

**Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC)  
St. Petersburg, Russian Federation October 28-30, 2015**

**Status Report on AVPG Project and Proposal for an ARHC AVPG Portal**

Submitted by: United States of America, Denmark, Canada

**Executive Summary:**

Beginning in 2010 at the ARHC-1, member states agreed to pursue collaboration on assembling maritime voyage planning information for Arctic waters. At ARHC-4, member states and the IHO agreed to a path forward with individual member states producing voyage planning guides for web-based users to access information. This report provides a record of the project, a current status, and a proposed portal designed for users to have common access through the IHO ARHC website.

**Related Documents:**

ARHC2-06A Establishment of a Mariners Routeing Guide for the Arctic – Status report, by Denmark  
ARHC2-06B A Web-based Arctic Mariners Routeing Guide  
ARHC3-3.2\_INF1 Proposed Canadian Arctic Voyage Planning Guide (2)  
ARHC3-3.3INF2 INF Paper on Mariners Routeing Guide  
ARHC4-3.3 Harmonization of Arctic Voyage Planning Guides for Pan Arctic Coverage

**Related Projects:**

**Introduction/Background**

ARHC-1 member states decided that a “working group [be formed] to develop the Mariner Routeing Guide for the Arctic concept be established under the Chair of Denmark and assisted by the United States.”<sup>1</sup>

ARHC-2, member states discussed the report of the Arctic Mariner Routeing Guide working group and “agreed that a product of this type was an appropriate activity of the ARHC though further stakeholder investigation was now required to identify the most suitable content along with the appropriate governance structure and specific national interest items.”<sup>2</sup>

ARHC-3 “the common term Arctic Voyage Planning Guide was unanimously adopted by the ARHC.” And action item ARHC3-14 “Canada to convene USA and Denmark to commence drafting the Arctic Voyage Planning Guide.”

ARHC-4, U.S., Canada, and Denmark proposed a minimum presentation standard for the AVPG that included the following theme: Carriage requirements, Regulatory Requirements, Arctic Environmental Conditions, Route Planning, Reporting and Communicating, Marine Services, Nautical Charts and

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.iho.int/mtg\\_docs/rhc/ArHC/ArHC1/ARHC1\\_Report.pdf](http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/ArHC/ArHC1/ARHC1_Report.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.iho.int/mtg\\_docs/rhc/ArHC/ArHC2/ArHC2\\_Report.pdf](http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/ArHC/ArHC2/ArHC2_Report.pdf)

Publication. In addition, the committee recommended AVPGs developed by Member States incorporate two key principles for product delivery: 1) Web interface and 2) Printability.<sup>3</sup>

Also at ARHC-4, the IHB agreed to host a portal site and provide links to member state voyage planning guides. Action ARHC4-04 called on the U.S. to liaise with the IHB for hosting a web site location for the Voyage Planning documents. This was completed in 2014. The IHB also adopted a disclaimer policy subsequently posted to the IHB webpage.

Relevant sites currently available:

ARHC Website	<a href="http://www.iho.int/srv1/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=435&amp;Itemid=690&amp;lang=en">http://www.iho.int/srv1/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=435&amp;Itemid=690&amp;lang=en</a>
Canada	<a href="http://geoportail-geoportal.gc.ca/eng/Gallery/mapprofile/5">http://geoportail-geoportal.gc.ca/eng/Gallery/mapprofile/5</a>
Denmark	<a href="http://eng.navigation.gl/">http://eng.navigation.gl/</a>
Norway	
Russia	<a href="http://asmp.morflot.ru/en/celi_funksii/">http://asmp.morflot.ru/en/celi_funksii/</a>
United States of America	<a href="http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/avpg/guide.htm">http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/avpg/guide.htm</a>
PROPOSED IHO ARHC Hyperlink	See Appendix A. This hyperlink would be offered on the IHO's ARHC meeting website.
PROPOSED IHO AVPG Portal	See Appendix B. This full page portal would offer the users direct linkage to five voyage planning sites.
IHO Disclaimer	<a href="http://www.iho.int/srv1/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=618&amp;Itemid=854&amp;lang=en">http://www.iho.int/srv1/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=618&amp;Itemid=854&amp;lang=en</a> . See also Appendix C

**Analysis/Discussion**

IHO ARHC Meeting site Hyperlink to IHO AVPG portal

This site provides a convenient hyperlink for internet users interested in the work of Arctic Regional Hydrographic Organization allowing access to specific sites managed directly by the members of the ARHC. See Appendix A for design proposal.

IHO Portal

A concept of a portal was presented at ARHC-4 and is offered for formal consideration at ARHC-5 for the purposes of launching the service. The portal would be maintained by the IHB on their ARHC website and provide links to member state managed arctic voyage planning guides. A copy of a proposed portal is provided as Appendix B.

Posting the portal on the ARHC IHO website would provide the benefit to raise visibility and awareness of the ARHC and its operations.

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<sup>3</sup> [http://www.iho.int/mtg\\_docs/rhc/ArHC/ArHC4/ARHC4-3.3\\_Arctic\\_Voyage\\_Planning\\_Guide\\_Drafting\\_Team\\_Proposal.pdf](http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/ArHC/ArHC4/ARHC4-3.3_Arctic_Voyage_Planning_Guide_Drafting_Team_Proposal.pdf)

The U.S. suggests at subsequent full meetings of the ARHC, alternative designs could be offered and which could emphasize different Arctic views or design improvements.

#### IHO Disclaimer

The IHO disclaimer policy, Privacy, and Copyright Notice concerning information that can be accessed via the IHO website is posted on the website. The disclaimer notes Information appearing on this website is not intended to reflect an interpretation by the IHO or any of its Member States of any law or policy referenced” and “is offered without prejudice to, or limitation on, any view of position that may be taken by the IHO or an IHO member State regarding any matter or issue.”<sup>4</sup>

#### AVPG Content

Annex D provides a framework for an initial rapid assessment as to the content of the identified AVPGs compared to ARHC4-3.3 “Harmonization of Arctic Voyage Planning Guides for Pan Arctic Coverage” document.

It appears the content of the available AVPGs meets the intended requirements.

#### Printability

While originally envisioned as a web accessible information service with print options, none of the sites appear readily printable in current form.

#### Maintenance

Each member state is responsible for maintaining the content of their respective site.

The IHB maintains the link on the ARHC meeting site and the AVPG Portal.

#### **Recommendations**

- Note this report
- Discuss at ARHC-5 and consider appropriate actions related to launching, improving, and maintaining the AVPG information service for mariners contemplating navigation in the Arctic.

#### **Action Required of ARHC**

The ARHC is invited to:

1. Review the attached proposed Portal
2. make any adjustments and decisions as warranted.

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<sup>4</sup> [http://www.iho.int/srv1/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=618&Itemid=854&lang=en](http://www.iho.int/srv1/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=618&Itemid=854&lang=en)

Appendix A

IHB maintained ARHC webpage<sup>5</sup> with proposed hyperlink to the AVPG portal.

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**Brief History**  
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**Brève histoire**  
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**Structure for National Reports**  
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Statutes Letters Statuts Lettres

**Arctic Voyage Planning Portal** ←

**Next Meeting**  
5th meeting - Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation (28 - 30 October 2015) Documents

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.iho.int/srv1/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=435&Itemid=690&lang=en](http://www.iho.int/srv1/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=435&Itemid=690&lang=en)

## Appendix B

Proposed initial design of an AVPG portal which would provide the user with hyperlinks to voyage planning information from the member states of the ARHC. Portal is hosted on IHB server. User would click on the flag and be directed to the corresponding site listed in table above.



Note: flags are illuminated where AVPG links have been provided or are known as of September 15, 2015. By clicking on the flag, the user will be directed to the relevant site.


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## Appendix D

### Information Content Identified by the ARHC for Arctic Voyage Planning Guides From ARHC4-3.3 "Hamonization of Arctic Voyage Planning Guides for Pan Arctic Coverage"

		Canada	Denmark	Norway	Russia	USA
Theme 1: Carriage Requirements	Navigational Warnings Services					
	Radio Aids to Navigation					
	List of Lights and Buoys and Aids to Navigation					
	Nautical Charts and Publications services					
Theme 2 Regulatory Requirements	Acts and Regulations specific to marine navigation (similar to S-49 E.3.2)					
	IMO Guidelines for Operating in Polar Waters					
Theme 3 Arctic Environment Considerations	Communities and Populated Areas Information					
	Weather Station Locations and Services Available (similar to S-49 E.4.2 and U.4))					
	Airports and Hospitals					
	Resource Development Significant Locations					
Theme 4 Route Planning	Traditional Traffic Routes (similar to S-49 E.3.2)					
	Controlled Navigational Areas including Vessel Traffic Services Zones					
	Limiting Depth For					

	Constricted Waterways					
	Tide, Current and Water Level information (similar to S-49 U.6.1)					
	Environment Protected Areas					
	Major Aids to Navigations (similar to S-49 E.1.2 and U.1.2)					
	Places of refuge or Pilot Boarding Stations (similar to S-49 E.1.5)					
	Calling-in Points (similar to S-49 E.4.1)					
Theme 5 Reporting and Communicating	Areas of Legislative Importance to Navigation					
	Marine Communication Services (similar calling-in info to S-49 E.4.1)					
Theme 6 Marine Services	Ice Breaking Support Services					
	Search and Rescue Support Services					
	Ice Services Information (similar to S-49 U.6.4)					
Theme 7 Nautical Charts and Publication	Nautical Chart Catalogue and Coverage					
	Publication Catalogue and Coverage					



