IHO Colours & Symbols Maintenance Working Group (C&SMWG)
16th Meeting, IHB, Monaco, 29-31 May 2006

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Rostock, Germany, 5-9 September 2005

5.4 Standardization of Nautical Publications (SNPWG)

Docs: CHRIS17-5.4A   Report of SNPWG (J. Melles, Germany, Chair)

SNPWG Chair (Mr. Johannes MELLES, Germany) reported briefly on past year SNPWG activities. The WG meets every 6 months on average. Mr. John NYBERG (USA-NOAA) has been nominated as the new secretary of SNPWG and Mr. David ACLAND (UKHO) has been elected as the new vice-chairman.

The data structure for NP3, i.e. nautical publications for ECDIS, will be an extension to S-57 4.0 (henceforth known as S-100), allowing users to encode NPs. UML will be used to model the data for NP3. The good support from UKHO was noted. The content of the digital nautical publications will be divided into 8 prioritised logical groups, with the first 3 groups being as follows:
- Priority 1   Marine Services
- Priority 2   Traffic Management
- Priority 3   Harbour infrastructure

Next step will be for SNPWG to produce UML models for each of the 8 groups. Regarding the presentation of NPs in ECDIS, SNPWG Chair (MELLES) felt that the investigation in NP3 display requirements was not a task for the SNPWG and suggested that this be given to C&SMWG.

Netherlands (VOS) pointed out that with Inland ECDIS there are both navigation and information modes. This influences what type of information should be displayed (text and images). C&SMWG Chair (JONAS) mentioned that his WG was looking ahead to dealing with pictorial representations (PICREP) and suggested that "guidelines" may be needed at first, rather than "standards". He felt that the best approach would be to base this development on ergonomic principles, to use SNPWG output and to get help in computer visualization. He further suggested that a university could perform this task.

The Chair concurred that developing broad guidelines, parameters and principles for NP3 presentation in ECDIS was a good idea. Rather than assigning a new task to another WG, he suggested extending the scope of the existing SNPWG's task, i.e. Task C *"Develop basic display rules for NP-data intended for use in ECDIS (NP3)"*, to prepare the guideline structure for NP3 presentation, which should be broad and not prescriptive.

This was generally supported by the Meeting, as well as that the development of NP3 presentation in ECDIS would be best performed by a university, as a research project. HGMIO Chair (ALEXANDER) kindly offered to liase with the SNPWG Chair (MELLES), to look for a suitable research project on the matter.

SNPWG Chair (MELLES) expressed concern that participation within the working group between meetings was still very poor. Most of the work was being done at meetings. In addition, the bulk of activity was being done by UKHO and BSH. He felt this was really a CHRIS work programme issue. Also, he remarked that 3 items had been left by mistake in the SNPWG ToRs, i.e. tasks iv), v) and vi) of section 4.a), and asked that they be deleted, which was accepted.

Outcome:

- Report of SNPWG endorsed.

- SNPWG to develop NP3 data structure as an extension to S-100, with target date of end 2007 for completion. (**Action**)

- SNPWG to develop broad guidelines, parameters and principles for NP3 presentation in ECDIS, in execution of Task C of the SNPWG WP. (**Action**)

- SNPWG Chair (MELLES), in liaison with HGMIO Chair (Alexander), to seek assistance from academia and industry in developing appropriate standards and guidelines for NP3 presentation, through a suitable research project. (**Action**)

- Deletion of tasks iv), v) and vi) in section 4.a) of SNPWG ToRs accepted.

- CHRIS Members to encourage their representatives in SNPWG to participate and contribute more actively between meetings. (**Action**)