

Maximising the use of Hydrographic Survey Data

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Background

- At the 18th IHC, Proposal 6 (PRO 6) invited the conference to *“task the IRCC and HSSC in cooperation with the Directing Committee to progress whatever actions are required to improve the collection, quality and availability of hydrographic data worldwide, monitor and rectify possible deficiencies and shortcomings, cooperate with other international organizations and stakeholders as necessary, and to keep Member States informed on progress on this issue.”*

The Problem

- Most commercial hydrographic survey work that is undertaken (other than dedicated hydrographic survey for SOLAS) is never used beyond its initial purpose and is often not included in charts
- Industry estimates that less than 20% of the bathymetric data collected during surveys for specific projects is made available to HO's for inclusion in charts and for wider uses

Target Surveys

- Wider use of commercial surveys of the maritime area e.g.
 - Port development
 - Hydro carbon surveys
 - Ecological survey
 - ‘Other’ government departments

New Data Sources

- New data gathering technology
 - Satellite Derived Bathymetry
 - Acceptance of LiDAR
 - Regional data collection initiatives
 - Discussions on acceptance of Crowd Sourced data

Possible Solutions

- Contractual arrangements
- Protection of Sensitive Data
- Cost-effective provision

Current progress

- Paper produced by the Meso-American & Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission and tabled at IRCC6 last year (IRCC6-12B refers)
- Action IRCC6/47 proposed an IHO resolution when delivering the IRCC report to EIHC5
- EIHC5 noted the importance of this issue and IRCC intent to develop the initiative further
- Either a members state or RHC will raise this issue at IRCC7

Conclusions

- Need to utilize precious hydrographic and financial resources to achieve maximum benefits
- Survey once, use many times

Action Required

- Delegates are invited to note this paper
- Consider ways of educating wider government and private organisations

Thank you