

2nd Meeting of the Nautical Information Provision Working Group (NIPWG) Monaco, 21 – 24 March 2016

The 2nd meeting of the Nautical Information Provision Working Group (NIPWG) took place at the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB), Monaco, from 21 to 24 March.

The NIPWG is the IHO working group reporting to the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) that is responsible for the development of 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.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Jens Schröder-Fürstenberg, Germany. Nineteen delegates from 14 Member States (Brazil, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA) and eight stakeholder organizations attended the meeting. The IHB was represented by Assistant Director Yves Guillam. Director Gilles Bessero welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of the working group in preparing tomorrow's services in support of mariners. He also drew attention to the need to focus not only on the building blocks for digital information services but also on the overall architecture of the services, confirming the IHO's request for tangible outputs from NIPWG to address e-navigation and Maritime Service Portfolios (MSP) issues.

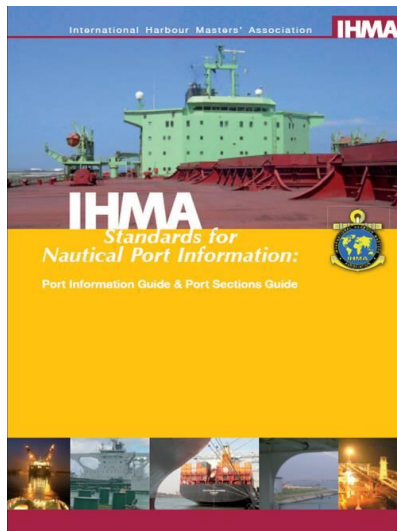


Participants of the NIPWG-2 Meeting

The meeting considered the continuing active development of S-100 based product specifications that relate to the tasks assigned to the NIPWG. The meeting noted the challenges already experienced as part of the paradigm shift from paper and text-based Sailing Directions to providing this information as digital data under the e-navigation concept, in particular the challenges of modelling nautical

information associated with imprecise geographical position and/or extent (for example, radio ranges, applicability of rules and regulations, and so on.).

Following a presentation provided by the representative of the International Harbour Masters' Association (IHMA) on the development of web-based Port Information Guides, which would benefit from further standardization, the NIPWG agreed to investigate the possible gaps in its existing data modelling to better meet the additional users' requirements identified by the IHMA.



Presentation by IHMA

From Port Information Guide to AVANTI (Access to Validated Nautical Information)

The meeting made some progress on long pending portrayal issues related to IHO Product Specification S-122 - *Marine Protected Areas*, building on the guidance provided by the 7th meeting of HSSC in 2015. Following discussions on the portrayal of “rules and regulations”, such as MARPOL¹, some Expert Contributors volunteered to undertake investigations and to share the lessons learned at a NIPWG Visualization Workshop tentatively scheduled for May 2017. A thorough review of progress in the active development of four other S-100-based product specifications under the NIPWG work programme was carried out. As instructed by the HSSC, a work plan to develop IHO S-128, the product specification related to catalogues of nautical products, was considered.

Actions were agreed to further improve coordination between the IHO and the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) for the development of S-100-based product specifications, in particular through contributing to the IALA Workshop on *Shore-based maritime services: from theory to practical use*, planned in May 2016 in Portugal.

The participants in the meeting considered that many IHO Member States have yet to realize the implications of the move towards the digital delivery of nautical information under the e-navigation framework, and the need to participate pro-actively in the development of the MSPs and associated standards.

The next meeting of the NIPWG will take place in Busan (Republic of Korea) from 5 to 9 December 2016.

All the documents considered at the meeting are available on the IHO web site at www.iho.int > Committees & WG > NIPWG > NIPWG-2.

¹ The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.