

**4th ROPME SEA AREA  
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
MUSCAT, OMAN. 21 – 22 MARCH 2011**

**Explanatory Note to Agenda Item 9  
Establishment of ROPME Sea Area International Charting Coordination  
Working Group (RSAICCWG) (IHO CL 23/2010)**

**Background**

At the inaugural Hydrographic Standards and Services Committee meeting (HSSC1) the Chart Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG) introduced and proposed the concept of regional paper charting groups being re-named as International Charting Coordination Working Groups (ICCWG) to develop and maintain integrated international chart schemes for the regions.

HSSC1 agreed two actions on the subject:

1. Action HSSC1/24 - IHB/CSPCWG Chair to incorporate the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for Regional International Charting Coordination Working Groups (ICCWG), as contained in HSSC1-06.5C, in S-11 Part A, taking into account the comments made by the Committee.
2. Action HSSC1/25 - IHB, on behalf of HSSC, to write to INT chart coordinators, encouraging them to forward to the IHB updates to S-11 part B "Catalogue of INT Charts".

The Committee agreed that IHB should write to INT chart coordinators, on behalf of HSSC, encouraging them to forward updates to S-11 Part B to the IHB, and to monitor and coordinate ENC coverage, particularly to avoid overlapping ENCs.

The IHB issued two IHO Circular Letters:

1. CIRCULAR LETTER 86/2009 14 December 2009 REVISION OF IHO PUBLICATION S-11 Guidance for the Preparation and Maintenance of International Chart Schemes and Catalogue of INTernational Charts  
Actions Requested:
  3. Chairs of Regional Hydrographic Commissions are requested to ensure that their respective INT Chart Coordinators forward updates for the relevant INT regions to the IHB on a regular basis.
  4. Chairs of Regional Hydrographic Commissions are invited to consider using the model TOR/ROP in Annex C to S-11 Part A, to continue or establish International Charting Coordination Working Groups (ICCWG).
2. CIRCULAR LETTER 23/2010 03 March 2010 APPROVAL OF EDITION 2.003 OF S-11 PART A - Guidance for the Preparation and Maintenance of International Chart Schemes:
  - a. Chairs of Regional Hydrographic Commissions are invited to consider using the generic TOR/ROP contained in Annex C to S-11 Part A, to continue or to establish International Charting Coordination Working Groups (ICCWG) in their regions.

**Considerations**

The Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC) and North Sea Hydrographic Commission (NSHC) have recently established International Charting Coordination Working Groups and adopted TORs/ROPs based upon the Annex C, S-11 model.

**Recommendations**

The RSAHC Meeting is invited to consider establishing a ROPME Sea Area International Charting Coordination Working Group (RSAICCWG) and adopting the draft RSAICCWG TOR/ROP at Annex A, which is based on the generic TOR/ROP contained in Annex C to S-11 Part A. (IHO Circular Letters 86/2009 and 23/2010 refer).

**4th ROPME SEA AREA  
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
MUSCAT, OMAN. 21 – 22 MARCH 2011**

**Annex A**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE for the ROPME SEA AREA  
INTERNATIONAL CHARTING COORDINATION WORKING GROUP (NIOICCWG  
for INT Charting REGION J)**

**[To be approved by the 4<sup>th</sup> RSAHC Meeting, 21-22 March 2011]**

**1. Background**

1.1 The ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission recognises the need to actively develop and maintain official nautical charts, in both paper and digital formats, which support ships engaged on international voyages in its region. Accordingly, it appoints and directs a working group to undertake this task. The working group shall be named the *ROPME Sea Area International Charting Coordination Working Group (RSAICCWG)*.

1.2 The RSAICCWG is a subsidiary body of the ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission. It shall conduct its work in accordance with these Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure.

The Regional Hydrographic Commission may clarify or amend these generic Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the ICCWG in order for these to be made specifically relevant and applicable to its region. Its work is subject to the ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission's approval.

**2. Terms of Reference**

2.1 To study issues related to nautical charting of the region, in particular to coordinate the allocation of production responsibilities for paper and electronic charts (INT charts and ENC), that support ships engaged on international voyages.

2.2 To develop and maintain an integrated international chart scheme for the region.

2.3 To reach decisions on the maintenance and updating of the documents for which it is responsible.

2.4 To provide advice on chart schemes to individual Member States, in order to encourage adherence to IHO charting regulations, specifications and standards, and to promote and coordinate the production of international (INT) charts and ENC.

2.5 To develop proposals for new or amended INT chart schemes to meet evolving user needs (for example, the introduction of new or amended routing measures, the confirmed developments of international ports).

2.6 To coordinate the development and maintenance of small/medium scale ENC schemes, by regional agreement, to ensure consistent parameters are used in the compilation of ENC.

2.7 To act as the custodian and maintainer of official, version-controlled catalogues, depicting the status of published and planned charts, subject to formal review and approval by Member States of the ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission. However, the ENC catalogues may be maintained by RENCs subject to ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission's approval.

2.8 To provide advice to IHB on any amendments required to maintain S-11 Part B: Catalogue of International Charts (for example, scale, limits, numbering) and, as appropriate, any corresponding ENC catalogue.

**4th ROPME SEA AREA  
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
MUSCAT, OMAN. 21 – 22 MARCH 2011**

2.9 To provide advice to Chairman CSPCWG and IHB on any amendments required to maintain S-11 Part A '*Guidance for the Preparation and Maintenance of International Chart Schemes*', in particular its Annexes (Annex A: Potential Printer Nations; Annex B: Use of A0 Paper).

2.10 To provide advice to Chairman CSPCWG and IHB on any amendments required to maintain the '*Guidelines for the Preparation and Maintenance of Small/Medium Scale ENC Schemes*' (when published).

2.11 To undertake professional consideration of new information of interest to the RSAICCWG which may impact its business and responsibilities.

### **3. Rules of Procedure**

3.1 Membership is open to all members and associate members (Member States) of the ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission wishing to be represented. Each Member State shall be represented through a single point of contact. Noting the technical nature of the Group's work, participation should be limited to representatives of Hydrographic Offices concerned with nautical charting.

3.2 The Coordinator will monitor membership to encourage active participation by all Member States within the ROPME Sea Area Region.

3.3 Non-Governmental International Organisations (NGIO) recognised by the IHO may participate as observers in RSAICCWG activities, where matters of special interest to the NGIO concerned are being considered (IHO Resolution T1.2, rule 6.c refers).

3.4 The Coordinator role shall be held by a Member State participating in the RSAICCWG. The election of the Coordinator, or the reconfirmation of the existing Coordinator, shall be decided by the ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission at an ordinary meeting or, where a meeting is not convened, by correspondence. Election shall be determined by a simple majority of Member States present and voting (or responding, where determined by correspondence).

3.5 Normally, a Vice-Coordinator is not required to be appointed. However, if a Vice-Coordinator is appointed by the ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission:

- Election to the post will be by the same method as for the Coordinator;
- The Vice-Coordinator shall act as the Coordinator, with the same powers and duties, in the event that the Coordinator is unable to carry out the duties;
- The Coordinator and Vice-Coordinator will decide between them the organisation of the work entailed in these posts, or these may be defined by the ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission.

3.6 Conduct of business will be primarily by correspondence. If meetings are required, these should be planned with due regard to efficiency and obtaining the fullest membership support (for example, by holding meetings in association with meetings of the Regional Hydrographic Commission). All members shall inform the Coordinator in advance of their intention to attend meetings of the RSAICCWG. The working language shall be English.

3.7 Draft proposals will be circulated for review and comment to:

- All members of the RSAICCWG and, where appropriate, all members of the North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission;
- Coordinators of adjoining regional ICCWG, if the scheme impacts on those regions (for example, to ensure consistency and coherence of coverage across regional boundaries, for the allocation of chart numbers);
- Hydrographic Offices producing or printing charts of the Region;

**4th ROPME SEA AREA  
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
MUSCAT, OMAN. 21 – 22 MARCH 2011**

- Chairman CSPCWG, if independent advice is required.

3.8 Decisions shall be made by consensus.

3.9 Where required, a Work Plan should be developed and maintained. This should include task priorities and the expected time frames for progressing tasks. The Regional Hydrographic Commission may delegate tasks to the RSAICCWG as it sees fit; it is also available to provide guidance on request (for example, in respect of priorities).

3.10 The Coordinator will report progress to meetings of the ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission and at other reasonable times, on request. Reports shall include but are not limited to:

- An updated Regional INT Chart Catalogue;
- An update of the ENC Catalogue relevant to the Region (if not undertaken by RENCs);
- Changes made to the scheme of INT Charts for the Region, approved by the RSAICCWG since the last report, together with a summary of reasons;
- Changes made to the small/medium scale ENC scheme for the Region, approved by the RSAICCWG since the last report, together with a summary of reasons;
- An updated Work Plan (if used).

3.11 All participants, including ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission members and associate members where not directly represented in the RSAICCWG, shall keep the Coordinator informed of any information relevant to the RSAICCWG. This may include:

- Submitting proposals for new INT Charts, or amendments (for example, to limits, scale of portrayal) to existing INT Charts, in the Region;
- Requesting new INT Chart numbers for new charts that are planned;
- Reporting the status of production of international charts (INT Charts and ENC).

3.12 RSAICCWG members shall respond in a timely manner to all reasonable requests for advice from the Coordinator (for example, requests for updating the Catalogue of the INT Charts of the Region, change in points of contact), abiding by all reasonable stated deadlines.

3.13 The work shall be done in accordance with:

- IHO Resolution 1/1997 as amended [K2.19]: '*Principles of the Worldwide Electronic Navigational Chart Database (WEND)*', to ensure a world-wide consistent level of high-quality, updated ENCs;
  - S-57: '*IHO Transfer Standard for Digital Hydrographic Data*';
  - S-??: '*Guidelines for the Preparation and Maintenance of Small/Medium Scale ENC Schemes*' (when published);
  - S-11 Part A: '*Guidance for the Preparation and Maintenance of International Chart Schemes*';
  - S-4: '*Chart Specifications of the IHO and Regulations for International (INT) Charts*', which provides the internationally-agreed product specification for both national and international (INT) charts.
-