IHO/CHRIS Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG)
2nd Meeting, IHB, Monaco, 10-11th September 2008

ABSTRACT OF ACTIVITIES FOR MEMBERS OF IHO MSDIWG

The 17th International Hydrographic Conference directed that the CHRIS establish a Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG). Its purpose is to analyze and recommend the level and nature of the IHO role in assisting Member States in support of their National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). In order to complete its task, the MSDIWG requested information on

- ❖ the current status of MSDI in each Member State
- ❖ aspirations for the future
- ❖ activities and plans to achieve these aspirations
- ❖ perceived barriers to achieving the aspirations
- ❖ how the IHO could assist in overcoming the barriers or putting plans into action.

A maturity matrix approach was developed, looking at 5 clusters or elements of NSDI/MSDI:

- ❖ Strategy and policy
- ❖ Communications and people
- ❖ Data management
- ❖ Data frameworks and standards
- ❖ Data dissemination.

Descriptions for each of 5 maturity levels (from 1 = basic to 5 = optimized) within these clusters were constructed by MSDIWG members, enabling respondents to choose both their present (2008) status levels on each cluster and the levels they aspired to be at by 2011. 3 further questions were designed to gather the other information on plans, barriers and assistance required from the IHO.

An excellent response from 43 countries was achieved. The results indicate that

- ❖ current status is at level 3 with aspirations to move to level 4 by 2011 through a range of planned activities
- ❖ the main barriers to meeting responding countries' aspirations are resources, funding and other policy priorities
- ❖ assistance from the IHO is required, mainly in the form of published guidelines and procedures, and training.

A full presentation of the results of this information gathering exercise will be presented in Monaco at a meeting of the MSDIWG on 10 – 11 September 2008. This will also allow delegates the opportunity to discuss the findings and develop in more detail how the IHO can support member states in developing their NSDI/MSDI strategies, activities and capabilities.