

**8TH MEETING OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE
IHB, Monaco, 14-18 November 2016**

**Paper for Consideration by HSSC
IRCC Activities (including MSDI) affecting HSSC**

<i>Submitted by:</i>	IRCC Secretary
<i>Executive Summary:</i>	This paper presents the decisions/actions/tasks agreed at the 8 th meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee that may be relevant to the work of HSSC.
<i>Related Documents:</i>	IHO CL 42/2016- <i>Outcome of the 8th IRCC Meeting</i> IRCC8-07D – <i>Report of the WENDWG</i> IRCC8-07E – <i>Report of the MSDIWG</i> IRCC8-08A – <i>Input from HSSC-7</i> IRCC8-07H3 – <i>Competence of the Hydrographic Surveyor as a component of the Total Uncertainty Budget of a Hydrographic Survey</i>
<i>Related Projects:</i>	HSSC Work Programme

Introduction

1. The eighth meeting of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC8) was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), from 29 to 31 May 2016, hosted by the General Headquarters (GHQ) Armed Forces, Military Survey Department of the UAE. The report and the lists of actions, decisions and tasks are available on the IHO web site at www.iho.int > Committees & WG > IRCC > IRCC8.
2. The IRCC reviewed the reports and activities of the RHCs and its subordinate bodies, proposed amended Terms of Reference for Member States' consideration and approval and considered the need to have a better communication strategy in order to promote the success stories of the IHO.
3. The meeting was informed of developments in products derived from Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC) for the leisure market. These, together with Electronic Chart Systems (ECS), may become national carriage requirements stipulated by maritime administrations for non-SOLAS¹ vessels. The meeting considered that guidelines on the use of official data in derived products for the leisure market and the minimum level of functionality of ECS could be useful in supporting national maritime administrations.
4. The meeting noted the increasing level of capacity building activities in West Africa under the effective leadership of Morocco and with key contribution from France. The Committee also noted the high level of engagement and capacity building in the South-West Pacific; a good example being the support provided to Fiji by South West Pacific Hydrographic commission (SWPHC) Members and regional bodies following Tropical Cyclone *Winston*.

¹ SOLAS: International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea.

5. With respect to the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission, the meeting noted the development of the Arctic Voyage Planning Guides, the efforts to resolve ENC overlaps and the project to develop an Arctic Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) in coordination with other organizations, and the engagement with stakeholders in relation to crowd-sourced bathymetry, satellite-derived bathymetry and hydrographic risk assessment.
6. The Committee was informed about the approval of the SafetyNET and NAVTEX Manuals by the International Maritime Organization following the new review process endorsed at IRCC7 and subsequently approved by the IHO Member States. Noting the increased cooperation between NAVAREA and METAREA Coordinators, the Committee acknowledged the need for more engagement of Member States, National MSI Coordinators and Observers in matters related to the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service.
7. The meeting welcomed the development of new Capacity Building (CB) Procedures, including one to assess and monitor the CB phases in coastal States, and the continued support from the Republic of Korea and from the Nippon Foundation of Japan to the CB Fund.
8. The meeting noted with concern several issues related to ENC coverage. Little progress has been made to resolve existing ENC overlaps, some of the top 2000 ports still lack adequate ENC coverage and some ENCs are not available through or distributed through the RENC distribution system. In addition, difficulties in providing ENC updates at the same frequency as the equivalent paper chart updates was also discussed. The meeting observed that progress in improving coverage is now largely dependent upon new surveys being conducted in those areas where the existing data is insufficient to support the production of ENCs. The Committee agreed guidance on the conditions under which Marine Information Overlays (MIO) could be issued to assist in drawing attention to any differences between a published paper chart and a corresponding ENC or to assist in displaying Temporary & Preliminary Notices to Mariners on ECDIS.
9. The Committee was informed about progress in updating IHO Publication C-17 *Spatial Data Infrastructures: "The Marine Dimension" - Guidance for Hydrographic Offices*. The Committee also noted the progress of the work of the Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry Working Group and its preparation of a Guidance document on Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry.
- 10.. The Committee endorsed the draft new edition 1.0.0 of IHO Publication S-5A *Standards of Competence for Category "A" Hydrographic Surveyors* to be circulated for Member States consideration and approval, and approved the work plan for the development and adoption of the draft new editions 1.0.0 of the IHO Publications S-8B *Standards of Competence for Category "B" Nautical Cartographers* and S-8A *Standards of Competence for Category "A" Nautical Cartographers*. The meeting commended the work done by the IBSC with respect to the review of an increasing number of course submissions and the revision of the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers.
11. The meeting noted the work done by the GEBCO Guiding Committee and its subordinate bodies, especially the evolution of the GEBCO grids, the incorporation of shallow water bathymetry in the GEBCO dataset, the current status of digitizing the GEBCO chart series with the support of Italy and Japan and the organization of the Forum for the Future of Ocean Floor Mapping (F-FOFM).
12. The meeting discussed the revision of the IHO Strategic Plan and agreed on the need to implement a more pragmatic performance monitoring system. The meeting acknowledged also the need to raise awareness of the role of hydrography and the importance of improving knowledge of the seas and oceans in support of the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, disaster risk reduction and the integrity of the oceans.
13. The next meeting of the IRCC will be held in Paramaribo, Suriname from 12 to 14 June 2017, preceded by the 15th meeting of the Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC15) from 7 to 9 June.
14. The table in Annex lists the actions of IRCC-8 that may be relevant to the work of HSSC with an indication of potential impact on HSSC.

Action required of HSSC

15. The HSSC is invited to:
 - a. **Note** this report,
 - b. **Consider** the potential impact of IRCC-8 actions, decisions and tasks relevant to its work,
 - c. **Take any other actions** considered necessary.

ANNEX

Actions from IRCC-8 relevant to HSSC

No	Action	Potential impact on HSSC
IRCC8/19	Notify the HSSC Chair on the development of the OGC Candidate Standard to replace Coordinate Reference Systems (CRS)	Doc. IRCC8-07E informs the development of the OGC Candidate Standard to replace Coordinate Reference Systems (CRS) and requests to HSSC considerations regarding to the development on this.
IRCC8/27	Request to HSSC to consider the human element component in its consideration of the quality assurance process for hydrography.	Doc. IRCC8-07H3 informs that the human element may be a valid component in determining the statistical uncertainty associated with hydrographic surveys. HSSC is requested to task the Hydrographic Surveys Scoping Project Team (H2SPT) to investigate such matters.
IRCC8 Decision 14	To endorse the recommended actions from WENDWG concerning Marine Information Overlays (MIOs).	IRCC8 Report and Doc. IRCC8-07D note that there is a need to raise awareness of T&P NM updates for ENCs, and HSSC is encouraged to include within its work plan for the ENCWG the delivery of an improved solution for T&P updates in future S-101 based ECDIS. In the interim period possibilities of S-124 should be considered. HSSC is requested to consider this recommendation.