

**4th IHO-HSSC Meeting
Taunton, UK, 25-28 September 2012**

Paper for Consideration by HSSC

Annual National Technology Updates

Submitted by:	United States (NOAA)
Executive Summary:	The NOAA Office of Coast Survey would like HSSC to consider adding National Technology Updates to the annual HSSC agenda.
Related Documents:	N/A
Related Projects:	N/A

Introduction / Background

Over recent years, the HSSC has been heavily involved with S-57, S-100, ENC's and related items. While these topics should take precedence, they have nevertheless largely displaced technical exchanges between member states on other matters. The United States (NOAA) proposes that the HSSC add a permanent agenda item to its annual meeting during which member states would present technical items of interest, successes or failures within their office, etc. from which other member states might benefit.

Analysis/Discussion

At infrequent intervals, some member states have presented technical items of general interest. At HSSC 2, results from a laboratory experiment comparing north-up, head-up and exocentric 3D maps were presented. At CHRIS 19, a demonstration of the "Digipilot" digital sailing directions informed member states of what could be accomplished using the NP2A standard for digital publications. The regular exchange of such new or improved hydrographic and charting capabilities should be included as part of the HSSC program. As the IHO's Technical Steering Group, the HSSC is the most appropriate venue for member states to share their experiences with new approaches to meeting the requirements of mariners and other users of hydrographic information.

According to the HSSC Terms of Reference, the Committee should:

- 1.1 Monitor the requirements of mariners and other users of hydrographic information concerning the use of hydrographic products and information systems that may require data and information provided by national hydrographic authorities, and to identify those technical matters that may affect the activities and products of those authorities.

1.2 Study and propose methods and standards for the acquisition, assessment and provision of official hydrographic data, nautical products and other related services.

1.3 Maintain technical liaison with other relevant stakeholders, such as type-approval authorities, navigation equipment manufacturers, and the hydrographic data user-community.

Each of these terms of reference could be supported through a few short (5 minute) national technical reports to be given by member states at the HSSC. National reports would be given when a member state believes they have information of a novel development or technique that would be of general interest member states. Member states could also sponsor presentations by academic or other research institutions. It is not intended that these reports be an exhaustive documentation of a member state's activities – only a synopsis to identify relevant information and a point of contact.

The update should address topics such as cartographic modernization efforts, improvements in data collection techniques, new products to support mariners, alternate uses of hydrographic data, etc. The reports should be concise and have a uniform format that provides a time effective environment for member states to share information.

Conclusions

The HSSC should increase its support of technical collaboration among member states. Brief reporting of technical matters potentially of use by other member states would be an appropriate agenda item for HSSC meetings. The HSSC provides an excellent venue for technology exchange, and member states may benefit from more formal technology updates. This would not require significant resources to implement.

Recommendation

- The HSSC should add a permanent agenda item to its annual meeting during which member states would present short statements on technical matters which might be of interest to fellow member states and invite further collaboration

Justification and Impacts

The HSSC meeting is one of the rare occasions when technical hydrographic and cartographic leaders of the world gather together on an annual basis. Facilitating the presentation of the best ideas of member states attending on emerging technology or novel techniques and methods could contribute to greater efficiency and improve the quality of hydrographic data and products of all nations.

Action Required of HSSC

The HSSC is invited to adopt the proposed recommendation.