

MINUTES



Worldwide ENC Database Working Group (WEND-WG)

Thursday 13 and Friday 14 October 2011
in Wollongong Australia

1. OPENING

The first meeting of the Worldwide ENC Database Working Group (WEND-WG) took place in Wollongong, Australia, from 13 to 14 October 2011. The meeting was hosted by the Australian Hydrographic Service under the auspices of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). There were 20 some delegates attending the meeting, with a further 4 delegates participating via VTC.

The delegates were welcomed by the IHO Chair, Captain Jamie McMichael Phillips, who thanked the Australian hosts, Cmdre Rod Nairn and Mr Mike Prince, for their hard work in hosting the meeting.

2. WEND OVERVIEW – IHO COMMITMENT TO IMO

Docs: WG1 – 09 WEND Principles Review

WG1 – 10 BSHC Input to WEND – WG

WG1 – 11 Alternatives in dealing with ENC coverage issues

WG1 – 12 WEND WG Report to the IRCC

The above papers were presented by the relevant authors and discussed in detail. Salient points and comments that arose included:

- There is a need to raise the profile of electronic charting within the IMO. A presentation to the NAV Sub Committee may be the most effective way to achieve this.
- WG members, through business-as-usual (BAU) should encourage better feedback from Member States (MS), via the Regional Commissions on the WEND principles and their application.
- WG, through BAU, should encourage the maintenance of momentum in the production of medium and large scale ENCs for the top 800 ports. Whilst at the same time encouraging better monitoring of traffic movements in and out of the top 800 ports and to investigate the production schedule for ENCs for other major routes
- More interaction and feedback is required from technical experts, users and suppliers to determine a better understanding of their requirements and then to define problems and address concerns.

- There is a need to fully identify busy cruise routes and use port visit statistics to better understand the dangers and potential problems with coverage and mandatory carriage
- WG members, through BAU, should encourage MS producers to issue equivalent large scale band ENC's to mirror their existing large scale paper coverage.
- Work is required to find solutions for provision of ENC coverage for non-IHO MS. There is a need to look more deeply into Service Provision and RENC harmonisation.

Actions:

- **WWG1-A01:** The IHB representative to consider a presentation on WEND and ENC issues to the next IMO NAV Sub Committee in 2012.
- **WWG1-A02:** The WG Chair to write to RHC Chairs & ENC Coordinators seeking regional assessments for cruise ship priorities and adequacy of survey data within areas used by the cruise industry by end of Mar 12.
- **WWG1-A03:** The Chair to approach CLIA & INTERTANKO & other major organisations to seek concerns & priorities for ENC coverage by end of Mar 12.
- **WWG1-A04:** By 31 May 12, RHC WEND representatives to provide an assessment on ENC coverage for their areas and to include plans on how to raise awareness amongst those Coastal states that have yet to acknowledge the need to produce ENC's. Where possible also outline any programme of work to tackle, WEND and ENC coverage issues.

3. COVERAGE – GAP/OVERLAP ISSUES

Docs: WG 1 – 05 UK Paper on coverage issues

WG 1 – 07 Tentative enforcement mechanisms to get an adequate ENC coverage.

WG 1 – 11 Alternatives in dealing with ENC coverage issues

The above papers were presented by their relevant authors and discussed in detail. The most salient points and comments that arose included:

Gaps

Mindful of the July 2012 implementation date, it was agreed that there was a need to devise and instigate solutions to resolve the issue of gaps in coverage. Procedures and process to address the gaps issue, together with amplification of principles that the WG recognised might be needed to fill the gaps was discussed here and again at Section 11 (See later action regarding WEND Guidelines proposals).

- It was felt that end-users need more training in ENC and ECDIS use.
- It was noted that interim ENC production and interchanging of usage bands may provide short term solution to the issue of gaps in some areas.

- There was concern over whether, for some more remote areas, horizontal and vertical datum differences will ever be resolved by producers.
- There was a need to encourage producer nations of paper charts to prioritise ENC production.
- Where resourcing is an issue for some nations, those nations may wish to delegate ENC production and are encouraged to keep IHO/WEND/RHC informed of such plans.
- There is a need to resolve the issue of ENC producer in areas where the coastal states do not have and production capability and/or where there is more than one paper chart producer.
- There is a need to monitor liability and quality assurance issues if Third Party/Private Sector organisations produce ENCs on behalf of MS.
- There is a need to ensure effective maintenance and updates cycles are in place for products that are not produced by coastal state but are produced by third party organisations.

Action:

- **WWG1-A05:** Chair to write to RHCs seeking plans to fill gaps.

Overlapping data

- It was reaffirmed that WEND principles preclude overlapping data.
- Where overlaps exist, it was agreed that there is a need to identify whether the problem is merely cosmetic or if there is a navigational safety critical issue caused by such an overlap.
- Where all negotiation fails between producer nations of areas of ENC overlap it was agreed that there will be a need to exert IHO pressure and, where necessary, highlight high risks/issues to IMO. Where necessary consideration has to be given to issuing Navigational Warnings for significant errors between overlapping cells.
- It was agreed that, to ease overlapping issues in some areas, RHCs and producer nations should give consideration to more interchange between Band 1 and 2 cells.
- More investigation is necessary to identify whether ECDIS software exists that can safely reconcile overlaps at the end-user level.
 - **Post Meeting Note:** WEND-WG Chair and UK representative will follow up on this as an additional action.
- Hitherto there has been no hard evidence of any accidents caused by errors in overlaps. However WG members are encouraged to monitor future maritime incidents/accidents for any such evidence.
- Noting that the S-57 standard requires that there is no overlap of ENC data within usage bands, hitherto there is no effective process for the IHO community to withdraw cells with serious overlap errors or that are non-compliant. The WEND-WG needs to consider further any future amendment to the WEND principles or guidelines to accommodate these issues.

Action:

- **WWG1-A06:** Chair to circulate a revised list of overlapping data to WG members and RHCs.

4. QUALITY, CONSISTENCY AND UPDATING ISSUES

Discussions were held on quality, consistency and updating of ENC cells and the following observations, concerns and comments were noted:

- It was agreed that to provide an adequate service to the user community, the updating frequency for ENCs needs to be fully aligned with that for the paper equivalent.
- It was noted that the WEND database is not as up to date as it should be and WG members, in BAU, should encourage Producer Nations, Member States and RHCs to update the database as soon as practicable.
 - **Post Meeting Note:** Guidance on achieving this is required UK will provide an aide memoire.
- The question was asked as to whether the S58 checks were stringent enough or whether these were worthy of review noting that currently S58 is a set of recommendations and that rigorous controls may need to be in place to reconcile validation/content errors that possibly result in rejection or withdrawal of cells.
- It was suggested that because all nations were now providing their chart data as part of the whole WEND database (rather than as individual and independent producers) there might be a role for the IHB in providing some form of independent voluntary audit process to ensure that the quality and updatedness was maintained. Guidance could then be provided to ENC distributors and service providers.
- It was acknowledged that there were some Member States who might require help and assistance in matters of quality, consistency and updating of cells. It was agreed help and assistance to resolve such issues could be offered through effective RHC capacity building initiatives.
- It was noted that the current tri-nationally produced ENC process was working well as was the checking for validity of the content of updates.
- A need was identified to ascertain the volume of hydrographic data held by non RENC nations through an ENC producers census/audit?

Actions:

- **WWG1-A07:** The WEND Task Force (see later) to ascertain the volume of hydrographic data held by non RENC nations through an ENC producers census/audit by 1 Feb 12.
- There was an action for WEND WG Chair to contact Chair of HSSC prior to meeting to give support for review of S58.

- **Post Meeting Note:** UK has offered to lead a sub-working group looking at the possibility of independent audit of the WEND database.

5. SERVICE PROVISION

Docs: WG 1 – 03 Establishment of a standardised IHO ENC metadata resource to provide consistent and up-to-date data for web services

WG 1 – 14 Status of Licensing

WG 1 – 17 Validation, S63 and out of date ENCs

Single unified database

IHB presented paper WG-1-03 and invited comments and observations on the content and proposals set out within.

- The WG agreed the Paper in principle, however there were some concerns over resourcing, upkeep and updating.
- To ensure that the proposals can be fully implemented, WG members are requested to encourage all MS to give a firm commitment to maintain the input and updating of the database.
- It was suggested that there should be 2 catalogues posted on the web: one available to the public and the second accessible only by MS.
- Any harvesting tool will need to be user friendly.
- There must be a mechanism in place to monitor correct updating procedures.

Actions:

- **WWG1-A08:** IHB to provide more details and specifications for the WEND-WG to consider.

Licensing

The Chair presented his spreadsheet on the Status of ENC Licensing. The following comments and observations were made:

- There was concern over gaps in the spreadsheet where no licensing data was available from Producer Nations.
- It was noted that the RENCs were working together to harmonise licensing terms for the benefit of the end-user.
- It was noted that there was disparity across Producer Nations in regards to the number of allowable installations per vessel and minimum licensing periods. These differences were as a result of national policy. WEND-WG members were invited to provide more feedback on the spreadsheet.

Action:

- **WWG1-A09:** Chair to write to IHB and RHC chairs providing a draft letter highlighting variations in licensing. By end of Mar 12.

S63

The author presented a paper on Validation, S63 and out of date ENC's. This generated in depth discussions, with delegates expressing concerns over ECDIS warning message depiction and navigational safety regarding termination clauses. It raised the question as to whether there should be changes to S63 and amendments to the guidelines. It was felt that this should be resolved through HSCC business.

Post meeting note: Following investigation and report back to the WG by AUS it was decided that no further action was required at this point

6. ECDIS RELATED ISSUES

Docs: WG 1 – 17 Validation, S63 and out of date ENC's

UK presented the above information paper following an informal meeting for ECDIS stakeholders held in London this September. Discussions followed on the subject of S58 and S63 standards which were largely the responsibility of HSCC.

Action:

- **WWG1-A11:** UK to post ECDIS Stakeholder paper on IHO website

9. WHAT MORE CAN BE DONE? RENC DISCUSSION

Docs: WG 1 – 06 Promotion of the WEND principles: the RENC distribution of ENC's to the End User Service Providers (EUSP) under the new brand name "IHO-WEND"

WG 1 – 08 Status RENC – RENC Cooperation Discussions and Achievements

Both these papers were presented and discussed in detail. The main topics of note were:

- It was noted that there were differences in the promotion, distribution, licensing, and sales reporting policies and procedures operated by IC-ENC and PRIMAR.
- Notwithstanding the above there was a close working relationship between PRIMAR and IC-ENC and a way ahead for harmonisation that will benefit the user.
- It was felt that there was a need for the RENCs to be as transparent as possible to allow potential new members to assess terms/conditions/benefits before joining. RENCs should publish as much of this information as is possible in the open domain of their respective websites.

- It was agreed to table the discussion on the IHO-WEND brand as future business for the WEND-WG.

Following discussions, it was agreed that a sub-group should be set up to monitor and promote the harmonisation issues. The group will be known as the RENC Harmonisation Sub Group (RHSG) and will work by correspondence. The group will be co-chaired by Sweden and Australia, and be supported by the IC-ENC, PRIMAR and AusRENC, with representatives from China, USA and the operators. It was proposed that this group will be the successor to the IPCC.

Actions:

- **WWG1-A12:** RENCs to post appropriate terms & conditions and benefits paperwork and other relevant working documents on open domains of their own websites and also cross-refer to the IHO website. By Dec 11.
- **WWG1-A13:** With immediate effect, and following IHB endorsement, form the RENC Harmonisation Sub Group (RHSG). To be co-chaired by Sweden and Australia, and supported by the IC-ENC, PRIMAR and AusRENC, with representatives from EAHC(China), USCHC(USA) and the operators.

7. HAVE WE FULFILLED THE 2007 RESOLUTIONS?

The 2007 resolutions were discussed with particular attention being focused on **Proposal 23** (*the Resolution on Electronic Navigational Chart Coverage, Availability, Consistency and Quality*). It was generally agreed that good progress has being made with regard to coverage, however there is still a long way to go to resolve overlap, consistency and updating issues. It was decided to update Proposal 23, with a new Proposal that would that would re-affirm the IHO's commitment to full ENC coverage, subject to the needs of changing traffic patterns, and the availability of suitable source data and resources.

Action:

- **WWG1-A14:** Canada; US; UK; France & Singapore to jointly draft a new Proposal by 21 Oct 11 on ENC production to re-affirm the IHO's commitment to full ENC coverage, subject to the needs of changing traffic patterns, and the availability of suitable source data and resources.

Post Meeting Note: Draft proposal circulated separately.

8. WHAT MORE CAN BE DONE?—CAPACITY BUILDING AND COOPERATION

The subject of cooperation and capacity building was debated and the main focus of discussion was directed at the need to identify gaps in coverage and the need for RHCs to source capacity building funding for producer countries to prioritise their workload and resolve the issues.

9. WHAT MORE CAN BE DONE?– REVIEW OF WEND PRINCIPLES/IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

WEND principles (K2.19) were discussed in detail and very minor editorial updates to the text were agreed such that they would reflect the current status of IMO mandatory carriage of ECDIS and to make reference to the Guidelines on the implementation of the WEND Principles. It was decided that to totally review and dissect the Principles would open a “Pandora’s Box” and thus they should otherwise remain as is.

The Guidelines for the Implementation of the WEND principles were also discussed and minor editorial changes were agreed. In addition it was agreed that the guidelines should be amplified to include a process that acknowledges, as a last resort, that existing paper chart producers can fill the gaps in ENC coverage and a similar process that can identify areas overlapping data that impacts on safety of navigation (an expansion of the detail in Paragraph 1.7 of the existing WEND Guidelines), and after notification to the Producer States and the observance of due process, inform mariners and IMO if the matter cannot/will not be resolved by those Producer States. These processes were drafted by Mike Prince of Australia and tabled at the meeting. It was agreed that these together with the minor editorial changes noted above should form part of a Resolution to IHC.

Action:

- **WWG1-A15:** The guidelines to the WEND Principles to be expanded to include a process that acknowledges, as a last resort, that existing paper chart producers can fill the gaps in ENC coverage and a similar process that can identify areas overlapping data that impacts on safety of navigation, and after notification to the Producer States and the observance of due process, inform mariners and IMO if the matter cannot/will not be resolved by those Producer States. It will be proposed that these revised guidelines are added to the existing WEND Principles that should be updated to reflect the current status of ECDIS mandation and should form a Proposal to IHC. UK & Australia to lead. By 4 Nov 11.

10. WHAT MORE CAN BE DONE? WORK PLAN AND LOAD SHARING

*Docs: ARHC2 – 10B 2nd Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission Meeting
Copenhagen, Denmark, September 28-29, 2011*

The above paper was offered by the relatively new Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission and was discussed. This generated a wider general discussion on the subject of a work plan and load sharing. It was agreed that there was a need to collate feedback from other RHCs and to monitor and resolve the issues regarding overlaps and gaps in coverage. To this end a WEND Task Force was set up to take on this work. Representatives from France (chair), UK, Australia, Brazil and IHB volunteered to participate in the Task Force.

Action:

- **WWG1-A16:** With immediate effect a WEND task force to be formed to take forward detailed policy work as required. France to chair and to be supported by UK, Australia, Brazil and IHB.

- **WEND REPORT TO IHC**

Docs: WG1 – 13 Draft WEND – WG report to IHC XVIII

The report was presented by the Chair for submission to the IRCC, who will present to the IHC. The final version will include supporting evidence from agenda items from this meeting, to include references to overlaps and gaps, updating, RENC cooperation and capacity building.

Action:

- **WWG1-A17:** Chair to update and circulate the draft WEND-WG Report to IHC. By 7 Nov 11.

- **REVIEW OF TORs**

The WEND TORs (M-3 K2.38) were discussed and minor editorial amendments were made accordingly.

Action:

- **WWG1-A18:** Chair to circulate revised WEND-WG TORs for further comment.

- **A.O.B**

There was no AOB other than from France and the IHB who gave votes of thanks to Australia for hosting, and the UK for conducting, the inaugural meeting of the WEND Working Group.

- **REVIEW OF ACTIONS**

The Chair and Secretary reviewed the actions with the Working Group Members.

- **CLOSING REMARKS AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that another meeting of this group should be held in 2012 with a preference for dates to be immediately before for after the 2012 HSSC. The Chair undertook to liaise with HSSC over these dates and the venue.

Action:

- **WWG1-A19:** Chair to liaise with HSSC to propose a date and venue for the second WEND-WG Meeting. By Jan 12.
 - **Post Meeting Note:** HSSC are now proposing to hold the next meeting in Taunton (UK) over the period 24-27 Sep 12. WEND-WG Chair will contact WG members regarding proposed dates for the next WG meeting.

The Chair thanked all the delegates for a successful meeting, noting that good progress had been made on key WEND issues. He thanked Australia for their hard work in hosting the meeting