

1st MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Report by

UNITED STATES - CANADA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

1. Background.

The National Hydrographers of the United States of America (U.S.) and Canada (the Director of NOAA's Office of Coast Survey and the Director General of the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS), respectively), along with senior staff from each organization, compose the U.S./Canada Hydrographic Commission. Representatives from the National Spatial-Intelligence Agency (NSA) and the U.S. Navy are also invited to attend and participate. Commission meetings are held annually, alternating locations and Chairs between the U.S. and Canada, to address common regional issues related to charting, research, hydrographic data collection, and sharing of expertise.

Before each Commission meeting, the U.S./Canada Charting Advisors Committee (CAC) convenes to review the programs and activities of the two agencies, makes the initial identification of those areas or programs where a cooperative approach could be beneficial and takes appropriate actions for implementation. The CAC is co-chaired by the Deputy Director, NOAA's Office of Coast Survey, and the CHS National Director of Products and Services. The primary role of the CAC is to identify agenda items for the Commission reflecting cooperative programs and activities and to discuss and prepare these in detail for presentation to the Commission.

2. Transboundary Collaboration

Before the 1990s, both the NOAA Office of Coast Survey (OCS) and the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS), produced charts in the boundary waters between the U.S. and Canada. These charts were generally issued at different times, making one or the other the most recent edition. They also differed in scale, limits of coverage, etc. but were, nonetheless, redundant.

To address these issues, the U.S. and Canada developed a "Single Agency Charting" (SAC) agreement for the boundary waters between the two countries. This agreement called for paper charts of specific border areas to be produced by either OCS or CHS, but not both, with the goal of reducing compilation costs, enhancing consistency of charts covering these waters, and ensuring maximum safety of navigation.

Both OCS and CHS identified general geographic areas for consideration and develop a list of candidate SACs. The participating agencies continued to exchange data and other pertinent information to support chart production on both sides of the border. The SAC agreement proved very successful, and several years ago it was decided that a similar effort should be undertaken for Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC) to ensure conformance

with the WEND Principles. It was mutually agreed that this project should initially be conducted as a pilot in one area, the Pacific region, so the unique issues related to single agency ENC production could be addressed on a limited scale.

The project began with an exchange of cartographers to study the affected charts and identify a process and criteria for “cutting” the navigable waters on the charts to eliminate overlap but with minimal impact on the mariner. Over the past year these “cuts” were made by both OCS and CHS, and additional issues were identified for negotiation and agreement.

3. Meetings.

For the past two years, the USCHC meetings have been held separate from the Canada and US Hydrographic Conferences, a divergence from past practice. While this results in more travel and greater expense for the primary participants, it allows fuller participation in the Conference and technical workshops, without the distraction of the Commission meetings, and visa-versa.

In addition to the annual Commission meetings, the OCS and CHS participate in bilateral workshops on VDATUM and collaboration on hydrographic acquisition and processing problems and technological advances.

Date	Meeting	Venue
11-12 December 2007	Process Re-engineering Workshop	Seattle, WA USA
19 March 2008	U.S./Canada VDATUM Meeting	Videoconference
16 April 2008	31 st US/Canada Hydrographic Commission	Ottawa, ON Canada
9 April 2009	32 rd US/Canada Hydrographic Commission	Silver Spring, MD USA

4. Capacity Building Activities

As Hydrographer of the Navy, the U.S. Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (CNMOC) provides formal hydrographic training and conducts cooperative hydrographic surveys to support safe navigation. The following are some of the recent CNMOC activities:

- ❖ International Hydrographic Management and Engineering Program
US Navy Fleet Survey Team (Category B)
 - ♦ MAR-SEP 2008 class graduated 4 international students
(Poland, Indonesia, Taiwan, South Korea)
 - ♦ MAR-SEP 2009 class in progress with 6 international students
(Tunisia (2), Poland (2), Egypt, Malaysia)

- ❖ International Hydrography Applied Science Program
University of Southern Mississippi (Category A)
 - ♦ 2008 - 1 international graduate from Australia
 - ♦ 2009 - 1 international graduate from Egypt

- ❖ Cooperative Surveys with host countries:
 - ♦ Bar, Montenegro MBES (15JUL08 - 20SEP08)
 - ♦ Seychelles SBES (18 - 31JAN09)
 - ♦ (CBSC Funded event for NIOHC to demo fly-away survey capability)
 - ♦ Puerto Plata, Dom Rep MBES (03MAR08 - 12APR08)
 - ♦ Khalifa, Bahrain MBES (14MAY08 - 23JUL08)
 - ♦ Klek, Croatia/Neum, Bosnia MBES (15SEP08 - 07NOV08)
 - ♦ El Bluf, Nicaragua SBES (02OCT08 - 22DEC08)
 - ♦ Lagos, Nigeria SBES (07MAR09 - 26MAR09) (African Partnership Station)
 - ♦ La Union, El Salvador SBES (24FEB09 - 16APR09)
 - ♦ Chaguaramas, Trinidad and Tobago MBES (03MAR09 - 15APR09)
 - ♦ Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago MBES (03MAR09 - 15APR09)
 - ♦ Rep. of Philippines SME (11MAY09 - 20MAY09)

5. Participation in IHO Bodies

IHO BODY	MEMBER STATE	MEMBER STATE PARTICIPANTS
WEND	United States and Canada	United States: CAPT Steve Barnum, NOAA Meg Danley Craig Winn CAPT John Lowell, NOAA Chris Andreasen Canada: Savi Narayanan
CHRIS	United States and Canada	United States: CAPT Steve Barnum Craig Winn Dave Enabnit Canada: Savi Narayanan

IHO BODY	MEMBER STATE	MEMBER STATE PARTICIPANTS
HCIWWG	United States and Canada	United States: Denise Ladue (USACE) Canada: Dale Nicholson
GEBCO	United States and Canada	United States: Chris Fox Canada: Paola Travaglini
Capacity-Building Subcommittee	United States	CDR Brian Connon, USN CBSC Vice Chair
Commission on Promulgation of Radio Navigation Warnings	United States	Peter Doherty
Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica	United States	Meg Danley Chris Andreasen

6. Proposals to IRCC

To advance greater consistency among RHCs, the USCHC recommends:

- a) Encourage all RHCs to review the proposed standardized statutes and consider voluntarily becoming an official body of the IHO

Commentaire [1] : Don't think this an appropriate place for a recommendation esp when we don't have a set of statutes that e have agreed upon

7. Jointly submitted for your consideration.

Captain Steven R. Barnum, NOAA
US National Hydrographer
U.S. Chair

Dr. Savithri (Savi) Narayanan
Dominion Hydrographer
Canada Chair