

Agenda Item for Consideration by ARHC

ARHC2-04 D

2nd Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission Meeting Copenhagen, Denmark, September 28-29, 2011

Assessment of Paper and Digital Chart Coverage

Submitted by:	Canada
Executive Summary:	Canada will take the lead to construct a GIS tool to present graphically the paper and digital chart coverage in Arctic waters where ARHC has responsibility.
Related Documents:	none
Related Projects:	IHO C-55 updating for Arctic waters IRCC3 action for providing ENC coverage in ARHC waters.

Introduction / Background

The Strategic Planning Working Group has tasked Canada and the Russian Federation to 'Analyze the need for issuing new paper charts (INT, national coastal...) and ENCs'. It is noted that the Northern Sea Route and the North West Passage are potentially the two Arctic routes that would be most frequented in the near-term.

Analysis/Discussion

Canada has requested paper and digital chart coverage from all ARHC Members. The data when received will be compiled into a Geographic Information System (GIS) to generate a series of views for paper and digital chart coverage.

These series of views will be sent to each ARHC Member in advance of the ARHC meeting for validation and the results presented in Copenhagen for discussion.

Conclusions

Conclusions of coverage will be made by ARHC Member States. Results of this work will form the basis of the ARHC reporting to IRCC on status of ENC coverage.

Recommendations

If the coverage for ENCs in the ARHC is accurately presented then this should form the graphical content for the ARHC report to IRCC3 and the WENDWG. Textual input regarding the excel table provided by IRCC3 will not be completed as each of the 5 Members of the ARHC submitted their textual information via another Regional Hydrographic Commission.

Justification and Impacts

A GIS tool should be easy to maintain to be able to visually display current chart coverage in Arctic waters year over year for reporting and analysis purposes.

A GIS package will enable more precise calculations for reporting on chart and survey coverage related to the International Hydrographic Organization's C-55 Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Worldwide.

Additional information such as shipping routes could be incorporated in the GIS product to enhance analysis for charting priorities.

Planned charts could also be incorporated in particular in areas where overlapping ENC coverage would need to be addressed including in transboundary waters.

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Action Required of ARHC

The ARHC is invited to: consider this work at its 2nd meeting in Copenhagen