

**5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IHO-EU Network Working Group**  
**13<sup>th</sup> European Week of Regions and Cities, Workshop on**  
***“The Importance of Marine Data for the Development of the Blue Economy on Local and Regional Level”***  
**Brussels, Belgium**  
**13 – 14 October**

The IHO-EU Network Working Group (IENWG), established by the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) to monitor and deal with the activities and processes developed under the aegis of the European Union (EU), held its fifth meeting in Brussels, Belgium on 13 and 14 October on the occasion of the 13<sup>th</sup> European Week of Regions and Cities (EUWRC 2016).



**The Chair of the IENWG**

The meeting was chaired by Laurent Kerléguer (France) and attended by representatives from the following Regional Hydrographic Commissions:

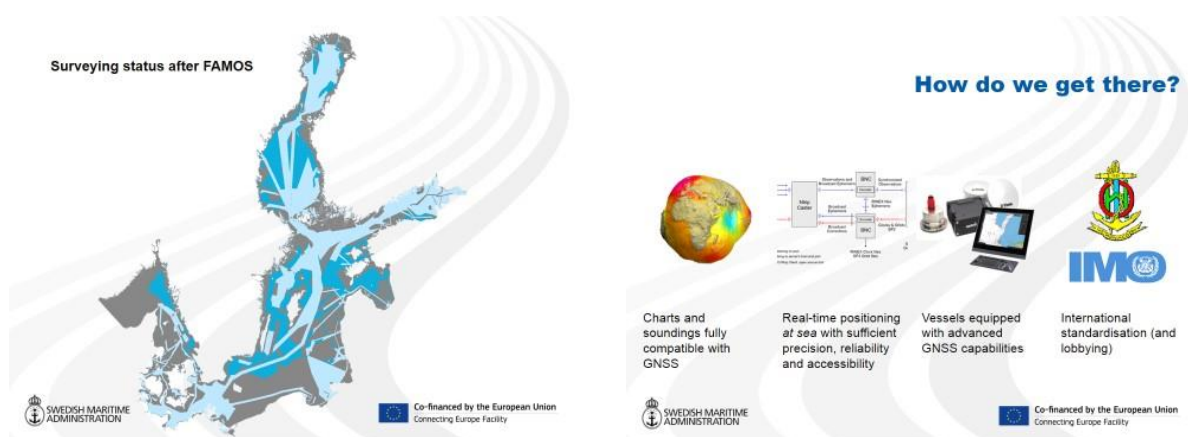
- Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (Sweden),
- Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (France),
- Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission (Greece),
- Meso American - Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (France),
- Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (Norway, in the absence of Denmark),
- Nordic Hydrographic Commission (Norway),
- North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (United Kingdom),
- South Africa and Islands Hydrographic Commission (France),
- South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (France).

Apologies had been received from Germany, representing the North Sea Hydrographic Commission. Representatives from the Italian Hydrographic Office participated as Associate Members. Assistant Director Yves Guillam represented the Secretariat of the IHO.

On 13 October, the IENWG contributed to the workshop on *“The Importance of Marine Data for the Development of the Blue Economy on Local and Regional Level”* organized by the Committee of the Regions of the European Union. Notwithstanding a relatively low number of participants at the workshop, the IENWG members introduced the IHO and highlighted the progress made since the signature of the MoU between the European Commission (EC) and the IHO in 2012, in particular through the development of the Coastal Mapping Project and the portal of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet – see IHO Bulletin Report 18-19 January 2016). The

representative of the EC Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG Mare) was pleased to report that the Hydrographic Offices had become much more active than in the past. He gave a presentation on the maritime geospatial strategy and the associated road map, benchmarking the annual budgets allocated for data collection through the *Copernicus* programme (satellite data, ~ 150 M€), the Data Collection Framework (fisheries data, ~ 60 M€) and EMODnet (< 5 M€) confirming that the support for collecting hydrographic data “*where it is needed to develop innovation and jobs, where it is not good enough to meet user requirements*” remained insufficient. He also confirmed that EMODnet operations were funded until 2020 and that DG Mare was preparing for the next phases of the activity. One of the main topics of the workshop concerned the Coastal Mapping Project which sparked discussion on whether Hydrographic Offices were interested in standards other than those existing for bathymetry! This provided the opportunity for the representative of the IHO Secretariat to introduce the S-100 framework (S-102 in particular), refer to the IHO project team on hydrographic surveys scoping, and to report on the contacts already established with the Chairs of the Backscatter Working Group of GeoHab (Marine Geological and Biological Habitat Mapping).

The meeting agreed on the proposals prepared by the French Hydrographic Office (SHOM), as leader of the Coastal Mapping Project Consortium, to develop a European strategy by Regional Hydrographic Commissions for coastal bathymetry. SHOM also reported on the development of the first components for the implementation of the European directive establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning (MSP). The representative of the BSHC (Sweden) provided a status report on the FAMOS project (Finalising Surveys for the Baltic Motorways of the Sea), co-funded by the EU.



**FAMOS Project (Source: Swedish Maritime Administration)**  
**+ 10 cm draft → + 20 kUSD profit (per port call)**  
 assuming typical Aframax tanker = 3 USD profit per barrel

The meeting agreed in principle to highlight these promising results as part of the World Hydrography Day 2017 theme at the European Maritime Day planned in Poole, UK, in May 2017.

The IENWG agreed on the need to consider the impact of the proposed amendment to IHO Resolution 3/1919 - *Datums and Bench Marks* (see IHO CL 27/2016) on INSPIRE technical guidelines but noted that the INSPIRE Technical Working Group for Coordinate Reference Systems and Grid Systems is now disbanded.

It is planned to hold the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IENWG on 16 March 2017 in Paris if possible, in conjunction with the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning to be held in UNESCO from 15 to 17 March and co-organized by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the European Commission.