Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee

Report of the SCWG

to HSSC 6

November 2014

Principal activities and achievements

- The 2st meeting of the SCWG took place at the Office of the Department of Oceans and Fisheries (DOF), Québec City, Canada from 28 to 30 May 2014 and was hosted by the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS). The meeting was attended by 12 representatives from 5 IHO Member States, the IHB and expert contributors from the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping of the University of New Hampshire (UNH), SPAWAR Atlantic, Jeppesen and Caris.

Principal activities and achievements

- The SCWG received presentations covering the analysis of a Surface Currents design survey and results from UNH, CO-OPS current data telemetry and formatting from NOAA, Raster Surface Currents from Caris and the operational forecast model system for Surface Currents from Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) respectively. The SCWG then received an analysis of the responses to the User Survey questionnaire prepared by the Netherlands and Spain.

Principal activities and achievements

- Coverage types for currents were discussed, and a list of potential Features and Attributes was presented and revised. Features are planned to include grids of water speed, direction, uncertainty in speed and direction, and water level referenced to a suitable datum.

- It was agreed that test surface current data sets would be sent to SPAWAR Atlantic (in HDF5 format if possible) to be reviewed in preparation for creating an S-111 portrayal testing capability.

- The SCWG devoted time to undertake an in-depth review of the draft S-111 Product Specification, achieving significant progress towards development of an initial complete first version. Scheduling for subsequent reviewing was discussed.

Problems or outstanding issues

- Continued development of the S-111 Product Specification, especially sections not sufficiently addressed by any existing PS (exchange of large 3-d data sets, portrayal of time series of vectors, layering and symbol priority, etc.).
- Accessing test data sets from various HOs in preparation for creating a S-111 test portrayal model. Establishing a common format.
- Consulting with TWLWG on establishment of common vertical datums for currents referenced to a water level. Also, transmission of real-time data.

Future work programme

- The SCWG revised its Work Plan for the period 2015-2016, which will be submitted to HSSC 6 for endorsement.

Action requested of HSSC

- a. note the SCWG report
- b. re-appoint the SCWG to continue its work under its current Terms of Reference
- c. endorse the draft Work Plan