

IHO-EU Network Working Group

Report to MACHC 16

1. Meetings

The IHO-EU Network Working Group (IENWG), established by the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) to monitor and deal with the activities and processes developed under the aegis of the European Union (EU), held its third meeting in Saint-Mandé, France, on 9 and 10 June 2015, at the invitation of the French Hydrographic Office (SHOM).

The meeting was attended by representatives from Denmark, France, Germany (conference call), Greece, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Assistant Director Yves Guillam represented the IHB.

2. EMODnet and related issues

Coastal mapping

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG Mare) has awarded a contract on coastal mapping call MARE/2014/10 to the consortium led by SHOM.

The kick-off meeting was held at the end of June in Saint-Mandé.

Three years after the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission (EC) and the IHO, this is the first significant success for a consortium of HOs taking the lead in an important EU project.

The EMODNET Jamboree in Ostend 21st and 22nd October has been the occasion for the 18 coastal mapping partners for a two-day progress meeting.

The team is working the portal setup (opening before the end of 2015). Next mile stone is March 2016 for producing the algorithm that will help in choosing the best way to assess the knowledge in coastal areas.

The overall aims of the project are:

- Assess the current availability of digital coastal maps in the EU
- Disseminate this information by EMODnet
- Share experience of coastal mapping in the EU
- Develop standards for best practices
- Propose how a future JECMaP could operate

EMODNET 3 Bathymetry

The IENWG group has also discussed HOs organisation for tendering to the next EMODNET 3 Bathymetry call for tender that EC intends to release at the end of 2015. Our group considers that HOs should have a first importance role in that project and intends to submit in a group that will be leaded by an HO. RHC have been consulted on their members' will to be that leader.

3. Miscellaneous

A paper submitted by the IHB on relations with stakeholders of the European Union Marine Equipment Directive (MARED), managed by the EC Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG Move), was considered by the participants. The paper highlighted the fact that the Directive does not properly address the case of software-intensive equipment such as ECDIS. The IENWG will invite HOs to liaise with their maritime safety administration and raise the concerns described in the IHB paper.