

**19th CHRIS MEETING
Rotterdam, Netherlands, 4-9 November 2007**

Paper for Consideration by CHRIS

Consistent Application of the attribute SCAMIN

Submitted by:	Denmark, Finland, Sweden
Executive summary:	In this paper there are some comments and concerns to the proposed new rules for Consistent Application of the attribute SCAMIN for consideration by CHRIS19.
Related documents:	1) IHO CL 64/2007 2) CHRIS19/6.1C
Related Projects:	BSEHWG study on SCAMIN harmonisation

Introduction

In reference 1) there is a proposal for the consistent application of the attribute SCAMIN.

In reference 2) there is a revised proposal which is proposed to be approved by the CHRIS19.

Discussion

This issue was distributed to the TSMADWG with a very short notice. It was not possible to analyse it well before the last TSMADWG meeting. There was a long discussion on this issue at the meeting. In our understanding the proposal has been tested only with very limited data.

The TSMADWG discussions after the CL 64/2007 show that this issue in total may not be mature enough to be approved at the CHRIS/19 meeting. There are many fundamental issues where concerns or various opinions have been raised, e.g. the meaning of compilation scale, automated SCAMIN settings and depth contour intervals. These should be evaluated in more details.

The Hydrographic Offices of Denmark, Finland and Sweden have concerns that the proposal may not fit well on all Baltic Sea areas, it may be laborious to implement it, and it is not sure that inconsistencies could be eliminated by implementing them.

The Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission has recognized the need for ENC harmonisation at its 12th Conference in June 2007. The BSHC established a Baltic Sea ENC Harmonisation Working Group (BSEHWG) with TORs to review inconsistencies between ENCs and to propose actions to resolve them. The BSEHWG should report by the end of July 2008.

The BSEHWG has sent an ENC Harmonisation Questionnaire to the Baltic Sea HOs. The questionnaire includes also questions about the use of SCAMIN. The BSEHWG will develop an Excel table including the existing SCAMIN rules and values, and in addition the proposed new ones. The results of the Questionnaire will be analysed during autumn and will be finalised at the BSEHWG ENC Harmonisation Workshop which is planned to be held in December 2007.

It is estimated that these BSEHWG actions will reveal new information on the use of SCAMIN and may forward some enhancements to the proposed new rules.

Conclusions/ Recommendations

In principle the Hydrographic Offices of Denmark, Finland and Sweden understand the importance to have common consistency rules and support to define them.

However, based on the facts above, the HOs believe that the proposal in *CHRIS19/6.1C* may not be mature enough to be approved now and they propose that the issue should be analysed in more details. Also the findings and recommendations the BSEHWG may find should be taken into consideration.

Justification and Impacts

The Hydrographic Offices of Denmark, Finland and Sweden regard this issue important for ENC consistency.

Actions required by CHRIS

The CHRIS19 meeting is invited to

1. take note on this information and
2. decide on appropriate actions.

Helsinki, 15 October 2007

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