

10th CSPWG MEETING
Wellington, New Zealand, 21-24 January, 2014

Paper for Consideration by CSPCWG
Report of Data Quality Working Group (DQWG)

Submitted by:	Chairman
Executive Summary:	Extracts from the report to HSSC5 submitted by the DQWG, with comments arising from HSSC5
Related Documents:	HSSC5-05.6A
Related Projects:	

DQWG 7

The 7th meeting of the DQWG took place at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, Canada from 16 – 18 July 2013.

Between DQWG 6 (2012) and DQWG 7 an MSc student studying at the University of Southern Mississippi had been working on the most suitable method for depicting the data quality of charted data. Essentially this confirmed that the concept of representing data quality by a 'colour wash' overlay of red for poor, yellow (amber) for medium and green (or clear) for good is the most intuitive and clearest means of doing so. This was gained from illustrating certain test scenarios and testing these against serving mariners. Although the depiction is now largely confirmed, how the [existing CATZOC] indicators combine to form the composite [data quality indicators] requires more work. The intention is to progress this in 2014.

HICUP sub group

Following discussions at DQWG 7 of a UK paper showing how the individual data quality indicators could be combined to form the single, composite, indicator required to drive the colour wash overlay, the group elected to form a sub working group to study this problem. The sub group, chaired by Australia, and named the HICUP group (**H**ierarchical **I**ndicator of **C**omposite **U**ncertainty **P**ropagation) will define the algorithm for combining data quality elements and, in doing so, will also confirm the requirement of those indicators that have been identified. The group will report to TSMAD 27 in Monaco (December 2013) and will deliver its final report via DQWG 8 to TSMAD 28 in March 2014 in Australia. It is for this reason that DQWG 8 is also planned for March 2014 in Australia so as to fall adjacent to the TSMAD and associated DCEG meeting.

Training of Mariners in Data Quality Matters

In addition to the work on the algorithm for combining the data quality indicators and the method of portraying this to the mariner, the DQWG has been seeking ways to improve the education of the mariner (this also meets Action HSSC4/30). To this end, a number of initiatives have been started, notably papers on data quality to be presented at various conferences as well as articles in relevant journals e.g. 'Seaways' of the Nautical Institute. A Circular Letter (CL 51/2013) was issued asking Member States to supply copies of those documents that they maintain which have a data quality element. The intention is to produce a standardized document from all those tendered that may reside on the IHO web site and either be referred to directly by other documents or used as the basis for the data quality parts. In this way it is hoped that the mariner will get a more consistent message on data quality which will reinforce its importance and relevance.