

14TH CHRIS MEETING, SHANGHAI, CHINA, 15-17 AUGUST 200

COMMENTS ON SNPWG REPORT TO CHRIS 14

Submitted by Chile

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Technical matters

1. The task of integrating ECDIS and the relating NPs into one basic core has been treated since a long time by many private and international organizations. Since then, and from the perspective of this Service, no commercial, explicit nor practical progress has been made in order to standardize all the aspects of this matter.
2. The main functionality of ECDIS is first to provide the mariner with the complete scenario where to real-time plot every situation and position and second with a self-contained database where to find all the information of all geographic and non-geographic elements.
3. With the continuous improvement of the S-57 standard (ENC), all the non-graphic elements (alphanumeric) have been possible to be included into the ECDIS database (SENC) making itself more and more independent of any other navigational aid available on-board.
4. If it's considered, by definition, that the information that's contained in NPs is that kind of information that cannot be displayed from a cartographic perspective, it should be concluded that the ENC could be the most appropriate element to include that alphanumeric information in its related attributes, for example: INFORM, NINFOM and other related. So: What could be the real application of a NP in ECDIS?
5. Should NPs be a complement to the ENC in that kind of information that's nor really necessary for navigation?
6. Should NPs be contained into the SENC?

DISCUSSION

Taking into account that the ENC is probably the best self-contained format ever developed to include and exchange digital hydrographic data, there're a number of aspects that should be considered from Chilean HO point of view:

- 7. To study by TSMADWG the enlargement of S-57 capability and functionality in those attributes that could fill the needs of including descriptions, pictures, texts and other "natural" NPs content.*
- 8. To consider by SNPWG to focus the effort on standardizing all the complementary digital NPs to be used "within" and "without" navigational systems, meaning that "on-line" and "off-line" respectively.*
- 9. That, in the scope of the above, should not make necessary to assign these tasks to any sub-WG of TSMAD of any different WG other than SNP.*

Actions requested by SNPWG report

10. From Chilean HO perspective:

- a. It is considered that, specifically taking into account SNP ToR and TSMAD involvement into the S-57 format, no IHO WG should be necessary to investigate data format specifications, contents nor display requirements of NPs to be used "in" ECDIS.*
 - b. Despite the above, it is also considered that:*
 - (1) SNPWG should act as the standard instance to gather all related information to NPs.*
 - (2) In order to avoid administrative changes that could become quite time consuming, the current CHRIS mechanism should be maintained.*
 - (3) SNPWG chairman should be in charge before the meeting.*
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