

## Paper for Consideration by NIPWG

### S-126 Physical Environment Test Data set

<b>Submitted by:</b>	UK
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	Summary of progress and issues to be resolved
<b>Related Documents:</b>	NIPWG 1-15.1 Annex A.
<b>Related Projects:</b>	

#### Introduction / Background

The test data set for S-126 aims to define the environmental features that may be required to represent information commonly found in Sailing Directions and similar publications within an S-100 regime. The test data has been based on a publication covering the east coast of Africa and southern Indian Ocean, supplemented by features from the Jussland test data set.

The initial Physical Environment test data set was presented to SNPWG 17 in April 2014. The current version (V2) was last worked on in November 2014. There has been no further progress since then.

#### Analysis/Discussion

The work items agreed at SNPWG17 are included within Version 2, as presented at SNPWG18. No additional input has been received from other WG members since SNPWG18.

Due to changes in responsibility and pressure of other priorities, UKHO have not had resource available to progress any further development since SNPWG18. NIPWG 1-15.1 Annex A is therefore identical to SNPWG 18-15 Annex A.

Discussion at SNPWG18 started to question how features in the S-126 test data set would relate to features in other S-100 product specifications, not least S-101, but also those relating to currents, tides, ice and met-ocean information. The issue of how much textual data should be displayed in a predominately graphical display was also raised. Such questions are fundamental to the future operation within an S-100 regime.

At SNPWG18 the following questions were also asked:

- a) Is it possible to use the term 'season' in generalised descriptions of phenomena. (eg. Monsoon season)?
- b) Is it permissible to use seasons instead of specific months (eg. summer, winter etc)?
- c) Para 1.2.1 – Do we want this kind of information (Deeps) in S-126?
- d) Do we need/want the ability to use links to other specialist documents where it is not appropriate to provide a full explanation of phenomena (eg. Mariner's Handbook etc)?
- e) Do we want links to specialist graphics (wind/temperature/swell/MSL etc)?
- f) Do we want to include regional variants (external to region being described) of the same basic phenomenon (Hurricane/Typhoon/Cyclone)?
- g) Are there any further phenomena/data types that need to be included?
- h) We need to decide on whether the terrestrial environment data set needs to contain man-made structures such as towns/built up areas/water collection.

It is unclear whether all of these questions have been answered, but more to the point, it is unclear whether these questions are relevant as there is a lack of definition of how S-126 will be used.

**Conclusions**

There is a risk that work on S-126 is too focused on trying to replicate information within existing publications rather than an appreciation of what S-126 will aim to achieve in combination with other S-100 products.

There is also a risk that S-126 development is based on what can be done, rather than what is required by users.

**Recommendations**

Requirements for S-126 need to be clearly defined before further work can be meaningfully progressed. This may require engagement with end users. It certainly requires closer liaison with the S-100WG.

**Justification and Impacts**

Focusing on satisfying user requirements and interaction with other S-100 products will ensure the most efficient development path.

**Action Required of NIPWG**

The NIPWG is invited to:

- a. endorse the recommended approach.
- b. define the purpose of S-126
- c. agree the priority for this work in relation to dependencies on the development of other product specifications.