

## Report of the Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry Working Group

**Submitted by:** Chair

**Related Documents:** IHO CSBWG4 report, draft IHO CSB Guidance Document

**Related Projects:** none

<b>Chair:</b>	Jennifer Jencks, USA
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Serge Gosselin, Canada
<b>Secretary:</b>	David Wyatt, IHO
<b>Member States:</b>	Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, India, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Turkey, UK, USA
<b>Expert Contributors:</b>	Caris, Olex AS, Sea-ID, PYA, TeamSurv, GEBCO, SevenCs/Chartworld

*See Annex A for full details*

### 1. Meetings Held During Reporting Period

The working group held its third meeting at the offices of the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research (IOW) in Warnemünde, Germany on 7 and 8 November 2016. The Chair of the CSBWG, Ms Jennifer Jencks (USA, Director of the DCDB), chaired the meeting which was attended by representatives from ten Member States (Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Italy, Norway, Portugal and USA), and observers and expert contributors from SevenCs and Sea-ID. Secretary General Robert Ward and Assistant Director David Wyatt represented the IHO Secretariat. Mr Serge Gosselin (Canada) was elected as vice-Chair of the Working Group to occupy the previously vacant position.

The working group held its fourth meeting at the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping & NOAA/UNH Joint Hydrographic Center University of New Hampshire, Durham, United States on 13 and 14 February 2017. The Chair of the CSBWG, Ms Jennifer Jencks, chaired the meeting, which was attended by representatives from six Member States (Canada, Italy, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines and USA), and observers and expert contributors from GMATEK, Inc./World Maritime University and Sea-ID. Secretary General Robert Ward and Assistant Director David Wyatt represented the IHO Secretariat.

### 2. Work Programme

At the third meeting the CSBWG received verbal reports from the coordinators of its Correspondence Groups that had been tasked with drafting specific sections of the IHO CSB Guidance Document. During the meeting the various draft sections of the Guidance Document were developed further. It was agreed that an initial draft version will be circulated to IHO Member States and targeted stakeholders for their comments in preparation for the

presentation of a final draft to the IRCC at its 9<sup>th</sup> meeting in Paramaribo, Suriname, in June 2017, see Annex B.

At the fourth meeting, the CSBWG received verbal reports from the coordinators of its correspondence groups that had been tasked with drafting specific sections of the Guidance Document. During the meeting the various draft sections of the document were developed further. An initial draft version of the Guidance Document has been made available to targeted stakeholders for comment prior to the presentation of a first draft to the IRCC at its 9<sup>th</sup> meeting in Paramaribo, Suriname, in June 2017. Subject to the agreement of the IRCC, this will be followed by a formal public consultation period leading to the submission of a final proposed text to the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IRCC (IRCC10) in 2018, consideration by the IHO Council at its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and subsequent adoption by the IHO Member States towards the end of 2018.

It was agreed that a further meeting of the working group would be beneficial to review the comments received on the draft circulated after IRCC9. It is therefore planned to hold a fifth meeting of the CSBWG in December 2017 at the IHO in Monaco. This may be followed by a meeting of the Atlantic Seabed Mapping International Working Group, which is actively engaged in crowdsourced bathymetry initiatives to help improve knowledge of the Atlantic seafloor.

### **3. Progress on IRCC Action Items**

The Crowdsourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG) is tasked by the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) to develop a draft IHO publication on policy for trusted crowdsourced bathymetry (CSB). This CSB Guidance Document will provide guidelines on the collection and assessment of CSB data for inclusion in the global bathymetric data set which is maintained in the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB). A first draft of this Guidance Document has been completed and made available via the IHO website to the public.

### **4. Problems Encountered**

- The CSBWG has received minimal feedback from IRCC participants on the draft of the CSB Guidance Document.
- There continues to be a need to overcome a degree of scepticism on the concept within some sections of the maritime community and an overly cautious focus on potential, although untested, legal issues. Increased awareness and information as well as stakeholder engagement/involvement should all help to overcome these reservations.

### **5. Any Other Items of Note**

It is worth noting that relevant guidance regarding potential environmental impact information (ie: acoustical impacts) of crowdsourced bathymetry data collection is currently being developed for inclusion in the guidance document version to be presented to IRCC10.

## **6. Conclusions and Recommendations**

The continued importance of liaison with other IHO bodies, as well as appropriate engagement with industry to progress the work items, was identified as a key enabler for the project. It was also noted the significant progress achieved.

## **7. Justification and Impacts**

N/A

## **8. Actions Required of IRCC**

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. Note the contents of this report;
- b. Circulate the draft CSB GD for formal consultation with IHO Member States and relevant stakeholders;
- c. Encourage IHO Member States to release datasets or subsets into the public domain via the IHO DCDB;
- d. Request IHO Member States to consider reviewing data gathering restrictions within their maritime areas of jurisdiction to enable CSB activities to be undertaken;
- e. Request IHO Member States to support the CSB initiative with positive actions, such as requiring all research vessels collect bathymetric data for late uploading, when on passage or when it does not interfere with other research activities;
- f. Reappoint the WG to continue its work under the current ToRs; and
- g. Take what other action is deemed necessary.

Annexes:

- A. List of members.
- B. Draft CSB Guidance Document (see CSB WG web page:  
[https://www.iho.int/srv1/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=635&Itemid=988&lang=en](https://www.iho.int/srv1/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=635&Itemid=988&lang=en))

## IHO Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG)

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