

**10th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC10
Goa, India, 4-6 June 2018
Paper for Consideration by IRCC10
Modify the Scope of the WENDWG**

Submitted by:	Brazil, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United States of America
Executive Summary:	Request the IRCC align the scope and objective of the WENDWG to meet the intent of the Convention on the IHO.
Related Documents:	M-1 – Basic Documents of the IHO WENDWG Terms of Reference WEND Principles (Resolution 1/1997 as amended) WENDWG8 List of Actions (02, 20, 21, 22 and 24) Guidelines for the Implementation of the WEND Principles C-17 Spatial Data Infrastructures: "The Marine Dimension" - Guidance for Hydrographic Offices
Related Projects:	Joint RENC Coordination/Meetings

1. Introduction / Background

As agreed by the signatory nations to the Convention on the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), IHO Publication M-1 *Basic Documents of the IHO*, the mission of the IHO is to create a global environment in which States provide adequate and timely hydrographic data, products and services and ensure their **widest possible use**. The current Objective within the WENDWG Terms of Reference (ToR) is specific to “official ENC through integrated services that support chart carriage requirements of SOLAS Chapter V”, effectively limiting actions of the WG can take to meet the intent of the Member States for “widest possible use” of data, products and services.

2. Analysis/Discussion

The Vision of the IHO is to be the authoritative worldwide hydrographic body which actively engages all coastal and interested States to advance maritime safety and efficiency and which **supports the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment**. This vision is expansive, but there is a gap between the objective of the WENDWG, focused on SOLAS Chapter V, Regulation 19 Carriage Requirements, vice the need for broader application of Member State and IHO effort to maximize societal benefit of this data.

As defined within M-1, in force November 2016, the mission of the IHO is to create a global environment in which States provide adequate and timely hydrographic data, products and services and ensure their widest possible use. Article II (a) expanded this to promote the use of hydrography for safety of navigation (SoN) and “**all other marine purposes**”. Section (b) identified the need to “improve coverage, availability and quality of data products and services ... and **facilitate access** to such”. To fulfil this vision, Member States, and the subsidiary bodies of the IHO, need to modify their operating cultures, adjust controlling documents, and modify work plans and other activities, to this aim.

Over the last decade, the build out of the global Worldwide ENC Database (WEND) has been the focus of HOs, exclusively aimed at a single customer, the SOLAS vessels, using the ENC (S-57) product specification. This ignores other users of ENC and many users of non-ENC chart product data, including, but not limited to: non-ECDIS commercial vessels, the leisure vessel market, coastal managers, academia, marine industry, and many others. It also ignores

the trend in technology for other data formats used by other industries and purposes such as GeoPDF, GeoPackage, Raster formats, Shape files, DWG, and many others.

As currently scoped, the WENDWG is to “assist and facilitate” the official ENC’s through integrated services to support vessels subject to ECDIS carriage requirement through SOLAS. Two (soon to be three) Regional ENC Coordination Centre (RENC) service providers are operating a shared access model to this global data set. The RENCs operate as integrated service providers as defined within the various WEND operating documents. These data holdings are currently limited to delivering to the SOLAS regulated market. There is a clear opportunity to apply accepted data management principles to provide broader discoverability, access, formats and delivery to other user of this global data set.

This proposal is to modify the scope of the WENDWG to align its activities, to the intent of the IHO Member States beyond the ENC and SOLAS Vessels.

3. Conclusions

The basic conclusions from this discussion are as follows:

- 1) An expanded and enlarged object of the IHO since November 2016 for the utilization of data and information for the “widest possible use”.
- 2) There exists a high level of coordination between the WENDWG and the Joint RENC coordination.
- 3) The RENCs have access to the unique global maritime data set (in S-57) that is currently being utilized to support SoN for SOLAS vessels, but no other users.
- 4) The existing WENDWG ToR needs to be brought in line with the intent of the IHO Member States to support SoN and “all other marine purposes”.

There is a clear need to expand the scope of the WENDWG beyond the current objective to support “requirements of SOLAS Chapter V”. There is a unique opportunity for the WENDWG to and review the different options that expand the value of the global hydrographic data set for the express purpose of extracting the highest societal value of MS effort.

This widening in scope is also a key component of the Edition 2.0.0 of the IHO Publication C-17 *Spatial Data Infrastructures "The Marine Dimension" Guidance for Hydrographic Offices* recently approved by Member States.

4. Recommendations

This proposal recommends the following adjustments (in red) to the WENDWG Terms of Reference:

1. Objective

The purpose of the WEND Working Group is to advise IRCC and to assist in:

- 1. Facilitating a world-wide consistent level of high-quality, updated official ENC’s through integrated services that support chart carriage requirements of SOLAS Chapter V, and the requirements of the IMO Performance Standards for ECDIS.*
- 2. Review options and recommend actions that expand the value of the RENC hydrographic data to all data users and the application of data management principles to extract the highest societal value of Member States effort.*

5. The IRCC is invited to:

- a. endorse the recommendation to modify the WENDWG Terms of Reference;
- b. take appropriate action to modify IHO Resolution 1/1997 as amended, to reflect the evolution of the WENDWG Objective; and
- c. review IRCC WGs and Work Plans for compliance to IHO Member State intent as defined within the Basic Documents (M-1).