

2nd ROPME SEA AREA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (RSAHC)
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 2-3 May 2006

IHB Report on IHO Pub S-55

What is S-55 ?

S-55 is a data-base that contains composite reports for each coastal state and over-views by RHC for hydrographic surveying, nautical charting, and MSI/GMDSS. It can be viewed on the IHO web-site (www.iho.shom.fr). The S-55 data-base can be accessed most easily by using the link in the “NEW!” column at the right hand side of the Home Page of the IHO web-site. Individual sections can be accessed using the menu at the left of the web-site home page. The on-line questionnaire can be accessed through the link at the bottom of the S-55 menu.

Why is important S-55?

The IHO is requested to provide regular annual briefings to the United Nations on the status of surveying, charting and GMDSS/MSI world-wide, for strategic analysis. From a technical perspective IHO provides IMO with detailed reports on the same subjects. This led to MSC/Circ. 1179 which called for urgent action by coastal states to remedy shortcomings in provision of the hydrographic services stipulated in SOLAS V/2.2, 4 and 9. S-55 now forms part of the IMO Voluntary Audit Scheme.

S-55 high-lights the areas of risk to safety of shipping and to the coastal environment in each RHC area.

SW-55 and the RSAHC

RSAHC attendees are urged to review or complete their S-55 entries as appropriate before this 2nd meeting. Ideally, new information should be supplied direct to the IHB using the on-line questionnaire. Alternatively the information can be supplied to the RSAHC Chairman in Section 6 of the standard National Report. This will help the Chairman to focus discussion on the highest needs for regional co-operation and IHO assistance.

It is vitally important that all attendees assist to achieve a complete and accurate picture of the status of hydrography in the region before moving on to discussion of capacity building in Agenda Item 10.

The CBC Vice Chairman will provide an update of S-55, based on the information with the IHB.