

# Report on WENDWG Issues

by Jarmo Mäkinen, BSHC WENDWG representative

[9 May 2014]

## 1. Introduction

WENDWG is a working group under the IRCC Committee. Its tasks are:

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 XVII<sup>th</sup> 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 WENDWG is chaired by *Capt. Jamie McMichael-Phillips*, UK. *Mr Albereto Costa Neves (IHB)* is acting as a secretary. *Mr Yve Guillian (IHB)* will take a role of Secretary in WENDWG5.

Each Regional Hydrographic Commission should have a representative in the WENDWG. The BSHC has elected *Mr. Juha Korhonen*, Finland, as its representative of the WENDWG. The NHC has elected *Mr. Jens Peter Hartmann*, Denmark, as their representative.

Mr. Juha Korhonen is going to retire at the end of 2014. He plans to forward his IRCC related tasks at Finnish HO to *Mr Jarmo Mäkinen*. If there are no other proposals, Mr Mäkinen is willing to continue as the BSHC representative in the WENDWG.

## 2. Outcome of the WENDWG4 meeting 18-19 March 2014, Niteroi, Brazil

The WENDWG4 meeting was held on 18 -19 March 2014 in Brazil. I represented at the meeting both BSHC and NHC (Mr Jens Peter Hartmann could not participate to the meeting). The Minutes and the documents of the meeting will be posted to IHO web pages during May. The main issues dealt in the meeting and agreed main actions are listed below (based on early draft WENDWG4 Minutes):

- Guidelines for assessing the risks of overlapping ENCs.

*Action 2: Task Group to further develop doc. WENDWG4-03C (draft procedure for resolving overlapping ENC data) in order to reflect the Guidelines (Deadline: 15 April 2014)*

*Action 3: Chair to submit the draft procedure for resolving overlapping ENC data developed under Action 2 to IRCC6 (Deadline: IRCC6)*

*Action 4: Singapore to develop a proposal for a pilot project using OEM software tools to resolve overlapping ENC data issues and submit it to the WENDWG (deadline: WENDWG5).*

*Action 5: Chair to submit the paper on Guidelines on Assessing and Eliminating the Risk of Overlapping ENC Cells (doc. WENDWG3-05) to IRCC6 (deadline: IRCC6).*

- Review of WEND principles and governance [to IRCC6]

Approval of the revised Guidelines and the definition of Cartographic Boundary have been sent to Member States in Circular Letters No: 04/2014 and 06/2014.

- Development of an IHO RENC/WENC [Roadmap, to IRCC6]

The concept of a WENC under the IHO badge was discussed.

France has made the Proposal 7 to EIHC5 (IHO CCL 08/2014) concerning WEND guidelines and IHO WENC.

Norway provided a status report on the developments of an IHO WENC concept (WENDWG3 Actions 15 to 18). This is a long process that began in 2008 with the harmonization of the RENC procedures. There is the RENC Harmonization Sub-Group (RHSG). The paper presented (doc. WENDWG4-04C) is in line with the WEND principles according to PRIMAR and Norway.

IC-ENC SC Chair commented on the progress made on the operational side between the two RENCs but concluded that despite much effort to achieve a viable IHO-WENC concept beyond the technical level, it was not achievable at that stage. He stressed that the RHSG work is not completed and its focus will return to the technical and commercial policy harmonisation between IC-ENC and PRIMAR.

IHO *Director Iptes* presented as the view of the IHB Directing Committee that a progress report, discussion and recommendations on the work related to WENDWG3 Actions 16, 17 and 18 must be undertaken at the meeting. He also provided a statement from the Directing Committee.

As a result, an ad-hoc meeting of the RENC Harmonization Sub-Group (RHSG) produced the following input for the consideration of the participants:

#### *Basis*

- *IHO Recognised WEND Database consists of data from IC-ENC, PRIMAR and future RENCs meeting minimum standards*

#### *Way ahead*

- *Commitment to WEND Principles*
- *Minimum standards for RENCs supersede overarching management board*
- *Underpinning IHO guidelines*

#### *RHSG report to WENDWG*

- *This concept to be reviewed by existing RENC members as part of process.*

After consideration on all the views and documents the participants agreed on the following actions (draft):

- Action 6: RHSG to provide a revised RHSG paper on WENC (doc. WENDWG4-04C Annex B) to the Chair (deadline: end of April 2014).*
- Action 7: Chair to submit a report on the development of the WENC Concept to IRCC and seek subsequent endorsement by Member States (deadline: IRCC6).*
- Action 8: RHSG to propose the minimum standards for RENC operation considering CL05-2012 and the paper provided by US-Canada on actions from RHSG1 (deadline: end of April 2014)*
- Action 9: RENCs to continue working to attract ENC producer nations to join the RENCs (Permanent action)*
- Action 10: RHSG to produce a paper on the benefits for ENC producer nations to join a RENC (deadline: April 2014)*

- Review of ENC coverage status [to IRCC6]

UK presented the status of ENC global coverage based on the UKHO database (AVCS data) for Usage Bands 1, 2 and 3. This analysis was not available for larger scale ENCs. It was pointed out, that there are around 1200 charts that are only available through AVCS.

Director Iptes pointed out that ENC Coverage status is a permanent agenda item and that the main objective of WENDWG is to monitor and advise IRCC on the development of adequate ENC coverage to meet the SOLAS V/19 carriage requirements for ECDIS. He suggested that it is time for a joint effort to provide a WENDWG report on global ENC coverage.

UK explained that the effort to produce the ENC global coverage graphics is huge and UKHO would appreciate being released from this task. The participants then agreed on the following actions:

- Action 11: RENCs to provide the ENC coverage report to WENDWG (deadline: WENDWG5).*
- Action 12: RENCs to provide the statistics on those ENCs not distributed via RENCs (deadline: WENDWG5).*

- ENC Gaps, Overlaps and Quality Assurance [to IRCC6]

UK and USA presented their relevant documents.

France called the attention to the "Metadata Store" concept and the need to provide specific information on risks based on regional knowledge. It should be considered and possibly championed by the WENDWG to seek a richer compilation of ENC coverage that could provide route coverage information, source information, where the ENC can be purchased, any associated risks along routes, etc. This concept is not a small challenge but it should start small with what IHO can control. Once built in its basic form and hosted as an IHO ENC Metadata Store then it could be allowed to grow into one authoritative source for official ENCs.

Analysis of gaps and overlays on Baltic Sea was handled in the BSICCWG2 meeting in Helsinki 2-3 April. Members have to check their overlaps and report how to solve them by 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

#### 4. WENDWG Chair's report to IRCC6

The participants reviewed the main items to be reported by the WENDWG Chair to IRCC6 meeting on 19-20 May 2014 and agreed on the following topics:

- a) Progress made in the WEND Principles and the guidelines, including France Proposal 7 to the EIHC5.
- b) The developments on the overlap management process as an IHO procedure.
- c) RENC and WENC developments and the progress made.
- d) IHO ENC Catalogue developments
- e) ENC coverage status
- f) Work programme based on the actions
- g) Note to IRCC on the CB activities that have already commenced
- h) Approval of the Definition of cartographic boundaries.

#### 5. Next WENDWG meetings

The meeting agreed to meet on the following dates and venues:

- a) WENDWG5 Singapore from 3 to 5 March 2015, subject to confirmation.
- b) WENDWG6 Norway in March 2016, exact dates to be confirmed.
- c) WENDWG7 Russian Federation in March 2017, exact dates to be confirmed.

#### 5. Actions for the BSHC 19<sup>th</sup> Conference:

The BSHC 19<sup>th</sup> Conference is requested to

- take note on this Report
  - nominate BSHC representative to WENDWG
  - give further guidance to the WENDWG representative, as seen appropriately
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