

Paper for consideration by NIOHC**[North Indian Ocean Chart Coordination Working Group -NICCWG]**

Submitted by:	France as chairman of the Region F (Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea) International Chart Coordination Working Group (ICCWG-F)
Executive Summary:	This paper reviews the inclusion of new Egyptian INT charts covering the Suez Canal and its impact on the current Region F INT charts scheme.
Related Documents:	a) Letter from Region J Coordinator to IRCC Chair dated July 7 th 2015 announcing new INT chart numbers for Egyptian charts, b) Circular Letter Region F ICCWG N° 04/2015 dated July 30 th 2015 addressing the outcomes of the 19 th MBSHC conference, c) Region F ICCWG Letter N° 01/2015 dated October 22 nd 2015 addressing the INT charts large scale scheme on Egyptian Mediterranean coast.
Related Projects:	Workshop of INT/ENC coordinators (Monaco, 25 th April 2016)

Context

1. At the occasion of the 19th Mediterranean and Black Sea Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC) Conference (Batumi, 30/06-2/07/2015), the Egyptian Navy Hydrographic Department (ENHD) informed IHB and the Region F INT chart coordinator of the publication of a new national chart covering the Suez Canal from Port Said to Great Bitter Lake (SC01), and expressed its intent to propose it as an INT chart.
2. New guidance for International Charting Coordination Working Groups (ICCWG) adopted by IRCC (decision IRCC-7/3), and endorsed by MBSHC during the Batumi conference, includes provision regarding new INT chart producers, including review of proposed INT charts. Though the proposed chart SC01 is in the perimeter of the region J charting scheme, as it is adjacent to region F, the MBSHC tasked ENHD (action MBSHC19/23) to provide the Region F charting Coordinator with a copy of SC01 for review of potential impact on Region F charting scheme, and eventual consultation of the Region F ICCWG members according with article 3.10 and 3.12 of publication S-11 part A and with the rules of procedure of the Region F ICCWG.. This copy was provided by ENHD by mid-July 2015.
3. By the time that Region F consultation was launched by the circular letter in reference [b], the Region J charting Coordinator informed the IRCC Chair with the letter in reference [a] about the forthcoming inclusion of three new INT charts produced by ENHD. This procedure was held under short notice, and it was not possible for Region J ICCWG Members and adjacent Region F ICCWG to provide any feedback in due time.
4. The changes operated by ENHD in terms of scale and coverage from the initial chart scheme for Suez Canal needs to be considered while addressing the INT chart large scale scheme on Egyptian Mediterranean coast, as explicated in the letter in reference [c] sent by the Regional INT charting Coordinator to ENHD last October.

Analysis

5. Although the Egyptian chart SC01, included as INT7156 (1:40 000) did not meet the same characteristics as the former chart INT7141 (1:60 000), it is agreed by the Region F ICCWG that it brings more accuracy in the description of the Suez Canal.
6. However, the expected submission of Egyptian national charts M24 (approaches to Port Said, 1:45 000) and M22 (Port Said, scale 1:22 000) to replace respectively the existing chart INT3548 (scale 1:50 000) and INT3549 (scales 1:25 000 and 1:12 500) over Egyptian Mediterranean coast raises some issues regarding the coverage of Port Said and its approaches from the Region F ICCWG perspective. First of all, an upscaling of the existing Port Said chart at 1:22,000 instead of 1:25,000 would imply the loss of some important anchoring areas northward to its entrance channel. Secondly, the absence of 1:12 500 insets on Port Said pulls out some significant details of the infrastructures. Including such insets in its proposed INT chart of Port Said should be considered by the producer nation. As a matter of fact, those changes are not consistent with the existing INT scheme and the needs of the international navigation.

Action required by NIOHC

7. The NIOHC is invited to:
 - a. note this paper,
 - b. advise the Region J INT chart Co-ordinator to liaise with Co-ordinators of neighbouring regions while addressing chart proposals likely to generate potential impacts on charts schemes of adjacent regions.