

6th Meeting of the IHO - Inter Regional Coordination Committee
IRCC6
Paris, France, 19-20 May 2014

REPORT
OF THE 4th MEETING
OF THE
WORLDWIDE ENC DATABASE WORKING GROUP
(WENDWG)

Submitted by: the Chair of WENDWG

Executive Summary:

1. A summary report of the proceedings of the 4th meeting of the WENDWG is contained within this paper.

General

2. Since IRCC4, the WEND working group has met only once on 18 to 20 May in Niteroi, Brazil to discuss, et al the following key issues:

- WEND Principles and Guidelines.
- Overlap Management Processes
- RENC and WENC Developments
- ENC Coverage
- Capacity Building Activities
- Cartographic Boundaries
- Work Programme

WEND Principles and Guidelines.

3. Following significant work by the WEND Task Group (TG), the revised Principles and Guidelines were submitted for Member State approval (CL06/2014). The revisions took into account that ECDIS Mandation is in place, updated text to reflect this and provided some amplifying information. Member states completed voting by 13 March 2014 and the revision to the WEND Principles and Guidelines has now been approved.

4. France's Proposal (PRO 7) to the 5th EIHC, entitled *There is no alternative but the full implementation of the WEND Principles and its Guidelines*, was tabled.

- a. The international community is requested to ask IRCC to assess the concrete consequences of non-full implementation of the WEND Principles in the long term. On the assumption that the situation is not acceptable it then proposes that IRCC tasks WENDWG and RENC Harmonisation Sub-Group (RHSG) to further develop additional

technical and standardisation measures that IHO ENC Producers and RENCs should comply with.

b. PRO7 was noted and would be discussed more widely at IRCC6

Overlap Management Processes

5. A draft procedure for overlaps was developed by the TG. The RENCs supported this procedure, however it was noted that, largely for political reasons, overlaps may continue to occur for the foreseeable future and that it may therefore be necessary to find a technological solution within ECDIS to resolve overlapping cells, particularly within usage bands 4.5 & 6. Until now, IHO standards and guidelines have indicated to OEMs that there will be no overlaps in data. ***This is clearly not the case and WENDWG undertook more work to further develop the draft procedure which is submitted to IRCC as paper IRCC6-08C.***

RENC and WENC developments

6. IRCC5 tasked WENDWG to take forward further work on IHO WENC development and this was delegated to RHSG. A draft concept paper was produced and circulated to RENCs and their membership. The aim was to help achieve WEND by considering key roles of IHO and RENCs and proposing that the latter are governed (but not necessarily operated) by the IHO Member States in the form of an IHO- WENC Management Board (MB), sitting above, in hierarchical terms, the current IC-ENC Steering Committee (IC-ENCSC), the PRIMAR Advisory Committee (PAC) and any future RENC governing bodies.

7. The IHO-WENC MB would: establish, publish and promote minimum RENC operating procedures; conduct regular RENC audits and spot check ENC data available through the RENC; provide guidance to HOs and RENCs as appropriate; and provide advice on best practices based on agreed standards of data quality and distribution.

8. The IHO-WENC paper was tabled amongst the RENCs, their governing bodies and IHB.

a. In broad terms PAC supported the concept paper however IC-ENCSC did not support the paper.

b. Concerns were raised over the status and legality over IHB's authority for governance; the tenability of a mixed governance model; legal liability for ENC dissemination and RENC office operations.

c. IHB responded at the meeting in a written statement that addressed each of these concerns.

d. Taking the above into account, it was proposed that the IHO Recognised WEND Database should consist of data from IC-ENC, PRIMAR and future RENCs that met minimum standards. The way ahead should show:

i. A commitment to WEND Principles.

- ii. Minimum standards for RENCs to supersede any proposed overarching management board.
- iii. Delivery of underpinning IHO guidelines.
- e. Based on this, WENDWG (via RHSG) undertook further revision of the IHO-WENC paper. This work is ongoing.
- f. ***IRCC is requested to seek Member State endorsement on the continuation of the development of the IHO-WENC Concept.***
- g. In the meantime WENDWG, via the RENCs, would continue to work towards attracting new RENC members and would promulgate a “benefits paper” for ENC producer nations (work ongoing).

ENC Coverage

9. The 2014 figures (from UKHO) for comparison of ENC coverage with corresponding paper coverage is as follows:

- Small-scale ENCs 100%
- Medium-scale ENCs 90%
- Large-scale ENCs 97%

10. In future, the RENCs only would provide coverage statistics for all ENCs distributed both via the RENCs and by other means.

11. There was concern that ENCs not available via RENCs was working against the WEND concept. ***IRCC guidance in this matter would be valuable.***

12. The "Metadata Store" concept was considered and the need to provide specific information on risk on the basis of regional knowledge. WENDWG should champion richer compilation of ENC coverage that could provide, et al, route coverage information, source information, purchasing information, associated risks along routes, etc. Ultimately this might form a single authoritative source for official ENCs.

13. This complimented the need to provide an updated ENC catalogue on the IHO website and WENDWG needed to undertake further work to develop this catalogue. ***In the meantime IRCC is requested to seek provision of data, from Member States, outlining which ENCs are not available though RENCs***

Capacity Building Activities

14. As part of their day-to-day activities, the RENCs carry out Capacity Building (CB) work amongst their membership. More work is needed to scope further opportunities.

Cartographic Boundaries

15. IRCC is requested to note that the definition of Cartographic Boundaries (tabled at ICC5) has now been approved by Member States.

Work Programme

16. IRCC endorsement is sought for progress of the following work items:

To develop a proposal for a pilot project using OEM software tools to resolve overlapping ENC data issues for consideration at WENDWG5.

- i. To finalise paper on Guidelines on Assessing and Eliminating the Risk of Overlapping ENC Cells
- ii. To provide a revised RHSG paper on WENC.
- iii. To continue working to attract ENC producer nations to join the RENCs.
- iv. To produce a paper on the benefits for ENC producer nations to join a RENC.
- v. To monitor and report ENC coverage report to WENDWG.
- vi. To monitor and report the statistics on those ENCs not distributed via RENCs.
- vii. To provide a scoping paper of the ENC Catalogue and to progress catalogue development.
- viii. To develop capacity Building activities.

Date of Next Meeting

17. WENDWG members indicated a desire to meet regularly whilst progressing work in the intervening periods. The Working Group plans to meet again each March in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

S J McMICHAEL-PHILLIPS
Captain Royal Navy
WENDWG Chair

14 May 2014