

IHO Chart Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG)

10th Meeting, Wellington, New Zealand, 21 – 24 January 2014

The 10th meeting of the IHO Chart Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG) was hosted by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) in Wellington, from 21 to 24 January 2014. CSPCWG provides a core of expertise on the concepts of charting and is mainly tasked to develop and maintain the IHO Chart Specifications, as contained in publication S-4. The eighteen attendees included representatives from the Hydrographic Offices of Australia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, New Zealand, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States and the IHB, plus two expert contributors from Jeppesen and Esri. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Peter JONES (UK).



The meeting reviewed and discussed a number of issues relating to chart content / specifications, and agreed on a way forward for each topic. Based on this, the issues addressed by the meeting will be further elaborated by the CSPCWG Chair and Secretary, then circulated to members for comments. After final agreement by the WG, proposed new or revised chart specifications will be directly submitted to IHO Member States for approval. Topics addressed by the meeting included: minimum depth versus maximum authorized draught; wind farms under construction; interrupted and ultra-quick lights; Existence Doubtful (ED) versus “Rep”; AIS proliferation; use of non-MS seals on INT charts; definitions for elevation, height and altitude; guidance for the development of ENC schemes; reorganisation of INT 1 with a new section on data quality indicators; and INT 3 in Spanish.

The comprehensive revision of S-4 Part B, which started in 2004, is now in its last phase, with section B-500 currently under consideration by MS, and is planned for completion in 2014. Then, CSPCWG work on S-4 will come under IHO Resolution 2/2007, as amended, and will therefore need HSSC’s endorsement prior submission to IHO MS for final approval.

A discussion on the “future of the paper chart” took place at the initiative of the Chair. Issues such as the need and use of paper charts in 10 years from now; production of paper charts and ENCs in parallel from a common database or paper charts being derived from ENCs; etc. were addressed. A sub-group will prepare a paper on this topic for submission to HSSC6 in November 2014. Members were also informed of the planned restructuring of HSSC Working Groups, and the likely merging of CSPCWG and SNPWG which caused some concern among attendees.

Due to the retirement of Dr Peter JONES (UK), planned 31 March 2014, the current Vice-Chair, Mr Jeff WOOTTON (Australia) will become Chair of CSPCWG from that date. The meeting elected Mr Chris THORNE (UK) as new Vice-Chair, to take effect from same date.

The 11th meeting of CSPCWG has tentatively been planned in Rostock, Germany, in April 2015.