

3rd Meeting of the Nautical Cartography Working Group (NCWG)

Redlands, California, USA, 16 – 19 May 2017

The third meeting of the Nautical Cartography Working Group (NCWG) took place at the Headquarters of Esri, in Redlands, California, USA, from 16 to 19 May. The meeting was chaired by Mr Mikko Hovi (Finland), supported by Mr Andrew Heath-Coleman, Secretary (United Kingdom). Seventeen delegates from 13 Member States (Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA), two Expert Contributors (Esri), and the IHO Secretariat, represented by Assistant Director Yves Guillam, attended the meeting.



NCWG-3 participants gather at the entrance of the ESRI Headquarters

The Nautical Cartography Working Group (NCWG) considered all the actions from the 8th meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) that related to charting. The NCWG developed a protocol (workflow) and a template, aiming to guide other working groups, Member States and stakeholders when they seek advice from the NCWG on their requirements for the portrayal of S-100-based products. Anticipating the possible disbandment of the Data Quality Working Group (DQWG) in November, the NCWG agreed to consider the work items that might fall under its remit if and when required, provided that the new quality model for bathymetric data for S-101 ENC is finalized, documented and registered.

The working group considered a proposal submitted by Germany for a new portrayal solution for data quality indicators promoting a concept of a regular and transparent grid structure. This was considered viable as a basis for further development.

A presentation on the improvement of the ENC display in ECDIS, prepared by France and considered previously by the S-100 and ENC Standards Maintenance Working Groups (S-100WG and ENCWG) at their meetings in March, was delivered by the Chair and well received. Having some members involved in the ENC Display Sub-Group established in March, the NCWG agreed on the benefits to follow the progress made by the Sub-Group, and to consider its recommendations, when available, and their impact on current standards.

The Sub-Working Group on the Future of the Paper Chart, a high priority item of the NCWG work plan, organized its work. Available materials and thoughts from previous meetings were considered and a table of content was drafted during an ad hoc session that could be used as a basis for its future report to HSSC. Allocation of tasks to the sub-group members is to be planned so that an intermediate report can be delivered at HSSC-9. In order to share what technology can bring in the future, Esri gave a promising demo and presented a paper on the limits of automated chart production in the maritime domain.



Drafting session of the Future of the Paper Chart Sub-Group

Several cartographic issues and proposals were considered by the NCWG (minimum size of islets or rocks which never cover, swinging circle of anchor berths placed beyond chart borders, etc.). Following this review, it was agreed to amend the submission template used by the NCWG: change proposals on symbology or chart regulations will now have to include a short analysis of the possible impact on ENC's.

The working group also endorsed a proposal made by the IHO Secretariat on Section 100 of S-11 Part A Ed. 3.0.0 - *Guidance for the Preparation and Maintenance of International (INT) Chart Schemes* – for the monitoring of INT charts.

At the end of the meeting, Mr Mikko Hovi (Finland) was re-elected as Chair of the NCWG, and Ms Jacqueline Barone (USA) as Vice-Chair. Considering the changes in the IHO calendar, with the IHO Council meeting in October and the shift of HSSC meetings to April-May, it was agreed to plan the next NCWG meeting between September 2018 and February 2019 and to work by correspondence during the intersession. NCWG Members were also invited to consider, by the end of 2017, whether their organization would supply a secretary in due course, if the current NCWG secretary steps down from his position before the next meeting.

Further information concerning the meeting is available on the IHO web site at www.iho.int > Committees & WG > NCWG > NCWG-3.