

19th Meeting of Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC)
Batumi, Georgia, 30 June - 2 July 2015

Paper for consideration by MBSHC

**Proposal for solving the MBSHC Cartographic problems
using the concept of the Cartographic Boundary**

Submitted by:	GR
Executive Summary:	It is well known that overlaps and gaps should not exist in the ENC's since they may cause malfunction of the ECDIS and confusion to the mariner. The overlapping could be a hard problem to solve in cases where there are disagreements for the maritime boundaries between neighboring countries. Technology offers a solution for clipping a dataset along a common line. If such a line (not necessarily a maritime or legal boundary) is commonly accepted by neighboring countries then the overlapping problem is solved.
Related Documents:	WEND PRINCIPLES M3 – Resolutions of the IHO
Related Projects:	
Enclosure:	

Introduction / Background / Analysis / Discussion

1. The WEND Principles urge the ENC producing countries to establish ENC production boundaries in order to eliminate overlaps and gaps.
2. One of the proposed approaches for the International Waters is the use of the scheming of the INT paper charts. This has been proved to be ineffectual in several cases, since it is perceivable by all that so far the paper chart INT scheme has not been unanimously agreed. This fact guarantees that the problems will be inherited by the ENC's as well.
3. The WEND principles introduce the concept of the Cartographic Boundary (CB). This is a line, commonly agreed by neighboring ENC producing nations, along which both countries should clip their datasets. It should be clear, in order to avoid political implications, that the CB is established for cartographic convenience and technical purposes only and shall not be construed as having any significance, legal effect or status regarding political or other jurisdictional boundary.
4. As proposed in the WEND Principles the CB should be as simple as possible (for example: a succession of straight segments and turning points corresponding preferably to meridians and parallels) so as to provide data compilers with clarity as to the limits of their charting responsibilities and data users with the most coherent service possible. However, due to the complexity of the neighboring coastlines, this cannot be easily employed in all cases. But this is not a reason to drop this approach. The technology today enables the clipping of data along a line as complicated as necessary.
5. Nowadays the modern paper chart production is based on digital datasets (most commonly S-57 data). Thus, it is expected that the employment of the CB as a clipping edge for S-57 datasets, could also offer a good solution to the co-production of INT paper charts in areas where still there are disagreements between neighboring countries.

Recommendations

6. MBSHC members to discuss/consider the recently adopted by the IHO community concept of CB as a tool for the solution of ENC overlaps and gaps and for the co-production of INT paper charts.

Action required of MBSHC

7. The MBSHC is invited to endorse the above recommendation for approval and possible further actions.