

13<sup>th</sup> CHRIS MEETING

Athens, 17-19 September 2001

REPORTS BY CHRIS WORKING GROUPS

TRANSFER STANDARD MAINTENANCE AND APPLICATIONS DEVELOPMENT  
WORKING GROUP (TSMAD)

*(Chris Drinkwater, UK)*

1. The TSMAD held its seventh meeting at the IHB, Monaco, in April 2000.
2. As well as discussing national proposals for amendments to the Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC, and for additions to the S-57 Maintenance Document, the working group also considered a number of strategic issues as listed below:
  - 2a. Status of S-57 Edition 3.1. TSMAD informed the hydrographic community and ECDIS manufacturers in 1998 of its intention to produce S-57 Edition 3.1. The IHB also made the document available in November 1999 for familiarisation purposes. However, in November 2000 most hydrographic offices could not produce Edition 3.1 data and most ECDIS could not read it. As a consequence, Edition 3.1 was not adopted in November 2000, as had been the intention, but was "made officially available". The associated IHO Circular Letter stated that both Edition 3.0 and Edition 3.1 will co-exist until further notice. The meeting discussed the matter but agreed that it was premature to give CHRIS any advice on when the IHB should request Member States to cease producing Edition 3.0 data.
  - 2b. Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC. The sub-group tasked with reviewing the existing text to ensure that the meaning of each clause is unambiguous, met immediately prior to the meeting. It presented its recommendations for the format of the revised document based on the contents of the first three chapters. These were agreed by the meeting. Each clause will use the verb "must", "should" or "may". "Must" refers to a mandatory requirement, "should" to a requirement which, although non-mandatory, is recommended, and "may" to a non-mandatory requirement. The status of the document was also discussed. It was agreed that the use of the document is mandatory because it is the only guide to ENC encoding, even though many of the encoding conventions contained within it are non-mandatory. It was agreed that no artificial limit should be placed on the size of the document. However, it should be remembered that newly-agreed contents must not conflict with the existing contents, and must not, therefore, result in existing ENCs becoming invalid.
3. Future extensions to S-57. A sub-group of TSMAD which will liaise with ISO TC211 over the development of S-57 was formed at the meeting. The Chairman is Don Vachon of the Canadian Hydrographic Service.
4. Revised Terms of Reference. At its last meeting, the CHRIS agreed revised Terms of Reference for its working groups. These make it easier for non-hydrographic office staff to attend meetings. The working group agreed that it was the responsibility of individual hydrographic offices to identify suitable "outside world" persons to attend meetings, based on the subject matter to be discussed. It was also agreed that such participation would be more likely once the Open ECDIS Consortium has been established. The new Terms of Reference require the working group to have a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman, both of whom should be formally elected. Christopher

Drinkwater of the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office was elected Chairman, and Don Vachon of the Canadian Hydrographic Service was elected Vice Chairman.

5. S-57 Edition 3.1 Appendix B1, Annex D to S-57 "INT1/S-57 cross reference". The meeting noted that this new addition to S-57 had not been completed in time for its inclusion in the familiarisation copy of Edition 3.1, but would be included in the official version to be made officially available in November.

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