

IHO-EU WG, 4rd meeting, 18-19 January 2016

Item 6 : Marine Framework Strategy and MSP Directives

S-121 : Links with MSP ?

Within Maritime Spatial Planning in the Northern European Atlantic, SIMCelt will focus on the two following main objectives: support the implementation of the MSP Directive in Member States' marine waters, and concrete, cross-border MSP cooperation.

A key element of MSP is the data of which meet the requirements of internationally recognised quality protocols, and can be relied on by all stakeholders and end-users.

The S-121 allows information and data to be shared and exchanged and therefore support transboundary cooperation as well as national efforts linked to MSP. Defined as such it is both a basis for dialogue with the public and all interested parties, as well as providing support for decision making. It has been pointed out that S-121 is the first product specification in S-100 not primarily intended to support nautical charting.

At its 5th meeting in 2013 the HSSC had endorsed the development of S-121 - Maritime Limits and Boundaries Product Specification as an IHO product specification based on S-100 and agreed that Geoscience Australia would be responsible for developing and maintaining the product specification on behalf of the IHO.

Since that time Canada has joined Australia in the S-121 development programme. Although Australia and Canada reported significant progress at HSSC-7, the Committee noted that further work was required. The Committee invited Australia and Canada to submit a work plan to the next meeting of the S-100WG and instructed the S-100WG to establish a formal project team to implement the work plan. Australia offered to chair the project team, with Canada acting as editor of S-121.

The draft Terms of Reference and work plan to be considered further by the S-100WG are provided in the 84th Circular Letter sent by 9th December 2015. As requested by the HSSC, the Directing Committee has invited Member States to consider nominating representatives to participate in this new project team. Nominations should reach the IHB not later than 15 February 2016.

The maritime limits and boundaries product specification S-121 will deliver greater certainty to the location and status of international and national maritime zones and limits, thereby contributing to the security and economic well-being of all States.

It is recommended that all IENWG members liaise with S-121 Maritime Limits and Boundaries Working Group and especially, that SimCelt consortium prototype MSP datasets S-121 based.