

Agenda Item for Consideration by ARHC

ARHC2-10B

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

WEND-WG Issues

Submitted by:	<i>Denmark</i>
Executive Summary:	<i>The purpose of this paper is to discuss if there is a need for appointing an ARHC representative for the WEND-WG and to consider if there is a need to prepare a paper for submission for the next WEND-WG meeting.</i>
Related Documents:	<i>None</i>
Related Projects:	<i>None</i>

Introduction / Background

WEND-WG is a working group under the IRCC Committee. Its tasks are to:

1. Monitor the development of adequate ENC coverage to meet any carriage requirements for ECDIS;
2. Develop proposals for speeding up ENC production and ensuring uniform ENC quality and consistency, and for making data available worldwide, including SENC distribution, taking advantage of any offers for production assistance, or other ways of mutual assistance and co-operation;
3. Advise MS, where appropriate, on the need, as well as on methods and tools for validating the data, and on any assistance which could be offered by the RENCs;
4. Monitor the implementation of the WEND, in response to Decision 21 of the XVIIth IHC, and advise IRCC of appropriate measures for speeding-up the implementation process;
5. Assist in harmonizing the policies of regional ENC Coordinating Centres (RENC) with respect to matters related to administration, legality, finances, technical processes, et cetera.

The WEND-WG is chaired by *Capt. Jamie McMichael-Phillips*, UK.

Each Regional Hydrographic Commission should have a representative in the WEND-WG.

Outcome of the IRCC3 meeting 26-27 May 2011

The IRCC3 meeting was held 26-27 May 2011 in Niteroi, Brazil. The Minutes of the meeting are available on the IHO web pages and a summary report of the issues is in IHO CL 53/2011. For preparation of this meeting, the BSHC and NHC representatives prepared a questionnaire and forwarded a report of the BSHC's and NHC's ENC coverages.

The main issues related to the WEND-WG were the further development of the WEND. An analysis of the implementation of the WEND principles adopted by IHO in 1994 was agreed as a priority issue. The IRCC3 recommended the WEND-WG to prepare a report on the implementation of the WEND Principles by Member States, based on input from RHC and individual nations and to report to the XVIII Conference [ref. IRCC3 Minutes].

A WEND-WG meeting is now scheduled to be held on 13 – 14 October 2011, in Wollongong, Australia. More information on this meeting is on the IHO Web pages. The main issues will be:

- WEND Overview – IHO commitment to IMO
- ENC Coverage – Gap/Overlap issues
- Quality, Consistency and Updating issues
- Service provision
- ECDIS related issues
- Capacity building & Cooperation
- RENC discussion
- Work Plan
- Review of WEND Principles/ Implementation Guidance
- WEND Report to IHC XVIII (2012)

Recommendations

1. The ARHC members are invited to discuss if there is a need to nominate an ARHC representative to the WEND-WG.
2. Considering the WEND-WG issues as listed above, ARHC members are invited to consider if there is a need to prepare a paper covering relevant information, comments, opinions and proposals to the WEND-WG from an Arctic perspective before the WEND-WG meeting. and to consider if the draft questionnaire could be used as a guideline for the paper.

Actions for the ARHC 2nd Conference:

The ARHC 2nd Conference is requested to take note of this Paper and to take proper action.

Draft Questionnaire to ARHC members on the ENC's status

Question 1: Do you have adequate ENC coverage available on your Arctic waters of responsibility?

[Note: The "Adequate ENC coverage is used as specified by the IMO to meet SOLAS ECDIS Carriage requirements, i.e. *equivalent to the best available paper chart coverage of either a Hydrographic Office providing Global Coverage or the Hydrographic Office of the Coastal State.* IHO is required to provide ENC Coverage updates annually to IMO.

Yes:

No:

If No, please specify which areas are not covered by adequate ENCs, reasons why not covered, and indicate your plans and time schedules to have this coverage:

Question 2: What is your estimation on the overall quality of your ENCs in the Arctic area?

Please, inform your opinions and comments on your ENCs regarding to at least to their content, harmonisation, accuracy, updateness, etc. Do you estimate the overall quality of your ENCs e.g. as "*good*", "*reasonable*", or "*poor*":

Please, inform your plans and time schedules to make major enhancements (e.g. to include new depth information and contours) to your ENCs:

Question 3: Do you have updating service on your ENCs in the Arctic area?

Yes:

No:

If No, please specify the reasons why not, and indicate your plans and time schedules to have updating service available:

Question 4: Do you have plans to extend your ENC coverage for the Arctic beyond the adequate coverage?

Please, inform your plans and time schedules to have this extended coverage:

Question 5: Are all your produced ENCs commercially available (via RENCs)?

If not, please inform the reason and your plans to have them available:

Question 6: Please report if you have found any problems, proposals or other comments related to the licensing terms and conditions:

Question 7: Please report if you have any comments or proposals to be forwarded to the WEND-WG1 meeting scheduled to be held on 13 – 14 October 2011, in Wollongong?