

**15th CHRIS MEETING
IHB, Monaco, 10-13 June 2003**

REPORT OF WEND STUDY ON ENC COVERAGE
(by IHB)

Note: Click on **yellow shaded text** to obtain more information

During the discussions of the 6th WEND Meeting regarding the world-wide coverage and availability of Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs), the committee agreed that an assessment of ENC coverage and major shipping routes be accomplished to determine where gaps in coverage occur. IHO Member States were polled via CL 31/2001 and results were summarized in a **report by Portugal**. However, this report did not include graphic maps of ENC coverage and a new survey was considered necessary, which was conducted by CL 67/2002. The graphic presentation of the resulting assessment can be found at http://www.iho.shom.fr/ECDIS/WebCatalogue/ENC_Coverage.htm.

From the perspective of world-wide coverage there are a few observations. First, there are virtually no trans-oceanic routes fully covered by ENCs. This result is due to the focus of ENC production on national and therefore coastal waters based on the priorities of national hydrographic offices and the dictates of the WEND Principles. On the one hand, as the majority of the mid-ocean areas not covered by ENCs are deep water and pose no hazards to navigation, the lack of coverage in these areas are not critical to safety of navigation. However, the lack of continuous coverage at small scales complicates voyage planning using an ECDIS and requires a Dual Fueled ECDIS and/or appropriate paper charts. A paper presented to the 7th WEND meeting (Lima, Peru, 15-16 May 2003), Document **WEND7-11A**, addressed, in part, this issue.

Within national jurisdiction, there are substantial gaps in coverage attributable to the need for increase capacity in developing countries. Africa, Central America and Caribbean Sea, South West Pacific Ocean and the archipelagic seas of Southeast Asia lack sufficient coverage to support navigation using ENCs in all but a few isolated ports and approaches. Within these areas are numerous non-member states of the IHO and despite the requirements of SOLAS V, these countries do not have adequate hydrographic services or arrangements for the provision of these services. In these areas continued capacity building efforts are essential to familiarize the states with their obligations as coastal states, to identify funding for the provision of hydrographic services, to institutionalize the legislation and infrastructure to maintain these required services.

Lastly, there are numerous areas throughout the world where ENCs are reportedly completed but not distributed. The reasons for this lack of availability are varied. In some instances the ENC has been produced but no update mechanism has been implemented thereby negating this product as an up-to-date nautical chart. Other producing countries have not developed a workable business model for the distribution of their ENCs or they are awaiting further progress in the development of RENCs. Another reason for not releasing some of the ENCs produced and validated may have been the lack of an IHO Standard on ENC Security. This is now being overcome and attention is directed to Document **CHRIS15-7B** that addresses this issue. As many countries have solved these issues, it is important that countries with completed ENCs implement an acceptable updating and distribution scheme as soon as possible.