



7th Meeting of the IHO Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC7)

Mexico City, Mexico, 1-3 June 2015

Report of the FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC)

Submitted by: Chair, IBSC

Related Documents: N/A

Related Projects: N/A

Chair: Nicolas SEUBE, Canada (IHO)

Vice-Chair 1: Adam GREENLAND, New Zealand (FIG)

Vice-Chair 2: Ron FURNESS, Australia (ICA)

Secretary: Alberto COSTA NEVES, IHB

Members: IHO: Capt. Andrew Armstrong (USA), Prof. Delf Egge (Germany), Capt. Nickolas Roscher (Brazil);

FIG: Mr. Gordon Johnston (UK), Prof. Keith Miller (Trinidad and Tobago), Mr. Sobri Syawie (Indonesia);

ICA: Prof. Lysandros Tsoulos (Greece).

The Board acknowledged the nomination of two new members: Nickolas ROSCHER, Brazil (IHO) and Sobri Syawie, Indonesia (FIG).

Background:

The FIG/IHO/ICA IBSC is composed of 4 FIG members, 4 IHO members and 2 ICA members. In broad terms the IBSC role is to;

- maintain the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (S5 & S8);
- maintain the publications C6 (Reference Texts for Training in Hydrography) and C47 (Training Courses in Hydrography and Nautical Cartography);
- review programme submissions from institutions against these standards;
- award certificates of programme recognition where appropriate;

- undertake on-site visit of institutions offering recognized programmes.

The output of IBSC activities are a worldwide network of formally recognised programmes of education and training for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers. This in turn supports the strategic goal of the IHO, namely; to ensure our profession has appropriately qualified hydrographers and cartographers to meet current and future needs. This is an absolute fundamental requirement of industry and government, from established HOs to emerging states that are part of the IHO CB programme.

Meetings Held During Reporting Period

1. The 38th IBSC meeting was hosted by the Brazilian Navy, Niteroi, from 23 March to 2 April 2015.
2. The 39th IBSC meeting will be hosted by Panama from 4 to 16 April 2016.
3. The 40th IBSC meeting will be hosted by LINZ, New Zealand in 2017.

Summary of IBSC activities in 2014-2015:

In addition to its annual meeting, the IBSC has been working on the following tasks:

- New standards development : 4 working group meetings have been organized (Paris, May 2014; Hamburg, Germany, June 2014; Durham, USA, June 2014, Durham, USA, Dec 2014);
- Diffusion of information for stakeholders: Participation to the HYDRO14 Conference. (Aberdeen), October 2014;
- Ten submissions have been reviewed in 2015. Among them are:

Category B programmes	Hydrography	5	5
	Cartography	0	
Category A programmes	Hydrography	4	5
	Cartography	1	
Individual Recognition Schemes		0	0
TOTAL			10

Five new programmes have been submitted. One has been recognized under conditions; four of them have not been recognized.

Five re-submissions have been reviewed by the Board. Two of them have been recognized under conditions, and three of them have not been recognized.

New standards development:

4. New standards will incorporate four documents:
 - S-5B, S-5A,
 - S-8B, S-8A,

and they will be supplemented by guidelines for the implementation of the standards of competence, as separates documents.

5. The final draft of the S-5B has been prepared and made available on 23 June 2014. Since then, the Board received feedback during the stakeholder seminar organized in Aberdeen (Hydro 14 conference), and made minor modification to this draft.

6. A Circular Letter (CL 31/2015 : DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW IHO PUBLICATIONS: S-5A - Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors Category A; S-5B - Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors Category B) *has been issued on 13 April 2015*, requiring feedback on the draft S5-B publication and guidelines (on-line for discussion on the IHO web site).

7. The Board continued the development of the S-5A standards in 2014/2015. Its final draft should be made available for discussion by April 2016.

IBSC annual meeting in Niteroi, 22 March – 3 April 2015

Review of submissions: Ten submissions have been reviewed by the Board:

- 5 Category B (S-5) submissions, including 2 new programmes;
- 4 Category A (S-5) submissions, including 2 new programmes;
- 1 Category A (S-8) submission (new programme);

The list of decisions is shown in the Annex.

The Board made a final review of the draft S-5B and guidelines. A noticeable progress has been made in drafting the new S-5A, which first draft is now 70% completed. The Cartography working group started to draft the S8-B following the format adopted for S-5B (content and intended learning outcomes).

Challenges:

There has been a progressively increasing level of work in the IBSC activities in recent years due to:

- a. the increasing number of programme submissions and a consequent increasing workload at the annual Board meetings;
- b. the need to conduct additional meetings / workshops in order to review and develop the revised Standards and draft new IHO publications (S-5A, S-5B and S-8A, S-8B) for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers; and
- c. consequential additional administration, logistic and fund management requirements.

Due to the significant increase in the level of activities of the IBSC, the secretarial and administrative support provided by the IHB, has come under increasing strain because of other competing IHO requirements and priorities. In recent years, the work of the Board has been compromised due to the lack of secretarial support for IBSC activities to the extent that some tasks were delayed or not completed. This situation regarding resources was reported to the EIHC-5 by the IHB (Refers to the Report on the Technical Capacity of the International Hydrographic Bureau - CONF.EX5/REP.02) and noted by the Conference (Decision No.2).

Continuing limitations in the ability of the IHB to provide the necessary secretarial and administrative support of the IBSC has the potential to adversely affect the work programme of the IBSC and ultimately the credibility of both the IBSC and the IHO.

Actions Required of IRCC:

8. IRCC is invited to:
 - a) **Note** this report;

- b) **Approve** the proposed plan and the approach presented for the development of the new versions of the Standards (paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and 8);
- c) **Consider** the potential impact of the limitations on IHB secretariat support available to the IBSC;
- d) Take any other actions as appropriate.

Summary of IBSC decisions

	Institution	Country	Cat	Type	Options	Name of the course	Last recognition	Decision
1	SRL OMNIA	Italy	B	H		Hydrographic Surveyor Cat B	NEW	Not recognized
2	Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland	Canada	A	H		Ocean Mapping Program	NEW	Not recognized.
3	Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland	Canada	A	C		Ocean Mapping Program	NEW	Not recognized.
4	Skilltrade BV	The Netherlands	B	H		HIM Advanced Survey (HIMAS)	2008	Not recognized.
5	Hydrographic Department, Naval Headquarters	Pakistan	B	H		PDip in Advanced Hydrography for Professionals	2009	Not recognized.
6	UK Navy FOST	UK	A	H		Intermediate Course for Navy Officers and Civilians	2009	Recognized under condition.
7	Marine Learning Alliance Ltd	UK	A	H	1	PDipError! Bookmark not defined. in Advanced Hydrography for Professionals	NEW	Not recognized.
8	Istituto Idrografico della Marina	Italy	B	H		Intermediate Course for Navy Officers and Civilians	2009	Recognized under condition.
9	Faculty of Geomatics	Sri-Lanka	B	H	1	Bachelor of Science Honours in Surveying Sciences in Hydrographic	NEW	Recognized under condition.
10	Maritiën Instituut Willem Barentsz	The Netherland	A	H	2,7	Programme in Hydrography	2007	Not recognized.