

5th ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission (RSAHC) Meeting

Riyadh – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (4-6 March 2013)

Status of ENC Coverage in the ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission (RSAHC)

Introduction

The IHO reconfirmed to the IMO , at its 54th meeting of NAV in 2008 , that there would be “sufficient ENC availability” by year 2010. At the same meeting , NAV accepted a proposal from the International Chamber of Shipping , and supported by the IHO, for the following definition of “sufficient ENC coverage” in relation to considering mandatory carriage requirements for ECDIS:

‘Sufficient ENC availability is defined as being equivalent to the available paper chart coverage of either a Hydrographic Office providing global coverage or the Hydrographic Office of the Coastal State’.

This implies that , by year 2010 where there is a paper chart published to support international voyages, there should be a corresponding ENC. Since that time, due to some technical and infrastructural difficulties that some coastal states are facing with the set date were not meet , and IMO had expanded that date to 2013 .

So far in our region, Kingdom of Bahrain and Pakistan were become member of IC-ENC, and I.R. of Iran by signing a bilateral contract with PRIMAR RENC on February of this year , had become the third State in the RSA region to be a member of one of the RENCs .

Conclusions

So far Kingdom of Bahrain , Pakistan and I.R. of Iran had become a member of one of the RENCs in order to publish their standard ENC Charts.

I.R. of Iran on February of this year (2013) had signed an official bilateral agreement with PRIMAR which is coordinating the world’s first Regional ENC Centre (RENC) and Operates on a non-profit basis by the Norwegian Hydrographic Service in close cooperation with Electronic Chart Centre (ECC).

This will provide a good opportunity for Iranian ENC producers to publish this ENC Charts , so far more than 100 ENC Charts are available from I. R. of Iran to be send to PRIMAR , in which according to their agreement these charts will be send in 10 cells each time for final checks and distribution to PRIMAR. At this time there is no further information from other RSA Member States, in regard with these ENC productions, since no updates are being provided to I. R. of Iran. Taking in to consideration the importance of this issue all RSA Member States are kindly requested to provide sufficient information in this regard twice a year to the ENC Coordinator to enable us to update the chairrman of the commission as well as the IHO. Also it is strongly recommended that members seek assistance from other producer nations, under the terms of bi-lateral agreement.

Finally we would like to discuss this matter in this meeting in order to put a note in the report of the meeting to encourage all member of the RSAHC to provide their information with regard to their ENS production to this coordinator in the timely manner.

Thank You