

**11th DQWG Meeting
Arlington, USA, 10-12 May 2016**

Paper for Consideration by the Data Quality Working Group

Proposed Merge of DQWG with S-100WG

Submitted by:	UK
Executive Summary:	Proposed merge of DQWG with S-100WG
Related Documents:	DQWG11 agenda; DQWG TORs; DQWG Work Plan 2015-16.
Related Projects:	S-101

Introduction / Background

The DQWG's top level objectives, as stated in the DQWG Terms of Reference, relate to the classification of quality indicators for hydrographic data. This is particularly focused on the need to improve bathymetric classification within the S-57 environment, and to propose improvements for the S-100 environment. Within the current DQWG Work Plan there are also tasks relating to the education of mariners and consideration of quality concerns for non-bathymetric data.

The DQWG was formed in 2008, meeting at least once a year. The only output of note are contributions to the sections on quality of data within the S-101 Data Classification and Encoding Guide (DCEG).

Discussion

UK proposes that the continued existence of the DQWG as a separate working group can no longer be justified.

Given that DQWG's primary focus is on an alternative to S-57 CATZOCs for implementation within S-101, a more logical place for this development is under the S-100WG.

At present, the DQWG is not actively engaged in consideration of specific quality issues related to non-bathymetric data. Even if this becomes a more prominent need, it is suggested that a separate working group is unlikely to be the best approach, given that quality aspects of a given subject area should best be considered by relevant subject matter experts, and the S-100 implementation considered by the S-100WG and/or subordinate project teams.

Justification and Impacts

The existence of the DQWG as a separate working group introduces delay in development of quality classifications within S-100/S-101, as all proposals have to be considered by the S-100WG and/or subordinate project teams. A more streamlined approach would be to add the data quality issues to the S-100WG work plan.

The current volume of work progressed by the group does not support the need for meetings.

Because the DQWG exists, certain Member States (MS) consider it important to attend, but the attendance at meetings may not provide the required breadth and depth of skills and experience. By merging the work of the DQWG with S-100WG, MS could focus on sending appropriate representatives to S-100WG and/or subordinate project teams, without the additional expense of time and travel to attend a separate DQWG meeting.

Although work should take place by correspondence, there has been very little progressed between DQWG10 and DQWG11.

Conclusions

It is appropriate to consider the justification for the continued existence of the DQWG as a separate working group. It is proposed that this is given due consideration at DQWG11.

Action Required of DQWG

The Data Quality Working Group is invited to:

1. Consider the future value of continuing as a separate working group.
2. If appropriate, consider how best to transfer DQWG tasks to other HSSC technical working groups/projects.
3. If appropriate, submit a proposal to HSSC8 to seek a decision on an alternative way forward.