

## 7th Meeting of the IHO Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC-7)

Mexico City, Mexico, 1-3 June 2015

Report of the Worldwide ENC Database Working Group (WENDWG)

<b>Submitted by:</b>	Chair, WENDWG
<b>Related Documents:</b>	Final minutes of IRCC-6 and HSSC-6, EIHC-5 Decisions, IHO Strategic Plan Performance Indicators (and Appendix IV to the IHO Annual Reports).
<b>Related Projects:</b>	N/A

<b>Chair:</b>	Jamie McMICHAEL-PHILLIPS, UK
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Sean HINDS, Canada
<b>Secretary:</b>	Yves GUILLAM, IHB
<b>Member States, RHCs and RENCs:</b>	<a href="#">Membership List</a>

**Meetings Held During Reporting Period**

1. WENDWG5, 3-5 March 2015, Singapore.
2. Planned: WENDWG6, 8-9 March 2016, Stavanger, Norway.

**Programme of Work**

3. In 2015, at the 5th meeting of the Working Group, the following key issues were discussed:
  - Review of the decisions, outcomes and actions of IRCC6, EIHC5 and HSSC6 which affect the WENDWG
  - Overlay Services
  - Update report on the study for overlapping ENCs
  - Review of the WEND Principles and governance
  - ENC Coverage Status Review
  - ENC Gaps, Overlaps and Quality Assurance
  - ENC Distribution and RENC Reports
  - IHO ENC Catalogue Development
  - S101 in relation to WEND
  - Work Programme

The most important outcomes from the WENDWG-5 meeting are summarized below.

**Overlay Services**

4. Following discussion at IRCC6 and HSSC6, WENDWG5 discussed further the issue of overlay services. RHCs are encouraged to monitor such services. In particular it was recommended that UK should provide ENC producers with advanced notice of safety of navigation issues within its AIO service and seek consent for publication. RNCs and ENC producers should be invited to solve AIO matters on a bilateral basis and report progress to WEND via their WG members. In the meantime UK would provide an AIO risk/benefits assessment. Final report will be made at HSSC7 (and IRCC8).

**Update report on the study for overlapping ENCs**

5. On behalf of the EAHC, Singapore is leading this study. The plan will be to work with OEMs to carry out ECDIS testing to address ENC overlaps using test cases in the Malacca and Singapore Straits.

6. IC-ENC is also running ECDIS with overlapping ENCs scenarios to assess the potential risks and to identify potential solutions or recommendations. IC-ENC has an overlap policy which has been approved by the majority of its members. PRIMAR also follow a policy and will review the IC-ENC policy.

7. USCHC offered some valuable lessons learned from the US-Canada Trans-Boundary Agreement that resolved overlapping data in adjoining waters to the benefit of the mariner. Releasable project documentation, along with other useful documents, will be placed in a newly formed on-line repository accessible from the WEND WG section of the IHO website.

### **Review of the WEND Principles and governance**

8. Noting that the WEND Principles and Guidelines were amended in 2014, the WG agreed with the view proposed by Australia that whilst there is always room for revision of the wording, any changes are unlikely to have any significant practical impact. On this basis it is recommended that IRCC agree that there are no proposed changes at this time.

9. During the session, WENDWG established a small ad-hoc group to examine EIHC5 Decision 12, in response to PRO-7, and to consider issues surrounding the full implementation of the WEND Principles. In order to take this forward, IRCC7 is requested to endorse the following work plan methodology, which has been included in the proposed WENDWG 2015-16 work programme:

- Identification of the articles in the WEND Principles and Guidelines that are considered not fully implemented. From an initial assessment the group considered that articles 2 a b c; 3 (a) g j ; 4 a b and the Annex on boundaries not fully implemented
- Identification of barriers that prevent these Principles being implemented.
- Proposals for corrective actions against these barriers.
- If no action can be defined, assessment of long term consequences for the IHO.
- Interim report at WENDWG-6 and final report at IRCC-8.
- The work will be carried out by correspondence.

10. It was also noted that IHO S-65 (Electronic Navigational Charts, Production, Maintenance and Distribution Guidance) needs some maintenance to align it with the WEND Principles and Guidelines. It is requested that IRCC recommend HSSC to task the ENCWG to undertake this task.

### **ENC Coverage Status Review**

11. The latest figures (2014) indicate that the following percentage of “adequate coverage” based on paper charts intended for international voyages, exists:

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

12. It was also noted that Passenger Cruise lines are planning to use over 1000 ports of call in “new and exotic locations” and adequate coverage needs to take this into account.

### **ENC Gaps, Overlaps and Quality Assurance**

13. WENDWG agreed that the analysis of gaps and overlaps should be an RHC permanent function for each IHO region. RHCs should also update the List of Ports and Anchorage Areas within their area of responsibility. They should consider also the adoption of a risk assessment methodology against surveying and charting in their region. Noting that New Zealand risk assessment model is a very comprehensive one, the use of AIS data may be of great value to RHCs in undertaking this work.

14. Methodologies and the List of Ports database will be made available in the WEND document repository for all to access.

## ENC Distribution and RENC Reports

15. Good work in distribution of ENCs was reported by both RENCs. During this discussion it was agreed that the RENC Harmonisation Sub Group (RNSG) should be disestablished. Instead work should be absorbed in the business-as-usual bilateral work undertaken between the 2 RENCs in order to take forward harmonisation and the WENC concept. WENDWG will monitor RENC harmonization, technical and distribution issues as a permanent item of its work programme.

## IHO ENC Catalogue Development

16. The IHB has made significant progress on the ENC catalogue and this will be launched by the end of March 2015. The catalogue will provide an invaluable resource that can be used by all users subject to the adequate provision of metadata by IHO Members States, RHCs and RENCs. In parallel, PRIMAR on behalf of the RENCs offered to make the RENC ENC database catalogue and overlap checking tool available to RHCs and IHB so that they can monitor coverage, overlaps and gaps within their areas of responsibility.

## S-101 in relation to WEND

17. The impact of the implementation of S-101 must be carefully considered in the preparation of the transition plan, particularly in regard to ENC updates. The possibility for ENCs to have a completely different scheme and the consequences of the revised concept of usage bands will have to be monitored by all producers and the WENDWG.

## Performance Indicators

18. A small break-out group assessed the IHO Performance Indicators relying on WENDWG inputs and concluded that they were satisfactory for their purpose and no further changes or amendments were proposed.

## Progress on IRCC Action Items

19. All IRCC actions items in relation to WENDWG activities (together with EIHC5 Decisions) were considered at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group, their status reported to the IRCC Secretary and subsequent actions included in the WENDWG 2015-16 proposed work programme (Annex A).

## Action Required of IRCC

20. The IRCC is invited to:

- a. **Consider** the work items K.1 and K.2 in the proposed WENDWG 2015-16 work programme (as given in Annex) for addressing information overlay issues;
- b. **Accept** the proposal to include the relevant work items for addressing RENC Harmonization issues in the WENDWG programme of work and disband the RENC Harmonization Sub-Group;
- c. **Commend** the RENCs for their support to the WENDWG and the IHB and **accept** their offer so the RHCs/ICCWG/ENC Chart Coordinators and IHB can use the RENC Coverage and Overlap Checker on-line tool [designed by PRIMAR] and then, task the IHB to issue a CL announcing the availability of it;
- d. **Consider** the work items J1 to J.4 in the proposed WENDWG 2015-16 work programme (as given in Annex) for addressing EIHC5 Decision No 12 on the implementation of the WEND Principles;
- e. **Agree** on the proposal made by the WENDWG that no further action should be taken for the moment for amending the WEND Principles and Guidelines;
- f. **Report** to HSSC that there is a need to align IHO S-65 with the WEND Principles and some sections of the Guidelines and that this work is to be initiated by the ENCWG;
- g. **Approve** the proposed updated WENDWG 2015-16 as given in Annex and the continuity of WENDWG activities ([WENDWG ToRs](#) Art. 4.3 refers).