



## Worldwide ENC Database Working Group (WEND-WG) Report to IRCC3

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### Terms of Reference (IRCC1 June 2009)

- Monitor the development of adequate ENC coverage to meet any carriage requirements for ECDIS;
- Develop proposals for speeding up ENC production and ensuring uniform ENC quality and consistency, and for making data available worldwide, including SENC distribution, taking advantage of any offers for production assistance, or other ways of mutual assistance and co-operation;
- Advise MS, where appropriate, on the need, as well as on methods and tools for validating the data, and on any assistance which could be offered by the RENCs;
- Monitor the implementation of the WEND, in response to Decision 21 of the XVIIth IHC, and advise IRCC of appropriate measures for speeding-up the implementation process;
- Assist in harmonizing the policies of regional ENC Coordinating Centres (RENC) with respect to matters related to administration, legality, finances, technical processes, et cetera

### Actions from IRCC2 (June 2010)

- Progress the tasks outlined in the WENDWG terms of reference and especially:
  - Monitor progress in providing ENC coverage and identify and propose solutions to issues of concern such as gaps and overlaps. This should include consideration of the MBSHC paper to the WEND WG.
  - Investigate and report on the significance of other areas of concern:
    - Variation in licensing terms and conditions
    - Reports of ENC quality and updating issues
  - Keep RHC Chairs informed of ENC issues identified within their regions.
  - Provide support to IHB in preparation of reports to IMO NAV Sub-Committee.
  - Prepare a report for IRCC3.
- Coordinate with IHB the presentations to IMO on status of ENC to ensure best available information is used.

## ENC Coverage

Small scale ENC coverage remains at the 100% level. Steady progress has been made in achieving better ENC coverage over the last year; medium scale ENC coverage has increased by 4% and large scale ENC coverage has increased by 3%.

<b>Comparison of ENCs with corresponding paper charts for international voyages</b>				
	<b>May 2008</b>	<b>May 2009</b>	<b>May 2010</b>	<b>May 2011</b>
<b>Small scale ENCs (planning charts)</b>	<b>&gt;90%</b>	<b>~100%</b>	<b>~100%</b>	<b>~100%</b>
<b>Medium scale ENCs (coastal charts)</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>88%</b>
<b>Large scale ENCs (top 800 ports)</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>94%</b>

Five coastal states (and Antarctica) still have to produce five or more medium scale ENCs to match paper chart coverage. Seven coastal states have yet to produce large scale ENCs to match paper chart coverage.

The following graphics depict ENC gaps across the Globe:

- General (Band 2) global ENC coverage – Annex A
- Coastal (Band 3) and Approach (Band 4) global ENC coverage – Annex B
- Ports with no Band 4, 5 or 6 ENC coverage – Annex C

RHC chairs have been encouraged to address gaps within their region and a number of regions have been particularly proactive in addressing resolution of gaps. Should RHCs wish to document, in detail, the extent of gaps (and overlaps) and the actions necessary to resolve, then the MACHC ECC Working Group Coverage Report is a worthy exemplar of a rolling plan.

The issue of overlapping data remains particularly difficult in those sea areas where geopolitical issues prevent swift resolution. Late last year, views were sought from amongst a small Task Force within WEND-WG members on how best to address both gaps and overlaps. From the responses received, it was acknowledged that there was no easy solution and states would have to strive to work together to address such situations. However it is clear that for some countries often no solution can be found bilaterally or indeed multilaterally. As part of this discovery work, UK submitted a “think-piece” outlining a possible way in which to deal with coverage issues. In summary, this proposes a relaxation of WEND principles to deal with infilling in those areas of insufficient ENC coverage; and a number of potential solutions to deal with areas of overlapping coverage depending upon their nature. This “think-piece” has been circulated to the Task Force and has received a mixed response. The US responded with a paper outlining their views. The proposal is now to circulate the UK and US papers more widely for comment by other WEND-WG members and RHC chairs.

## RENC Matters

RENC to RENC discussions have been particularly active over the last year and significant progress is being made towards achieving closer cooperation. A series of meetings have been held involving UKHO and NHS as RENC Operators; IC-ENC; and PRIMAR. Work has been undertaken on areas such as licensing and Quality

Assurance (QA) and a further meeting is to take place in Stavanger on May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. It is then intended to produce a report to IC-ENC PRIMAR Cooperation Committee (IPCC).

ENC licensing is slowly becoming better aligned with both RENCs introducing Pay-As-You-Go models that will allow mariners to plan using ENC's but only pay for them when they are actively used for live navigation. This is an extremely positive step that will allow wider choice of access to ENC's for the mariner and is a component to achieving more thorough planning and thus safer navigation. Feedback has been sought from ENC Service Providers and RENCs on ENC licensing and data quality issues.

### **WEND-WG Meeting**

At IRCC2, it was felt that the WEND-WG should be a "virtual group" and communicate only by correspondence. Experience suggests that it would be better for the Working Group to meet at least once prior to the International Hydrographic Conference in 2012. Such a meeting would provide a more effective forum in which to debate some of the key ENC issues and to agree a more proactive action plan. With IRCC endorsement, the WG Chair will consult members to identify a suitable date and location to meet.

### **Conclusion**

Good progress has been made in the provision of ENC coverage, however there is still much more to be done. IHO may need to consider some pragmatic compromises if it is to confirm to IMO that it has fully met its commitment to provide adequate coverage, availability, consistency and quality of ENC's ahead of the implementation of the ECDIS carriage requirement.

### **WEND-WG Work Plan**

- WG to meet at a mutually convenient date & location to debate coverage issues and agree action plans.
- Continue to monitor progress in providing ENC coverage.
- Circulate UK and US papers on resolving gaps and overlaps in ENC coverage
- Continue to monitor RENC-RENC cooperation and licensing issues.
- Prepare report for IRCC4
- Provide support to IHB in preparation of reports to IMO NAV sub-Committee