

1st Meeting of the Nautical Information Provision Working Group (NIPWG) Monaco, 29 June – 3 July 2015

The 1st meeting of the Nautical Information Provision Working Group (NIPWG) took place in the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) in Monaco from 29 June to 3 July.

The NIPWG is one of the new working groups resulting from the implementation of a new organizational structure under the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC). It continues the activities of the former Standardization of Nautical Publications Working Group (SNPWG) with a broader mandate to develop general specifications in support of the e-navigation services that are intended to provide mariners with harmonized up-to-date information on integrated displays in the future.

Twenty participants from nine IHO Member States and five stakeholder organizations attended the meeting. The IHB was represented by Assistant Director Anthony Pharaoh. Director Gilles Bessero welcomed the participants and provided some inputs in relation to the e-navigation strategy implementation plan adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). He reported also on the recently established liaison with the International Harbour Masters' Association (IHMA) concerning their related initiative on "Port Call Optimization".

Mr Jens Schröder-Fürstenberg (Germany) was elected Chair of the working group and Mr Edward Hosken (United Kingdom) was elected Vice-Chair. Mr Tom Loeper (USA) was appointed as Secretary.



Participants of the NIPWG-1 Meeting

The meeting reviewed the various items of the NIPWG work plan approved by the HSSC. Reports were presented and discussed on the continuing development of S-100 based product specifications, namely the Marine Protected Areas Product Specification (S-122), the Radio Services Product Specification (S-123), the Physical Environment Product Specification (S-126), and the Traffic Management Product Specification (S-127). Arrangements were agreed to ensure appropriate coordination with the development of the IHO Navigational Warning Product Specification (S-124) under the aegis of the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS-SC) and with the work of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) on the development of Maritime Service Portfolios. Reports on the project of the East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC) on e-Marine Information Overlays and on the work undertaken by US agencies on geo-tagging features in nautical publications were considered. Further

progress on addressing and testing the interactions between different product specifications within an ECDIS and the portrayal of quality indicators was discussed.

The participants were invited to attend the World Hydrography Day celebration which took place on board the Japan Coast Guard training vessel *Kojima*, berthed in the port of Monaco, on 30 June.

The next meeting of the working group was scheduled from 21 to 25 March 2016. The location will be decided later.