

Paper for Consideration by NIPWG

The importance on giving HO guidelines regarding Additional Nautical Information

Submitted by:	Sweden
Executive Summary:	This paper's intention is to request NIPWG to provide HO guidelines in how to deal with Additional Nautical Information as described in SOLAS
Related Documents:	SOLAS Ch. V Reg. 9.2.2. SNWG17-25. NIPWG1-22.1
Related Projects:	AVANTI (Access to Validated Nautical Information)

Introduction / Background

1. As the e-navigation era is moving quickly, the current way to provide additional nautical information (as described in SOLAS) with Pilot Books and so on, with slow up-date processes, needs to be replaced by something more modern. Sweden has not produced any traditional NPs for many years. Although most of the traditional NP information is available in paper charts, ENC and on the web this is not acceptable. The problem has also been addressed by the Swedish Transport Agency. A study to find a solution to this has been in progress for some years and we have now started a project to develop an own source-database that can store all relevant nautical information needed for the mariner's safe navigation. The Swedish Maritime Administration has together with the Swedish Transport Agency agreed on which information to start with. As no international standard for digital NP information exist within IHO we have to find out a data structure more or less ourselves. A lot of other countries are facing the same problem and therefore it is very important that NIPWG give guidelines on this matter so all HO's are moving in the same direction.

At first the information for Swedish waters most likely will be shown on a web-page but hopefully the source-database can be useful for any future, internationally agreed, information system. (or ECDIS?)

The International Harbour Masters Association (IHMA) has taken an initiative to standardize and distribute nautical information in a structured way through the AVANTI project, which was a co-operational project with UKHO. However, the AVANTI prototype is now on hold and the way forward focus more on standardization of data and data content.

Analysis/Discussion

2. It would be desirable if NIPWG, as soon as possible, could distribute guidelines on the data structure for NP information, that will be applied in S-100, and recommendations about how to distribute additional nautical information in a digital format that will fulfil SOLAS Ch. V Reg. 9.2.2.

Co-operation with IHMA and harmonization with the IHMA standard is crucial.

Conclusions

3. Ongoing projects will not await the completion of S-100 standard.

Recommendations

4. NIPWG should continue to monitor IHMA's work with both the AVANTI project and the PRONTO project.

5. NIPWG should write recommendations on how HO's should fulfil SOLAS Ch. V Reg. 9.2.2 in accordance with the e-navigation strategy implementation plan, preferably using the standards from IHMA's work.

Justification and Impacts

6. The recommendations under "5" would help HOs and NGOs to produce digital NP information in a similar and standardized way, although not the final way. This in turn will help the user to recognise the way the information is given and will know that it is validated according to international (upcoming) standards.

Action Required of NIPWG

The NIPWG is invited to:

- a. note this paper;
- b. consider the recommendations in paragraph 4 and 5
- c. take any other actions as it considers appropriate