

16TH CHRIS MEETING
Ottawa, Canada, 28-31 May 2004

REVIEW OF S-44 “IHO STANDARDS FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS”
Proposal by Australia

<i>Submitted by:</i>	IHB
<i>Executive summary:</i>	Vadm Alexandros Maratos, in its capacity as Chairman of the S-44 WG (currently dormant), has received the letter reproduced hereafter from the Australian HO, suggesting a review of S-44. Before considering re-activating the S-44 WG, Vadm Maratos would value CHRIS views on the Australian request, in particular the proposed inclusion of standards for metadata and attributes for use in data quality attribution.
<i>Actions to be taken:</i>	The meeting is invited to provide any views on the proposal by Australia.
<i>Related documents:</i>	S-44, 4 th edition, 1998



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President, IHB

For Information:
PA-H
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REVIEW OF S44

Dear Sir,

In Australia's view several deficiencies or omissions in S44 are now apparent that merit an urgent review of the document.

The current edition of S-44 IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys was published in 1998. Since then, a number of technical developments have matured, and in particular MBES has entered widespread use, yet is not adequately catered for in the current edition.

Examples of areas that require review and updating include:

- greater clarity is required in designating the nature and size of undersea features ("targets");

- a more realistic review of the capabilities of contemporary technology;

- inclusion of standards for metadata and attributes for use in data quality attribution, both for nautical charting (e.g. S-57 Zones of Confidence) and more detailed GIS analysis;

- facilitate review by a wider range of stakeholders, i.e. including academia, and industry (manufacturers and surveyors);

Chapter 2 of the 3rd edition of S-44 "Classification Criteria for Deep Ocean Soundings" was retained in the current edition for historical reasons. It was reproduced without amendment but may now be considered as requiring review in light of technological developments and quality attribution.

At the time the current, 4th edition was published it was expected that S-44 would be subject to review leading to a new edition after a period of five years. It is therefore requested that consideration be given to re-convening the S-44 Working Group to undertake a full review of

the current edition and the subsequent publication of a revised edition that takes into account the latest technology and contemporary requirements for hydrographic data.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.E. Ward', written in a cursive style.

R.E. WARD
Captain, RAN
Director, Hydrographic Operations and Capability
29 Apr 04