

**1st Meeting of the ENC Standards Maintenance Working Group (ENCWG)
14-18 March 2016, Tokyo, Japan**

Paper for Consideration by ENCWG

Outcome of IMO/NCSR3

Submitted by:	IHB
Executive Summary:	This paper reports the outcome of the 3 rd session of the IMO Sub-committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) (29 Feb – 4 Mar 2016) which may affect the activities and work plan of the ENCWG.
Related Documents:	HSSC7-07.2A ENCWG Work Plan.
Related Projects:	/

Introduction / Background

1. At its 7th meeting, the IHO Hydrographic Standards and Services Committee (HSSC) considered the IHB report on IMO activities affecting HSSC (including e-navigation) (HSSC7-07.2A) and agreed on reflecting the relevant issues (harmonized display of navigation information, e-navigation, ECDIS performance tests, maritime cybersecurity, Polar Code and unique identifiers) in the work plans of the relevant HSSC WGs.
2. This paper reports on the outcome of the 3rd session of the IMO Sub-committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) (29 Feb – 4 Mar 2016) which may affect the activities and work plan of the ENCWG.

Analysis/Discussion

3. NCSR 3 considered two submissions related to ECDIS under agenda item “Any other business”.
4. The IHO submitted document NCSR 3/28/Rev.1 reporting on the monitoring of ECDIS issues and chart coverage. The IHO reported the request of industry endorsed by the ENCWG to extend by one year, until 31 August 2017, the transition period for upgrading existing ECDIS systems to meet the revised set of IHO standards which came into force on 31 August 2015 for new ECDIS systems. The Sub-Committee agreed the one-year extension. In commenting the proposal, the representative of the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) referred to the need to monitor the implementation of the upgrade of existing ECDIS systems and consider a further extension in due course if appropriate.
5. Noting the indication in the IHO report of the apparent and inappropriate use of the ECDIS Data Presentation and Performance Check by port State control and vetting inspectors, the Sub-Committee agreed to invite the MSC to note the issue and refer it to the Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments (III). In relation with the possible development of an the introduction of an annual performance check for ECDIS, views were expressed that an annual check could result on issues being unaddressed for periods of up to twelve months and, therefore, consideration should be given to possible automated processes within ECDIS in order to identify issues as they occur.
6. Ukraine submitted an information paper (NCSR 3/INF.15) on ECDIS-AIS linking with VHF DSC for simplification of addressed VHF radiocommunication and increasing DSC efficiency. The Sub-committee noted the paper which reports on the intention of Ukraine to submit a proposal for a new output to a future session of the Maritime Safety Committee, namely to consider revising the IMO Performance Standards for ECDIS.
7. The discussion of ECDIS issues was also informed by an off-session presentation coordinated by INTERTANKO, the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners. The presentation reported the wide variations in the skills of “certified ECDIS users”, a prevalent lack of awareness of software maintenance requirements and a lack of appropriate procedures aboard ships. The presentation questioned the relevance of

some provisions of the IMO ECDIS Performance Standards related to display options. The presentation highlighted the lack of flexibility in setting the safety depth and the difficulty to optimize the anti-grounding function due to the insufficient density of contour lines in most Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs).

8. The 4th session of the NCSR is tentatively planned from 6 to 10 March 2017. In accordance with the Guidelines on the organization and method of work of the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee and their subsidiary bodies (MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.4/Rev.4), the timeline for submission of papers should be as follows:

- bulky documents (those containing more than six pages), by **Friday, 2 December 2016** (not later than 13 weeks before the opening of the session);
- non-bulky documents (those containing six pages or fewer) and also bulky information documents, by **Friday, 30 December 2016** (not later than 9 weeks before the opening of the session); and
- documents commenting on those referred above, containing four pages or fewer, by **Friday, 13 January 2017** (not later than 7 weeks before the opening of the relevant session).

Recommendations

9. It is recommended that the ENCWG considers the impact of the outcome of NCSR 3 on its activities, in particular in relation with the maintenance of ENC production guidance and the investigation of the need to develop a new or revised ECDIS performance check dataset for ships.

Action Required of ENCWG

10. The ENCWG is invited to:
- a. **note** the report,
 - b. **consider** the recommendation in paragraph 9, and
 - c. **take any other actions** considered necessary.