

Outcomes of IRCC11

Submitted by IHO Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides details on the relevant draft outcomes of IRCC 11.

Action to be taken: 3

Related documents: IRCC 11-07G

1. The 11th session of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) meeting in Genoa, Italy, 3-5 June 2019. Mrs Jennifer Jencks, Chair CSBWG, presented the report from the CSBWG (*IRCC 11-07G*), which included the outcomes and actions from the sixth meeting in Boulder, Colorado, on 19 to 21 June 2018 and the seventh meeting in Québec, Canada, 12 to 14 February 2019.
2. The meeting noted the importance of increased awareness and information as well as stakeholder engagement/involvement in order to help to overcome a degree of scepticism on the CSB concept within parts of the IHO community and some sections of the marine domain on potential, although untested, legal issues and concerns on commercial exploitation of data. Participants considered that CSB is a grey area under the UNCLOS and that the IHO should be more active in having a positive definition.
3. The meeting was informed on the approval of the IHO Publication B-12 on CSB and that a CL will be issued to provide notice and feedback. Participants considered that CSB is a real and existing activity and how to make good use by Hydrographic Offices and by the wider hydrographic community. A suggestion was presented that multibeam manufacturers could add a functionality to collect data while in transit in order to allow the research vessels to automatically acquire data while in transit without having an operator.
4. USA presented a feedback on the engagement with Rose Points and SeaIQ for improving the collection of CSB data that has proved beneficial for the work of the hydrographic service.
5. The IRCC made the following Decisions, Actions and Recommendations with respect to the particular actions requested of it by the CSBWG:

Decision 24: to reappoint the CSBWG to continue its work under the existing ToRs.

Recommendations to RHCs:

11. Encourage Member States to release datasets or subsets into the public domain via the IHO DCDB;
12. Encourage Member States to state their policy on data gathering restrictions within their maritime areas of jurisdiction, as requested in IHO CL 11/2019, to enable CSB activities to be undertaken;
13. Encourage Member States to support the CSB initiative with positive actions, such as requiring all research vessels collect bathymetric data for late uploading, when on passage or when it

does not interfere with other research activities;

14. Encourage Member States to support a scaled trial of CSB data collection as a follow on to earlier pilot programmes.

6. Ms Jennifer Jencks, Director of the DCDB, presented the IHO DCDB Report (doc. IRCC11-07J). She highlighted that the DCDB archives and shares, freely and without restrictions, depth data contributed by mariners and reported that as a result of the NOAA Data Center restructuring and consolidation in 2015, the IHO DCDB is now hosted and maintained by the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), which means that the previous agreement with NOAA is out of date and needs to be revised to reflect the current structure.

7. The meeting was informed on the efforts to allow the IHO DCDB to receive contributions from CSB, the status of datasets, the tools available to the public and the services offered. She introduced the draft CL which will be issued to promote the activities of the IHO DCDB.

8. The following was agreed by the Committee:

Recommendations:

18. Encourage Member State and stakeholders to support by contributing bathymetric data to the DCDB, regardless of origin.

Decision 30: to note the draft CL on DCDB Activities which is provided in the Annex of doc IRCC11-07J.

9. The CSBWG is requested to:

- a. **Note** the information provided;and
- b. **Take** any other actions, as appropriate.