have taken place. HDWG is invited to consider a face-to-face meeting in 2017.

Chair: Jean LAPORTE, France

Email: jlaporte@shom.fr

Vice-Chair: Vacant

Email:

Secretary: David WYATT, IHO

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