

**7th Meeting of the Nautical Information Provision Working Group (NIPWG)
Tallinn, Estonia, 25 – 29 November 2019**

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2019	
Task 2.1.2.5	Organize, prepare and report meetings of NIPWG
Task 2.5.2	Support the development and implementation of Maritime Services
Task 2.8.1	Maintain S-12, as appropriate - <i>Standardization of List of Lights and Fog Signals</i>
Task 2.8.3	Maintain S-49, as appropriate - <i>Standardization of Mariners' Routeing Guides</i>

The 7th meeting of the Nautical Information Provision Working Group (NIPWG) took place in Tallinn, Estonia, hosted by the Estonian Maritime Administration (EMA) from 25 to 29 November.

Ms Kaidi Katus, Head of Aids to Navigation and Hydrography Division and Deputy Director General of EMA, welcomed the participants and gave an opening address emphasising the importance of NIPWG activities in the development of some of the key components of the S-100 Implementation Strategy. The meeting was chaired by Mr Jens Schröder-Fürstenberg (Germany), supported by Mr Thomas Loeper, Secretary (USA). Twenty-five delegates from 14 Member States (Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, United Kingdom and United States) and seven expert contributors (Anthropocene Institute, Furuno/IEC, ICS¹, IHMA², KRISO³, National Taiwan Ocean Centre and University of New Hampshire) attended the meeting. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Assistant Director Yves Guillam.

The meeting was opened with an important clarification on the functional terminology - *route monitoring* or *route planning* – the only one to be used when addressing the use of future digital nautical publication products in an ECDIS environment and issues related to the architecture of navigation systems. These terms match with the IMO definitions in use.

The Secretariat reported on the outcome of the 3rd meeting of the Council in relation to NIPWG activities. The participants were in particular informed that following the Council's endorsement of a draft S-100 Implementation Strategy, engagement with the IMO will be starting soon with a submission paper to NCSR7⁴ which presents a roadmap of the introduction of the next generation of S-101 Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC) and introduces the resulting implications for existing and new ECDIS installations. Attention was drawn on the fact that the timeline is set to achieve synchronization of the implementation of S-101 ENC compatibility with the application of MSC.1/Circ.1593 - *Interim Guidelines for the Harmonized Display of Navigation Information Received via Communications Equipment* - coming into force on 1 January 2024 for new ECDIS equipment by OEMs.

As part of the national projects presented during the meeting, the working group noted the good progress made on the development of the Norwegian Pilot Guide, which has led to a certain level of harmonization of harbour infrastructure data in cooperation with port authorities. The potential reuse of this concept for the provision of nautical information in non-SOLAS environment was noted as well as the possible benefit for the S-100 Implementation Strategy, if data models could be derived from S-12x Product Specifications. In the presence of the

¹ International Chamber of Shipping.

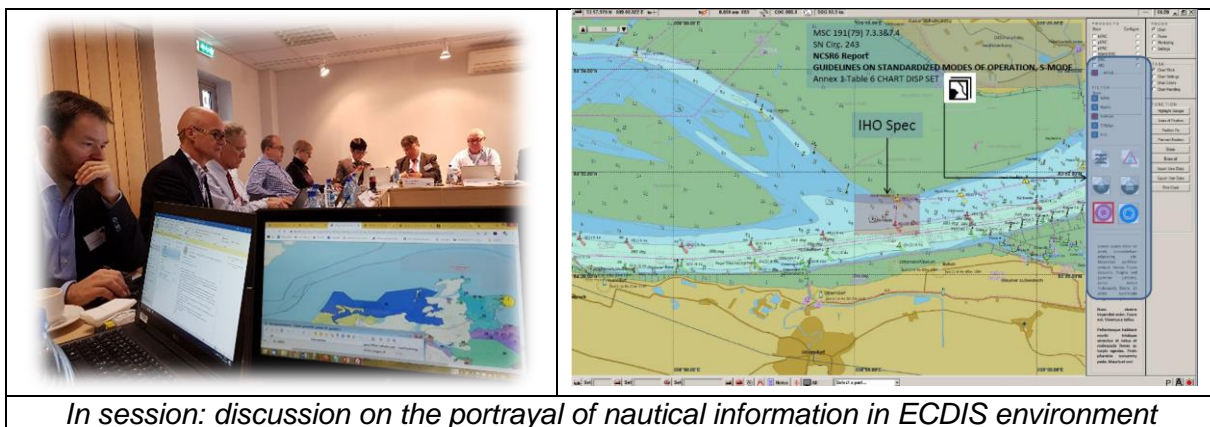
² International Harbour Masters Association.

³ Korea Research Institute of Ships and Ocean Engineering.

⁴ IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR 7) – Reference: IHO CL 54/2019.

representative of IHMA, the meeting agreed that the assessment of needed information to produce a potential product specification on Marine Harbour Infrastructure, including *services* to be established by the HOs to collect data from harbour authorities, was now required. A convincing presentation by the representative of UNH also confirmed the need to move forward in the development of the S-126 - *Marine Physical Environment* data modelling. The intention to initiate or resume the relevant Product Specification development will be submitted for approval to HSSC.

In the context of the S-100 Implementation Roadmap, the meeting acknowledged the increasing importance of the development of the S-128 Product Specification - *Catalogue of Nautical Publication* as a possible driver to provide end-users with the up-to-datedness of the products to be used and to be recognized during Port State control inspections in the future. A set of subsequent actions was decided, some of which with a possible impact on the “WENS” concept. This development was reported by the representative of KRISO for KHOA. The KHOA’s project for portrayal harmonization, which is so critical for S-12x based products used in ECDIS environment, led to the decision for having a one-day workshop at the next meeting to assess use-cases and lessons learned provided by Member States. Portrayal issues were also discussed for S-124 - *Navigational Warnings*, and on S-122 – *Marine Protected Areas*. It was noted that some nations have started to produce test datasets in support of some provision and portrayal experimentations.



Representative of the USA reported on the final steps of the revision of S-49 - *Standardization of Mariners' Routing Guides* that will be submitted as Edition 2.1.0 to HSSC for endorsement in application of the recently amended IHO Resolution 2/2007. In this context, the meeting also considered briefly the possible implications of the discontinuity, within a five years' time frame, of the production of paper charts by the US.

Mr David Lewald (US Coast Guard) informed the participants on the outcome of the recent IALA technical meetings. The working group noted with appreciation the IALA’s initiative aiming to develop S-125 – *Marine Navigational Services* for the IHO, as well as the existence and ongoing development of the Marine Resource Name Management Guideline by IALA.

At the end of the meeting, Mr Stefan Engström (Finland) was elected as Vice-Chair of NIPWG.

The 8th meeting of the NIPWG is scheduled to be held in Brest, France, from 21 to 25 September 2020.



NIPWG-7 participants in Tallinn, Estonia