

Paper for Consideration by NIPWG

Status of S-126 Product Specification for Physical Environment

Submitted by:	The Netherlands and University of New Hampshire (UNH)
Executive Summary:	Status of S-126
Related Documents:	-
Related Projects:	-

Introduction / Background

At NIPWG2 the S-126 Test Data Set was considered complete. The Netherlands agreed to start with the initial mapping of the S-126 Physical Environment Test Data Set with pre-existing objects and attributes. In 2006 SNPWG began the initial work on the objects and attributes for the physical environment data model. It was decided at that time that a simple generic model would suffice. Technology and expectations have changed greatly over the past decade which makes this the perfect time to move forward with an eye to the future and the overall goal of the S-100 data products... "to provide the data framework for the development of the *next generation* of ENC products, as well as **other related digital products required by the hydrographic, maritime and GIS communities.**"

Analysis/Discussion

As the mapping work began after NIPWG2, the question was raised if the data model should be extended. The simplicity of the model didn't capture the vast amount of data that could be used in so many other domains, as well as with many other S-100 product specifications. The S-126 team feels it is important to re-analyse the use cases of the data to ensure that the S-126 data will add value when needed. It is important to think how the data model will fit the need of the Mariners and other users of the data set.

Conclusions

The S-126 team is at the moment investigating if and how the data model should be expanded. At this time we cannot give any proposals or recommendations on the data model.

Recommendations

Give the S-126 team the time to seriously evaluate the data and advise at NIPWG4, on the need to extend or preserve the current data model.

Justification and Impacts

Keeping in mind that this data is meant to describe the physical environment it is important to associate it with the task for which it is being used. This product specification has more overlap with others and so how it is modelled and used needs to be carefully considered.

Action Required of NIPWG

The NIPWG is invited to:

- a. Note the paper
- b. Discuss allowing for more time to fully prepare for future recommendations on the direction of the S-126
- c. Take action as appropriate.