

**Joint TSMAD18 & DIPWG1 MEETING
4th to 8th May 2009 (Ottawa, Canada)**

ENC Updating Working Group report

The CHRIS, at its last meeting (nov. 2008) has decided to create the EUWG, lead by France (Yves Le Franc chairs the group). The objectives of the group are (extract from the TOR):

1. Objective

To develop contemporary guidance on standardized processes for the delivery and implementation of updates to ENC's.

(2. Authority

The ENC Updating Working Group (EUWG) is a subsidiary of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) and its work is subject to HSSC approval.)

3. Procedures

a. The EUWG shall:

- i. develop and propose a pragmatic approach to overcome any current shortcomings in the updating mechanisms for T&P notices in ENC's,
- ii. review and revise the updating mechanisms as contained in S-52 Appendix 1,
- iii. report to the HSSC in 2009 with recommendations as appropriate.

Note that the WG works by correspondence and that EUWG's documents are on IHO Web site.

Volunteers have progressively joined the group which is now composed of the representatives of 13 member states (AU, DE, DK, FI, FR, JP, NL, NO, PT, SE, UK, US, ZA), one representative of IC-ENC (as JETWG representative according to TOR) and one Expert contributor (Jeppesen). UK (Richard Coombes) vice-chairs the group.

See jointed list.

EUWG members are often also associated with other OHI working groups (TSMAD, DIPWG, JTEWG, CSCPWG, PRNWX, SNPWX) and are involved on topics related to those of the EUWG. This means that the EUWG implicitly liaises with these working groups.

Represented HOs are near equally distributed between those who already produce ER equivalent to T and P Notices to Mariners and those who don't. This distribution is very interesting to study the best practices to apply.

In a first step, the WG has carried out an overview of the subject, including contextual aspects as P and T N notices to mariners definition given in draft M4- §B600 under review within CSCPWG. EUWG's members who already produce ER equivalent to T and P Notices to Mariners have also reported the methods they applied.

Information received from members producing "P and T ERs" provided differing solutions and options. This made it necessary to carry out a detailed study and discussion on some

typical real cases. Members, whether producing P and T ERs or not, described how they would encode a list of real cases.

From the responses received and by comparing these, the WG is working towards iteratively defining the best practices and so guidance for HOs.

The first draft for guidance is being written by EUWG secretary (FR) and vice-chair (UK) and will be circulated in May to EUWG members for consideration.

Note that Encoding Bulletins - *UOC Clause 10.2.1 Traffic separation schemes* recently published seems to be in line with principles which outline within the EUWG. However, the EUWG should examine it more formally.

Depending on the EUWG's member responses to the "draft for guidance" paper, we can determine whether we are close to achieving the first objective of the group.

This guidance should encourage HOs to produce "P and T ERs" and it should give keys to set up the method to apply. The aim is to achieve a world wide production of P and T ERs. This guidance should be in accordance with the current standards and make immediate application feasible.

At this time, the EUWG is focused on the guidance for the production of P and T ERs. However, some other topics need to be studied later or request changes to current standards, for example:

- some information equivalent to miscellaneous and general notices to mariners, e.g. changes to regulations affecting large areas, may not be appropriate to ECDIS and ENC Updates. Such information need to be promulgated by other means,
- some attributes are missing for some object classes (PICREP) and the display on ECDIS of some situation (extinguished LIGHTS) could be improved,
- the mechanism of relaying information between RNW and the subsequent issue of (P) or (T) NMs should be examined, taking into account that there is a need to provide RNW directly on ECDIS.