

WENDWG5-04-C Status and future of the RENC Harmonization Sub-Group

Proposal to change RHSG Terms of Reference and meeting structure

Submitted by: IC-ENC and PRIMAR

Date: 29th January 2015

Background

It has been agreed by both the IC-ENC Steering Committee and PRIMAR Advisory Committee that the RENC Harmonisation Sub Group (RHSG) Terms of Reference (ToRs) and its structure should be updated to reflect recent developments.

IC-ENC and PRIMAR have jointly developed this proposal. The proposed new RHSG ToRs and structure are submitted to WENDWG5 for approval.

Rationale for change

IC-ENC and PRIMAR have a continuing programme of harmonization and co-operation activities. However, it is recognised that certain conceptual differences in their modes of operation do exist, and will continue to exist, at least for the medium term. These differences mean choice for hydrographic offices considering joining a RENC, which is a good thing.

Harmonisation on specific technical and distribution policies between RENCs is important so that chart service suppliers are provided with ENC's that are fit for purpose and available for a range of uses. In turn, this sends out a positive message to potential RENC members.

The RHSG provides a basis upon which to progress the harmonisation of specific RENC technical and distribution policies, and provides visibility of this activity to IHO organs (namely WENDWG and IRCC) and wider IHO community. Therefore the RHSG should continue, but under revised ToRs which reflect its remit.

The proposed new ToRs preserve the autonomy of each existing RENC's governing body over the operation of each RENC. The RHSG is secondary to the individual governing bodies at all times. However, the proposed ToRs allow RENCs to continue to be a key component of the IHO and hydrographic office community.

The proposed new RHSG meeting structure will prevent an over-reliance on the annual two Open Session meetings for strategic dialogue between IC-ENC and PRIMAR. The proposed new RHSG personnel list is a pragmatic approach to incorporate the required range of views while maintaining a functioning size of working group. All key RENC stakeholders have avenues to represent their views.

The RHSG can expand to welcome new participants representing any newly forming RENCs if required.

The proposed new RHSG ToRs and structure

Existing RHSG ToRs:

To develop the most appropriate RENC structure for the IHO to achieve the WEND vision

Proposed new RHSG ToRs:

- *To determine the scope of RENC harmonization on technical and distribution matters, which will contribute to achieving the WEND vision*
- *To monitor and maintain progress of these agreed harmonization matters*
- *To report to WENDWG on these matters*
- *To develop and deliver initiatives aimed at promoting the RENC concept and RENC operations to the hydrographic office community*
- *To approve all proposed task requests allocated to RENCs by IHO organs, namely WENDWG and IRCC.*

Proposed structure of RHSG:

Participants:

- Each RENC Chairman (Co-Chairmen of the RHSG)
- An appointed RENC Management representative
- A representative of each RENC Operator/Host office

Observers:

- IHB representative
- Others may be invited to observe as required, subject to permission from the Co-Chairs

Meeting Structure:

The RHSG will work predominantly by correspondence, supported by:

- Quarterly video/phone conference
- Face-to-face Open Sessions at each RENC governing board meeting (annual)
- Face-to-face meetings at other convenient locations, e.g. alongside WENDWG meetings (may replace a video conference)

Action required of WENDWG

Endorse the proposed new RHSG ToRs and structure.