CHRIS16-6.4A

16th CHRIS MEETING
CHS, Ottawa, 28-31 May 2004

REPORT OF THE STANDARDISATION OF NAUTICAL PUBLICATIONS WORKING GROUP (SNPWG)

Submitted by:	Johannes MELLES, Germany
Executive summary:	Report on the work undertaken and progress made by the Standardization of Nautical Publications Working Group, since CHRIS15, and future plans.
Actions to be taken:	CHRIS to note the report, and endorse the future plans.
Related documents:	CHRIS letter No. 2/2004 (call for reports)
Related Projects:	Not applicable

Chairman: Mr. Johannes MELLES (Germany)

Vice-Chairman & Secretary   Mr. Randy WHITE (USA, NGA)

Members: Argentina, Cuba, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, UK, USA (NGA & NOAA)

Meetings: 2nd Meeting, BSH, Hamburg, Germany, 02-04 June, 2003.

Work progress

During the meeting in Hamburg the working group made some good decisions on how to proceed and a plan with an optimistic time schedule was prepared.

What happened after the Hamburg meeting was really disappointing:

- Some members revised the decisions they had made during the meeting.
- It was planned that the SNPWG should work primarily by correspondence, which is very difficult.
- It took a very long time to get the required contributions; in some cases they were never created.
- It takes too long to get reactions from working group members, even if a deadline is set.

Obviously it was not possible to motivate the working-group members in such a way that they take an active part in the work of the SNPWG.
Due to these setbacks, much of the work failed to get done, and the working group made little progress.
At the next meeting in Silver Spring we will work harder to identify and assign tasks.

Data Structure for NP3

For continuation of the work of the SNPWG, it is very important to determine which data structure should be used for NP3. During the meeting in Hamburg, the working group came to the conclusion that the best data structure for NP3 would be the structure used in S57.
A three month period to think about this decision was given to the WG-members. After this period, NGA, UKHO and NOAA (indeterminate) indicated that they would prefer a solution that uses GML (Geography Markup Language). These members were asked to prepare a paper that explains how GML could be used; the other members were asked to participate in a discussion about this topic.
This is an ongoing process and so far no decision about the data structure has been made.

The UKHO has prepared a paper on how they did the modelling for their List of Lights and they would like to prepare some more papers for other NPs. These papers, together with the German proposals, will be used as the basis for the discussions at the next SNPWG Meeting in Silver Spring. Hopefully we can reach a conclusion as to which data structure should be used for NP3.

All other work items of the SNPWG will be delayed until we reach a conclusion on this topic.

Work items for the SNPWG

Following work items were identified for the SNPWG:

- Data Structure for NP3
  It has to be decided which data structure should be used for NP3
- Content requirements
  All NPs have to be analysed to determine which content is needed for NP3
- Extension to S57
  Additional "Object Classes," "Attributes" and "Attribute values" which can be used to encode NPs information have to be defined
- Coding Guide
  A coding guide for NPs which is similar to the "Use of the Object Catalogue for ENC" has to be developed.
- Extension to the ENC-Product Specifications
  To navigate a ship the mariner needs a chart and a whole set of NPs. The chart could be replaced by ECDIS but in addition to the chart he still has to use printed NPs. The SNPWG is of the opinion that both parts- the chart and the NPs -have to be integrated into one system, and therefore the ENC Product Specifications have to be extended.
- Extension of S57-Document or a new Special Publication (S-??)
  So far the S57 describes everything around charts. Maybe it has to be extended that it also covers NPs or we may have to consider a new Special Publication.
- Guidelines and basic rules for the display of NPs in ECDIS
  For the display of NPs -data in an ECDIS, the working group wants to give as much freedom as possible to the manufacturers of ECDIS systems, but to ensure that some information will be

displayed in the correct way under every condition, some basic rules and guidelines for the display are needed.

- Revision of the IHO Technical Resolutions
  The IHO Technical Resolutions have to be revised in such a way that they also cover NP3.
- Liaison with other working groups
  - TSMADWG
    The extension of S57, the extension of the Product Specifications for ENC and the development of a coding guide for NPs is closely related to the work of the TSMADWG and therefore a close cooperation between the TSMADWG and the SNPWG is absolutely necessary. Such cooperation should be easy to facilitate because the chairman of the SNPWG is also a member of the TSMADWG.
  - CSMWG
    When the SNPWG has to define the guidelines and the basic rules for the display of NPs-data in an ECDIS, it has to liase with the CSMWG.
  - Other working groups as required

Open ECDIS Forum (OEF)

The SNPWG discussion group on the OEF was changed in such way that it complies with TOR of the SNPWG.

Next Meeting

The 3rd SNPWG-Meeting will be held at the NOAA facilities in Silver Spring (MD), USA, (07-09 June 2004).

Recommendations

As mentioned above, it is very difficult to get the working group members to actively participate and contribute throughout the year in making progress toward SNPWG's mission. In order for the SNPWG to produce results within a reasonable time, more work **must** be done.
I would like to ask the CHRIS-Members to encourage their representatives in the SNPWG to show some more interest in the topic and encourage them to become more involved in the working group.

Appendices

Appendix A - Membership of SNPWG (February 2004)
Appendix B - SNPWG Work Plan (April 2004)

SNPWG MEMBERSHIP
(February 2004)

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6.   SNPWG Work Plan

6.1 SNPWG Tasks

A   Decide on the Data Structure Format for NP-data intended for use in ECDIS (NP3).

B   Define the content requirements of NP-data intended for use in ECDIS (NP3).

C   Develop basic display rules for NP-data intended for use in ECDIS (NP3).

D   Draft guidance documents

E   Revise technical resolutions as required

F   Liaise with other CHRIS WG's and other IHO and international bodies.

Task	Work item	Priority *	Milestones	Start Date	End Date	Status **	Contact Person(s)	Affected Pubs/Standard
A.1	Look at existing systems on the market	H		2003	2004	O	Chair/Sec SNPWG	
A.2	Evaluate the pros and cons	H	Decision for a Data Format	2003	2004	O	Chair/Sec SNPWG	
B.1	Examine the content of traditional NPs	M		2004	2004	O	Chair/Sec SNPWG	
B.2	Proposal discovery and distribution (BSH etc.)	M		2004	2004	O	Chair/Sec SNPWG	
B.3	Draft Content Specs	M	Content Specs	2004	2005	P	Chair/Sec SNPWG	
C.1	Develop basic display rules for NP-data	M	Display rules	2004	2005	P	Chair/Sec SNPWG	S52
D.1	Extension to ENC Product Specifications	M	Guidance Docs	2005	2005	P	Chair/Sec SNPWG	S57
D.2	Coding Guide for NP-data for ENC	M	Guidance Docs	2005	2005	P	Chair/Sec SNPWG	
D.3	Draft S?? (if necessary)	M	S??	2005	2005	P	Chair/Sec SNPWG	

* H = High, M = Medium, L = Low
** P = Planned, O = Ongoing, C = Completed

Task	Work item	Priority *	Milestones	Start Date	End Date	Status **	Contact Person(s)	Affected Pubs/Standard
E.1	Draft revised Technical Resolutions	M	Revised TRs (Dec 04)	2005	2005	P	Chair/Sec SNPWG	Technical Resolutions
F.1	Prepare a proposal for TSMAD	M	TSMAD-Proposal	2005	2005	P	Chair/Sec SNPWG	S57
F.2	Liaise with CSMWG for the development of the display rules	M		2005	2005	P	Chair/Sec SNPWG	S52
F.3	Liaise with other relevant WGs	L		2004	2005	P		

Date   **Location**   **Activity**
7-9 June 04   NOAA, Silver Spring, MD, USA   3rd Meeting