Report of the Standardization of Nautical Publications Working Group (SNPWG)

Submitted by:	Johannes MELLES, Germany
Related Documents:	Minutes of the 3rd SNPWG meeting. (7 - 9 June 2004), NOAA, Silver-Spring, USA
	Minutes of the 4th SNPWG meeting. (1 - 3 March 2005), IHB, Monaco
Related Projects:	Not applicable

Chair:	Johannes MELLES, BSH, Germany
Vice-Chair:	David ACLAND, UKHO, United Kingdom
Secretary:	John NYBERG, NOAA, USA
Member States:	Argentina, Cuba, Chile, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, UK, USA
Expert Contributor Organisations:	Nippon Sogo Systems, Inc

Meetings Held During Reporting Period

June 7 – 9, 2004, NOAA, Silver Spring, USA
March 1 – 3, 2005 - IHB, Monaco

Date and venue for next meeting

October 25 – 27, 2005 – KMS, Copenhagen, Denmark

Work Program

Since the 16th CHRIS-Meeting in Ottawa the SNPWG met twice and made some progress according to the work program of the working group.

Data structure for NP3

A very important question which should be answered by the SNPWG was, which data structure should be used for NP3.

After a long discussion the working group finally agreed, that the SNPWG will develop an extension to S57 Ed. 4.0 which allows users to encode NPs.
The group was of the opinion that an accurate model of the data is needed to develop the extension to S57 and decided to use UML to model the data for NP3.

UKHO is going through an exercise to model all their NPs in UML and has kindly offered that these models could be used for the work of SNPWG. The models for Navigational Marks, Marine Services and some Radio Signals were already made available to the working group.

The extension to S57 with objects and attributes for NPs will make it fairly easy to use this data in an ECDIS. However, ECDIS is one of many products which can be supported with this data. More and more people are using S57 as a production format, and therefore it should also be possible to use the NP data for other applications such as printed NPs, VTS, etc.

Content requirements

To prepare an extension for S57 the working group has to know what needs to be encoded. All NPs have to be analyzed to determine which content is needed for NP3. BSH has done this work for its NPs some years ago, and UKHO has used this work as a basis to analyze their NPs and produced a so called "Scope document for the modeling work". Prior to the SNPWG meeting in Monaco UKHO and BSH had a meeting, where the first draft of the scope document was reviewed and a second draft of the document was produced.
This document was discussed at the meeting in Monaco. The groups in the scope document were defined by looking at individual NPs. The working group was of the opinion that this grouping was not appropriate and decided to define some logical grouping and give priorities which groups have to be modeled first.

        Priority 1   -   Marine Services
        Priority 2   -   Traffic Management
        Priority 3   -   Harbour Infrastructure
        Priority 4   -   Social / Political
        Priority 5   -   Environment
        Priority 6   -   Hydrography – Partly done with S-57
        Priority 7   -   Topography – Partly done with S-57
        Priority 8   -   Reference

After the meeting in Monaco a third draft of the scope document was produced and send out to the working group for review. Comments have been received and incorporated and a final version of this document will be circulated shortly for approval at the next SNPWG meeting in Copenhagen.

Next steps

When the scope document has been approved, the UML models for the above groups have to be produced and reviewed by the working group.
When the initial models are agreed upon, the work on the proposal for the extension of the S57 can start.

Presentation of NPs in ECDIS

One task given to the SNPWG is the investigation in display requirements of digital nautical publications intended for use in ECDIS.
The working group is of the opinion that this is not a task for the SNPWG. The presentation of NPs in ECDIS has to be developed by the CSMWG

Progress on CHRIS Action Items

There were no CHRIS Action Items for the SNPWG.

Problems Encountered

Participation within the working group between meetings is still very poor. All indications are that most of the work has to be done at meetings. So far noteworthy input was only produced by UKHO and BSH.
In order for the SNPWG to produce results within a reasonable time, more work **must** be done between meetings.

Any Other Items of Note

Nomination for Secretary

At the meeting in Silver Spring, June 7 – 9, 2004, John Nyberg from NOAA was nominated as the new secretary of the SNPWG.

Chairman

At the meeting in Monaco, March 1 – 3, 2005, Johannes Melles was re-confirmed as the SNPWG chairman for the next three years.

Vice- chairman

The former vice-chairman of the SNPWG, Randy White (NGA) agreed that the vice-chairman needs to be an active participant. His current responsibilities preclude him from adequately fulfilling that obligation. He has agreed to step down.
The group decided at the meeting in Monaco, March 1 – 3, 2005, to take a vote on the vice-chairmanship and confirmed David Acland from UKHO as the new vice-chairman of the SNPWG.

Terms of Reference (TOR)

In Chapter 4 of the latest TOR of the SNPWG the following is said:

4. Execution

a)   The WG should:

(i)...
(ii)...
(iii)...

(iv) Investigate restructuring the format and content of nautical publications in order to optimize their reproduction in digital and paper formats, and to facilitate their integration with information systems such as ECDIS. Initial focus should be given to Sailing Directions, to define: 1) the minimum content of digital Sailing

Directions compatible with ECDIS, and 2) the minimum common content of both digital and paper Sailing Directions, as stand alone documents.

(v) Draft guidance document(s) and/or revised technical resolutions, as instructed by CHRIS.

(vi) Investigate the production of specifications for International (INT) nautical publications (e.g. Sailing Directions, List of Lights and Radio Signals).

These tasks came into the TOR of the SNPWG after CHRIS 15. They are different to what was agreed at CHRIS 13 and nobody asked for this change. Also, it does not reflect what the working-group is doing. Therefore I propose to change the TOR back to what was agreed at CHRIS 13. That means the tasks (iv), (v) and (vi) should be deleted.

Conclusions and Recommended Actions

1. As mentioned above , it is very difficult to get the working group members to actively participate and contribute between meetings. I would like to ask the CHRIS-Members to encourage their representatives in the SNPWG to participate and contribute more between meetings

2. The TOR of the SNPWG have to be changed (see above).

3. Moving the task of developing the presentation of NPs in ECDIS from the SNPWG to the CSMWG(see above).

Justification and Impacts

2. The TOR of the SNPWG have to be changed.

   The members of the SNPWG want to concentrate their work on the integration of information coming from NPs into ECDIS (NP3). This also seems to be the intention of CHRIS (see minutes of CHRIS13/14). The latest TOR are putting a much wider task on the SNPWG and don't reflect this intention.
   It seem as if these tasks dealing with NP1 and NP2 came into the TOR of the SNPWG by accident (Compare the TOR after CHRIS 13 and CHRIS 15).

3. Moving the task of developing the presentation of NPs in ECDIS from the SNPWG to the CSMWG

   The SNPWG is comprised of experts working with the information in NPs and they know how this information has to be presented in NP1(maybe NP2). The working group is now working on the data content and data structure for NP3.
   The members of the SNPWG never worked on a task how to present information in an ECDIS. The experts for this are sitting in the CSMWG and therefore the task of developing the presentation of NPs in ECDIS should be given to the CSMWG. Naturally this should be done in a close co-operation between the two working groups.

   The extension to S57 which should cover NPs will be prepared for S57 Ed. 4.0. We are all aware that for S57 Ed. 4.0 the presentation library has to be rewritten. At the same time the presentation for information from NPs could be added.

It is very difficult to predict when this will happen, because there is a strong dependency of the TSMADWG work.

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Action Required of CHRIS

The CHRIS is invited to:

      a.   endorse the changes to the Terms of Reference of SNPWG.

      b.   move the task of developing the presentation of NPs in ECDIS from the SNPWG to the CSMWG

      c.   endorse the SNPWG-Report.

Membership of SNPWG

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SNPWG Proposed Work Plan - [date] to [date]

SNPWG Tasks

A.   Decide on the Data Structure of NPs-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 H-high M- medium L-low	Milestones	Start Date	End Date	Status P-planned O-ongoing C- Completed	Contact Person	Affected Pubs/Stan dard	Remarks
A1	Decide on the Data Structure of NPs-Data intended for use in ECDIS (NP3)	H	Decision for a Data Structure (June 2004)	2003	2004	C	Chair/Sec SNPWG		NP3 Data should be encoded as S57-objects which were modeled in UML
A2	Look at existing systems on the market	H	June 2004	2003	2004	C	Chair/Sec SNPWG		
A3	Evaluate the pros and cons	H	June 2004	2003	2004	C	Chair/Sec SNPWG		

B1	Examine the content of traditional NPs	M	Content Specs (June 2004)	2004	2005	C	Chair/Sec SNPWG		Which NPs and NP data type should be included in NP3
B2	Proposal discovery and distribution.	M	Open- No deadline	2004	-	O	Chair/Sec SNPWG		Post discovery information on website
B3	Draft Content Specs Model the data	H	2006	2004	2006	O	Chair/Sec SNPWG		In time to be included in S57 Ed4
B4	Review Data	M	2006	2004	2006	O	Chair/Sec SNPWG		
B5	Prepare Proposal for TSMAD	H	2006	2005	2006	P	Chair/Sec SNPWG		In time to be included in S57 Ed4
C1	Develop basic display rules for NP data intended for use in ECDIS (NP3)	M	2007	2005	2007	P	Chair/Sec SNPWG		Close Co-operation with CSMWG required.
D1	Data Capture Guidance	M	2007	2006	2007	P	Chair/Sec SNPWG		Document like Use of the Object Catalogue for NPs
E1	Revise technical resolutions as required	M	2007	2007	2007	P	Chair/Sec SNPWG		
F1	Liaise with the CSMWG for the development of the display rules	M	2007	2005	2007	O	Chair/Sec SNPWG		
F2	Liaise with the TSMADWG	M	2007	2004	2007	O	Chair/Sec SNPWG		
F3	Liaise with other relevant WGs	M	2007	2004	2007		Chair/Sec SNPWG		