

## 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC-7)

Mexico City, Mexico, 1-3 June 2015

### Paper for Consideration by IRCC

#### Management and Monitoring of the IHO INT Chart Collection

<b>Submitted by:</b>	IHB
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	Following on from EIHC-5 Decision 2.4, the IHB presents suggestions to improve the management and monitoring of the IHO INT paper chart scheme.
<b>Related Documents:</b>	CONF.EX5/REP.02 Para. 13, 38. EIHC-5 Decision No 2.4 IHO <a href="#">CL 07/2006</a> & <a href="#">CL 16/2007</a>
<b>Related Projects:</b>	IHO GIS Project and INTtoGIS Project

#### Introduction

1. EIHC-5 considered the IHO Report on the Technical Capacity and Available Resources at the IHB. This led to Decision No 2.4:

*“The Conference noted the Report on the Technical Capacity of the International Hydrographic Bureau and agreed to task IRCC to review arrangements for the collection and examination of INT Charts currently regulated by Article 19 of the IHO General Regulation and IHO Resolution 1/1992 (Monitoring of INT Charts) and to consider the need to amend or develop relevant IHO Resolutions, taking into account the comments from the Conference”.*

2. The lack of capacity at the IHB was reported to EIHC-5, particularly in relation to “...*the systematic review of all newly printed or adopted international (INT) Charts...*”. The IHB Directing Committee proposed to withdraw IHO Resolution 1/1992, so as to remove the requirement for the IHB to review and comment on new INT charts and at the same time to introduce a new Resolution for the provision of new INT paper charts, digital charts, and publication to the Secretariat of the IHO.

3. This paper provides further options for monitoring the status and quality of INT Charts and thereby improving the management and monitoring of the IHO INT paper chart scheme by including the role of Regional INT (&ENC) Chart Coordinators / INTernational Charting Coordination Working Groups in the existing set of management procedures.

#### Analysis/Discussion

4. Although the submission of new and new edition INT charts to the IHB remains in force in accordance with Article 19 of the IHO General Regulations and IHO Resolution 1/1992, the IHB does not receive INT charts systematically from a significant number of INT chart Producer States despite the fact that quite a few new INT charts are produced every year. Few IHO INT Charts Producing Nations<sup>1</sup> provide the IHB with the INT charts that they are responsible for. In addition, the IHB receives national charts from UK and USA.

<sup>1</sup> In 2007, according to CL 16/2007 : Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, India, Korea (Rep. of), Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Russian Fed., Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom and

5. Despite the development of on-line chart catalogues by an increasing number of HOs (See [www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) > ENCs & ECDIS > ENC Availability > Online Charts Catalogues), the development of the INTToGIS project (IRCC7-14A refers) has also shown that it is extremely difficult to obtain comprehensive and reliable metadata for INT chart coverage. Obtaining access to copies of the relevant published charts appears to remain the most certain method of ensuring that the IHO INT chart database is accurate.

6. Some HOs<sup>2</sup> provide the IHB with a printed version of their Catalogue of Charts and Nautical Publications but these catalogues are not sufficient to review the INT charts metadata. The digital versions of these catalogues are also improving but it is not yet as convenient or user-friendly as direct access to the printed documents by the IHB.

7. As reported in CL 16/2007, the requirement for the IHB to have access to the full collection of INT charts remains still valid. The IHB collection of INT charts is useful:

- for consultation as necessary;
- to keep up the cartographic competence of IHB personnel;
- to check the compliance of new charts with the IHO chart specifications; and
- to maintain the worldwide catalogue of INT charts, as contained in IHO publication S-11, Part B.

8. Reference to the IHB INT chart collection also remains useful prior to RHCs meetings or other technical meetings (IMO/NCSR, for example). Consultation of updated (or at least recent) charts is also appreciated in the case of nautical events or accidents or to consider specific questions (naming issues, coverage, routing measures, etc.). Source diagrams are generally the main features of interest.

9. From the IHB point of view, the full collection of INT charts is very useful for:

- S-11 Part B [INTToGIS database] maintenance: providing direct evidence of coordinates, title, and other metadata, plans references, etc.;
- Answering various questions from Regional ICCWGs or Chart Coordinators when they prepare their meetings;
- Ensuring that INT charts are actually published and available as reported in S-11 Part B (on-line pdf version posted on the IHO website or INTToGIS database<sup>3</sup>);
- Consultation purposes.

10. As explained to Member States at EIHC-5, there is, *de facto*, no longer any systematic examination by the IHB of new or revised INT charts being produced by IHO Member States. However, the IHB is of the view that such an independent examination of INT charts remains a valuable mechanism to ensure the consistent application of the relevant IHO standards. It is also very important to make sure that a minimum set of procedures exists across the IHO Member States within the Charting Regions to validate and update the content of S-11 Part B (pdf version and INTToGIS database) when a new INT chart is declared as “produced and available”.

11. Many RHCs have set up an ICCWG, in accordance with S-11 Part A, Annex C. These groups meet occasionally or prior to RHCs meetings. They are very well aware and best placed to make assessments of the charting situation in their Region. Once agreed, the ICCWG’s already provide the IHB with authoritative information on the regional schemes and charting issues.

12. An appropriate and efficient way of achieving the objectives of better coordination, execution and management of the INT chart scheme could be for Regional INT (&ENC) Chart Coordinators / INTernational Charting Coordination Working Groups (ICCWG) to undertake an additional role of reviewing new and revised INT charts when they are published and also to collate the relevant information for submission to the IHB in order to maintain S-11 Part B and the INTToGIS database.

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USA. In 2014: Algeria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Latvia, Peru, Romania, South Africa, United Kingdom and USA.

<sup>2</sup> France, Germany, Greece, Japan, Portugal, UK and Uruguay.

<sup>3</sup> In construction.

## Recommendations

13. In order to address Decision No 2.4 from EIHC-5, the following recommendations are provided for the consideration of the IRCC:

- a. IHO INT Chart Producer Nations to provide INT chart (new productions and editions) to Regional INT Chart Coordinator (or ICCWG) 3 months prior to every RHC meeting;
- b. INT Chart Coordinators/ICCWGs to manage the review of these charts and to check their compliance with IHO standards<sup>4</sup> and report at every forthcoming RHCs meeting; then
- c. these charts, with the agreement of the IHO INT Chart Producer Nation to be subsequently transferred to the IHB for its chartroom reference collection and internal use (database validation, consultation, etc.);
- d. IHO MS to provide an update of the list of on-line chart catalogues, either directly or systematically when updating the Yearbook;
- e. On a case-by-case basis, when gaps in the collection are identified, the IHB to request IHO INT Chart Producer Nations to provide existing INT charts to the IHB directly in order to complete the IHB INT chart reference collection;
- f. the IHB to prepare a CL to propose amendments to the relevant IHO Regulations and Resolutions in order to reflect these new procedures.

## Justification and impact

14. The proposed adjustments to procedures will result in:

- The most effective use of limited resources.
- Improved monitoring of INT chart production.
- Effective improvement in the task of reviewing newly adopted INT charts.
- Effective improvement in the reliability of S-11 Part B.
- Consolidation of the principal role of the INT Chart Coordinators/ICCWGs.

15. They will place an additional workload on the INT Chart Coordinators and their supporting organizations.

## Action required of IRCC

16. The IRCC is invited to:

- g. **Take note** of this submission paper,
- h. **Consider** the recommendations in paragraph 13 (a/ to f/),
- i. **Take any other actions** considered as necessary.

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<sup>4</sup> Support from NCWG and IHB can be requested if needed (for instance, provision of a “quick check quality assurance template”; if deemed useful, additional work item to be included in the NCWG programme of work).