

1st IHO-HSSC Meeting
The Regent Hotel, Singapore, 22-24 October 2009

Report to HSSC-1 on the results of the Improved Data Exchange Working Group and the possible need for an S100-based data exchange standard for paper charts

Submitted by: Sweden on behalf of The Nordic Hydrographic Commission

Executive Summary: This paper reports on the conclusion of The Nordic Working Group on Developing Improved Data Exchange through S-100 regarding the need for a TSMAD Work Item Task A9. "Develop S-57 to paper chart functionality and Print-on-Demand (POD) file transfer guidelines."

Related Documents: Final Report of the Nordic Working Group on Developing Improved Data Exchange through S-100

Related Projects:

Introduction / Background

The existence of the TSMAD Digital Paper Chart Work Item (A.9) was questioned at 20th CHRIS Meeting. The Work Item is dormant and no definitive requirement has been expressed by the community. CHRIS invited the Nordic Hydrographic Commission to report to the 1st HSSC Meeting on the results of the Nordic Improved Data Exchange Working Group since this Working Group handled issues closely related to the matter (Action 20/10).

The Nordic Working Group on Paper Chart Harmonization concluded that there was a need to improve the data exchange between the Nordic countries. The Working Group suggested in its final report to the Steering Committee that a Nordic working group be established to develop and present an improved solution for the data exchange between the Nordic countries and the handling of cartography within S-100. At the 52nd Meeting the Nordic Hydrographic Commission decided that the Improved Data Exchange Working Group should be established.

The Improved Data Exchange Working Group became active in September 2008 and presented the final report to the 53rd NHC Meeting in April 2009 (NHC/53/6.2B). All recommendations made by the working group were approved by NHC and the working group was dissolved.

Discussion

There are two main aspects of improved data exchange between neighbouring countries. The first aspect is that of improved data quality as a result of timely and descriptive exchange of information regarding updates. The second aspect is that of improvement to the efficiency of the chart production process.

The Improved Data Exchange Working Group made a number of recommendations to the Nordic Hydrographic Commission regarding improved data exchange between the Nordic countries. In general the recommendations signify that Official ENC Data should be used as source for areas of the paper charts that include neighbouring countries waters and for which the information is of navigational importance. Furthermore, Official ENC Data should be used for the continuous update of these areas and additional descriptive information about the ENC Updates should be made available by each country.

In order to enhance the display of text in ECDIS and to make it possible to include cartographic information in the ENC Data Exchange Set, potentially improving the efficiency of the conversion process from ENC data to paper chart, a proposal was made to the TSMAD regarding the inclusion of cartographic attributes in S-100/S-101. The proposal was accepted by the TSMAD for further specification and inclusion in the standard. In our understanding there is no need for S-57 or S-100 based paper charts functionality for data transfer (as in Task A.9).

Regarding to the functionality for Print-On-Demand (Task A.9) we believe that originally this was meant to be used for "Printed ENC's" e.g. to derive printed back-up charts directly from ENC's. We have no information if this kind of functionality is really used or needed. In our understanding the term "Print-On-Demand" is nowadays used for printing of small amount of copies of updated paper chart raster files, not from ENC's. If specifications for POD are needed a new Task may be established.

Conclusion

The conclusion of the working group is that the Official ENC Data and the existing ENC Data Infrastructure be used for improved data exchange.

The members of NHC have no definitive requirement for a separate product specification for digital paper charts at this point in time. The Task A.9 could be removed from the TSMADWG Work Plan.

Action Required of HSSC

The HSSC-1 is invited to take note on this information and to agree on appropriate actions.
