

14th CHRIS Meeting, Shanghai, China, 15-17 August 2002

REPORTS BY CHRIS WORKING GROUPS

STANDARDISATION OF NAUTICAL PUBLICATIONS WORKING GROUP (SNPWG)

submitted by Robert Ward (retiring Chairman, SNPWG)

Progress Report

1. The amendments to Technical Resolutions relating to Nautical publications that were drawn up by the SNPWG were approved by the 16th IHC in April 2002.
2. The SNPWG has effectively been dormant since the last CHRIS meeting (CHRIS13).
3. CHRIS 13 adopted new Terms of Reference (ToR) for the SNPWG. In particular, the new ToRs identified a requirement that the SNPWG should;

“..... investigate the data format specifications, content and display requirements of digital nautical publications intended for use in ECDIS.”

As a result, M/S were invited to nominate suitably qualified representatives. M/S were also invited to nominate suitably qualified candidates to take over the chairmanship. (See IHO C/L 49/01). The following M/S have confirmed a wish to participate in the SNPWG:

Argentina, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, Italy, Japan, Spain, Sweden,
Tunisia, USA (NIMA), USA (NOS).

4. There are no volunteers for the chairmanship of SNPWG. USA-NIMA has indicated a willingness to continue as vice chair/secretary.

Discussion

5. The ECDIS related work of the SNPWG requires suitably qualified members. It is not clear from the list of participants whether this has been achieved. Also, there is no candidate to take on the role of chairman. Furthermore, no specific technical proposals have been submitted for consideration by the WG. In the circumstances, it is difficult to see how the work can begin.

6. In determining a way forward, the CHRIS may wish to re-consider the impact of the work involved, the very limited resources available and the fact that alternative options for including NP information is already being achieved in ECS and might well be equally suitable for ECDIS. Who is going to do the work? Is the technical expertise available to develop or identify an IHO format? Is it required? Is there a firm proposal for consideration? Is there actually a requirement that is not being filled already or will be filled in the near future?

7. If the CHRIS determines that a specific format should be designated, then it may be more appropriate to assign the task to a sub-WG of TSMAD rather than SNPWG. This is because the TSMAD may have better access to relevant expertise and industry contacts.

Action Required of CHRIS

8. The CHRIS is requested to:
- a. **re-consider** whether there is a requirement for an IHO WG to investigate the data format specifications, content and display requirements of digital nautical publications intended for use in ECDIS; and if necessary,
 - b. **identify** either:
 - (1) the most appropriate WG that would take on this task; or
 - (2) what other development mechanisms could be used to address the task.
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