

**3<sup>rd</sup> IHO-HSSC Meeting  
Monaco, 08-10 November 2011**

**Paper for Consideration by HSSC**

**S-44 – IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys  
– Consideration for Revision**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	IHB
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	This paper reports on the minimal feedback from the commercial hydrographic sector concerning the need to revise S-44 and invites HSSC to consider whether S-44 requires revision.
<b>Related Documents:</b>	S-44 – IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys

### Introduction

1. Edition 5 of S-44 – *IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys* was issued in February 2008 – nearly four years ago.
2. In June 2011, the IHB sent a letter (see Annex A) to all divisions of the International Federation of Hydrographic Societies and to relevant NGIO's in order to assist HSSC and to inform Member States of the latest views of the commercial surveying sector regarding S-44. This was intended to help HSSC determine whether S-44 requires revision to include additional material to reflect contemporary or any emerging requirements. Notice was also included in various hydrographic journals and magazines.
3. After nearly four months, the IHB has received only one submission - from an independent commercial hydrographic surveyor from the USA. The submission does not include details of any specific action required regarding S-44.

### Analysis

4. No specific additional requirements for S-44 have been identified from the commercial sector.
5. However, the IHO may still wish to consider whether S-44 could be revised to better assist Hydrographic Offices – particularly those that are engaged in surveying through contract support arrangements with commercial providers. This might include addressing topics such as:
  - Should standardised procedures be established and included in S-44 that enable survey and positioning sensors and systems to be tested and/or verified as meeting the requirements of S-44?
  - Is guidance required on how surveys are assessed and validated as meeting the requirements of S-44?
  - Is there a requirement to establish an IHO data transfer standard for hydrographic surveying data, including bathymetry, sonar and tides?

### Action Required of HSSC

6. HSSC is requested to:
  - **note** this report,
  - **take any action** it considers appropriate.

IHB File No. S3/7198

1<sup>st</sup> June 2011

**REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK ON IHO PUBLICATION S-44  
- IHO STANDARDS FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS**

Dear S-44 Users and Stakeholders,

1. The current edition of S-44 - *IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys* was adopted in February 2008. A copy can be downloaded free-of-charge from the IHO website.
2. Stakeholder feedback is now required to determine whether S-44 requires review or revision, as well as any need to include new or additional material that reflects contemporary or emerging requirements. This feedback can then be considered by the IHO Standards and Services Committee (HSSC) that next meets in November 2011. If there is a requirement, the HSSC will re-convene its S-44 Working Group to carry out the revision process.
3. In the case of S-44, the IFHS, its affiliated societies and other Hydrographic Societies contain a significant proportion of S-44 users and stakeholders in their ranks. As a consequence, this letter seeks assistance from those societies to obtain feedback on S-44 from their members – either individually or collectively, as is most convenient.
4. Feedback is requested under the following broad headings:
  - Which parts of the existing S-44 standard require review and updating? In what way do they need updating?
  - Should standardised procedures be established and included in S-44 that enable survey and positioning sensors and systems to be tested and/or verified as meeting the requirements of S-44?
  - Is there a requirement to establish an IHO data transfer standard for hydrographic surveying data, including bathymetry, sonar and tides? If YES, are there any other data domains to be considered?
5. Input is requested as soon as is convenient, and should be sent to the Secretariat of the IHO at the International Hydrographic Bureau in Monaco. The email address is: *info@ihb.mc*. Submissions need to reach the IHB **before the beginning of September** if they are to be considered by the HSSC.
6. If the S-44 working Group is re-established, there will be an opportunity for the IFHS through its delegates to participate directly in the S-44 Working Group. This is because the IFHS is a Non Governmental International Organisation accredited with the IHO.
7. We would be grateful if you could alert your members to this IHO request for feedback and input.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely



Robert WARD  
Director