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CONFERENCE CIRCULAR LETTER No. 5
12 January 2009

4th EXTRAORDINARY INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC CONFERENCE
Monaco, 02-04 June 2009

PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

References:
1. IHO General Regulations, Article 9.
2. Rules of Procedure for I.H. Conferences, Rules 14 and 15.
3. Conference Circular Letter No. 1 dated 01 June 2008.

Dear Hydrographer,

1. In response to CCL 1 (Reference 3. above), the Bureau has received Proposals from the IHO Strategic Plan Working Group (ISPWG), from the Working Group on Hydrography and Cartography of Inland Waters (HCIWWG) and from the Working Group on Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures (MSDIWG), all included in their respective Reports. Also the IHB has received two proposals from Member States, one from Australia and one from USA. The Proposals and IHB comments as appropriate are annexed to this CCL (Annexes A to C) and are submitted to Member States for comments, in accordance with Article 9(a) of the IHO General Regulations and Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure for I.H. Conferences.

2. As stipulated in Rule 14 (reference 2 above), comments from Member States on all Proposals must be received at the Bureau well before the Conference. You are therefore requested to forward your comments so that they reach the Bureau by at least 10 March 2009.

3. A "Red Book" including all Proposals and comments from both Member States and the IHB will then be prepared and circulated two months before the Conference, i.e. 10 April 2009. In order that the "Red Book" may be kept to a reasonable size, it would be appreciated if any comments could be as concise as possible.

4. The Conference Reports, listed as Annexes D, E and F to this CCL, are NOT attached to this letter but are available on the IHO website under the 4th EIHC section. Hard copies may be provided upon request. The Conference Reports will be published in the two official languages of the IHO. As the Reports are long and were received at the IHB in December 2008, it is expected that the French version will be available by the end of February 2009.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President

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ANNEX A to CCL 5

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ANNEX B to CCL 5

PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY ISPWG, HCIWWG AND MSDIWG

PRO 1 - PROPOSAL TO NOTE THE ISPWG REPORT

Submitted by: ISPWG

PROPOSAL

The 4EIHC is invited to **Note** the Report of the ISPWG (see Annex D to this CCL).

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

In May 2007, the XVIIth IHC decided to establish the IHO Strategic Plan Working Group (ISPWG) which was charged to review the existing IHO Strategic Plan, prepare a revised draft Strategic Plan and report to the Member States no later than 1st January 2009.

This report details the work completed by the ISPWG in accordance with its terms of reference. It describes the ISPWG membership, work method and work plan and reviews the various issues that were addressed. The report and the resulting proposals are submitted for consideration by the 4th EIHC.

The ISPWG worked mainly by correspondence, with a single plenary face-to-face meeting. It agreed on the following main tasks:

- review of the structure of the Strategic Plan,
- review of the different sections of the Strategic Plan,
- review of risk management,
- review of progress monitoring,
- review of the transition to the new structure.

The revised draft Strategic Plan prepared by the ISPWG is attached in Annex 9 of this report.

The ISPWG proposes arrangements for the transition to a new structure of the Work Programme aligned on the revised Strategic Plan.

IHB Comment

1. The ISPWG report clearly identifies a number of new and significant activities and responsibilities that the IHB will be required to undertake. The Directing Committee has particular concerns about the additional workload that the proposed Strategic Plan process will place on the IHB. Under this proposal, Member States, the HSSC and IRCC, the RHCs and other bodies and Organizations all have an increased and more direct involvement in the formulation, monitoring and reporting of the Strategic Plan. At the same time, the preparation, collation, coordination, analysis and other requirements to support these new responsibilities all fall under the workload of the IHB.

2. Paragraph 1.3 of Annex A of the Report concerning the Risk Management Framework provides an example of the extended scope of work that the Bureau would undertake under the new Strategic Plan process. According to the paragraph: "The IHB is *ultimately responsible* to Member States for the IHO's risk management. It has the *responsibility* for ensuring that the risk management framework is *effectively implemented* within IHO and that its principles are communicated at all levels. It will also

provide the necessary profile to advance a risk management culture in IHO, including participation in its monitoring and reporting. The IHB in consultation with the chairs of the HSSC and IRCC, *is responsible for the routine oversight of the IHO's risk management programme, its implementation, agreeing risk tolerance and treatment and their regular monitoring*". Similar responsibilities and consequently increased workloads are placed on the Bureau regarding the management of PIs, the WP, the Strategic Assumptions and the Directions.

3. The Directing Committee has been informed by other International Organizations and by some Member States who have implemented strategic planning and reporting mechanisms similar to those identified in the ISPWG report that their implementation and operation is a complex task that requires experienced and specialized dedicated personnel and which is, in effect, a full time job. The Directing Committee must therefore indicate that it appears unlikely that the current capacity of the Bureau is sufficient to undertake the extensive and regular reporting, monitoring and coordinating tasks envisaged under the ISPWG Proposal.

4. The Directing Committee takes note of the ISPWG observation at paragraph 8 of its Report, that: "*... recognizes that the IHB may be confronted to some difficulties in implementing the additional tasks associated with risk management and performance monitoring*" and also its Proposal 6, for the IHB " *…to review possible needs for assistance in preparing the annual cycles of the new strategic mechanism in consultation with the HSSC and IRCC chairs, and to report to Member States before the end of 2010*". However, given that the IHB workload is already fully committed to the current WP, and in order to provide such a report, the Directing Committee will need the short-term secondment of suitably experienced personnel either from MS or from other sources, to assist them.

PRO 2 - PROPOSAL TO APPROVE NEW DEFINITION OF HYDROGRAPHY

Submitted by: ISPWG

PROPOSAL

The 4EIHC is invited to approve the following new definition of hydrography as agreed by the Committee on the Hydrographic Dictionary (see Annex 4 to the ISPWG Report):

"Hydrography is the branch of applied sciences which deals with the measurement and description of the physical features of oceans, seas, coastal areas, lakes and rivers, as well as with the prediction of their change over time, for the primary purpose of safety of navigation and in support of all other marine activities, including economic development, security and defence, scientific research, and environmental protection".

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

1. The current definition of "Hydrography" contained in the Hydrographic Dictionary (S-32) states that "Hydrography is that branch of applied sciences which deals with the measurement and description of the features of the sea and coastal areas for the primary purpose of navigation and all other marine purposes and activities including (inter alia) offshore activities, research, protection of the marine environment and prediction services".

2. The ISPWG in considering the Preamble of the Strategic Plan, decided to improve the definition of Hydrography as follows: "Hydrography is the branch of applied sciences which deals with the measurement and description of the physical features of oceans, seas coastal areas, lakes and rivers, as well as with the prediction of their evolution, for the primary purpose of safety of navigation and all other marine activities, including economic development, security and defence, scientific research, and environmental protection".

3. This definition was sent through the IHB to Mr. Jerry Mills, Chairman of the Committee on the Hydrographic Dictionary (CHD) for consideration and agreement. The Chairman after consulting with members of the Committee has agreed with the proposed definition with a small revision. The phrase "... prediction of their evolution ..." to be modified to "...prediction of their change over time ...". Hence the final wording of the **definition of Hydrography** is submitted for approval by the 4EIHC.

PRO 3 - PROPOSAL TO APPROVE REVISED STRATEGIC PLAN

Submitted by: ISPWG

PROPOSAL

The 4EIHC is invited to review and approve the draft revised Strategic Plan submitted in Annex 9 to the ISPWG Report.

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

The contents of the draft Strategic Plan proposed by the ISPWG is as follows:

1. Preamble
2. Vision / Mission / Object
3. Strategic assumptions
4. Strategic directions
5. Ways and means
   5.1. Planning and review cycles
   5.2. Risk analysis and mitigation
   5.3. Work Programme
6. Progress monitoring

Annex A - Risk management framework
Annex B - Responsibilities of IHO organs

In accordance with the ISPWG's terms of reference, the first two sections are based on the IHO's new Vision, Mission and Objectives as defined in the amendments to the IHO's Convention.

The strategic assumptions from which the strategic directions are derived are organized in five categories:

1. Status of hydrographic services / Benefits and beneficiaries
2. Political and societal trends
3. Economic and market related trends
4. Technological trends
5. Legal and regulatory trends

The relevant strategic assumptions are identified as "strengths" (S), "weaknesses" (W) "opportunities" (O) or "threats" (T) for the implementation of IHO objectives.

Five main strategic directions are proposed:

1. Strengthen the role and effectiveness of the IHO
2. Facilitate global coverage and use of official hydrographic data, products and services
3. Raise global awareness of the importance of hydrography
4. Assist Member States to fulfil their roles

The ways and means section outlines the planning and review cycles for the Strategic Plan and the associated Work Programme and addresses risk management aspects, referring to a risk management framework annexed to the revised draft Strategic Plan. This section also deals with the IHO Work Programme.

Under the current Strategic Plan and in order for the Organization to meet its current goals, the IHO has developed and manages the following five principal programmes:

- Co-operation between Member States and with International Organizations
- Capacity building
- Techniques and standards co-ordination and support
- Information management and public relations
- General organization development

The ISPWG in studying the Strategic Plan has identified the following three principal programmes which if approved, will replace the five existing ones. These programmes are the following:

- *Corporate Affairs* under the responsibility of the International Hydrographic Bureau (to be replaced by the Secretary General when the revised IHO Convention enters into force),

- *Hydrographic Services and Standards* under the responsibility of the relevant Committee (HSSC),

- *Inter Regional Coordination and Support* under the responsibility of the Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC)

Progress monitoring is based on performance indicators against which progress in implementing the strategic directions can be periodically assessed. Two levels of performance indicators are proposed:

- strategic level: a small number of PIs associated with the objectives of the IHO (1 or 2 PIs per objective), to be agreed by the Conference (*the Conference* to be replaced by *the Assembly* when the revised IHO Convention enters into force) and managed by the IHB (*the IHB* to be replaced by *the Secretary General and the Council* when the revised IHO Convention enters into force);

- working level: PIs associated with the strategic directions and managed by the appropriate subsidiary organs;

A selection of strategic performance indicators is proposed and the monitoring procedure is outlined.

PRO 4 - PROPOSAL TO ADOPT REVISED TEXT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION T5.1

Submitted by: ISPWG

PROPOSAL

The 4EIHC is invited to approve the draft revised text for Administrative Resolution T5.1 submitted in Annex 10 to the ISPWG Report.

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

Administrative Resolutions under Section 5 of Chapter T "Administration" refer to the Strategic Plan and Work Program. The existing A.R. T5.1 which deals with the Planning Cycle has been reviewed in accordance with the monitoring mechanism outlined in the draft Strategic Plan.

Two versions are submitted to the 4EIHC. The first one deals with the existing five years cycle and incorporates the new structure of IHO committees effective as of 1st January 2009. The second one deals with the three years cycle which will apply when the revised IHO Convention enters into force.

PRO 5 - PROPOSAL TO APPROVE TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS TO NEW IHO STRUCTURE

Submitted by: ISPWG

PROPOSAL

The 4EIHC is invited to approve the arrangements for the transition to the new structure of the IHO Work Programme described in section 8 of the ISPWG Report and to task the IHB Directing Committee accordingly.

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

The IHO Work Programme covers the period starting 1st January of the year following the ordinary session of the International Hydrographic Conference - IHC (*the IHC* to be replaced by *the Assembly* when the Assembly is established) and ending on 31st December of the year of the next ordinary session of the IHC (Assembly). Under the current structure of the IHO the Work Programme is a five-year programme while under the new structure it will be a three-year programme.

In introducing the new programmes based on the new Strategic Plan, there are two options:

- continue with the current five programmes until 2012, cross referencing it to the three new ones, or

- develop a new three-year 2010-2012 Work Programme considering the new structure together with the associated budget.

An intermediate option which would consist in rearranging the tasks of the current Work Programme according to the new structure with no change in contents seems feasible with very limited extra work necessary to re-compute the associated budget aggregates within the limits of the approved five year budget.

The ISPWG proposes the following arrangements for the transition to the new structure of the Work Programme:

- retain the contents of the current Work Programme until the next ordinary session of the IHC/Assembly,

- re-arrange the tasks according to the new three programme structure based on the cross-reference in Annex 8 starting with the 2010 Work Programme edition,

- compute new budget aggregates starting with the 2010 budget, within the limits of the approved five-year budget,

- present to the IHC/Assembly in 2012 a new Work Programme and budget for the period 2013-2017 based on the new Strategic Plan as approved by the 4th EIHC. This Work Programme and budget will be prepared under the aegis of the IHB in close cooperation with the two new Committees and they shall have their endorsement.

PRO 6 - PROPOSAL TO REVIEW POSSIBLE NEEDS FOR ASSISTANCE IN PREPARING THE ANNUAL CYCLES OF THE NEW STRATEGIC MECHANISM

Submitted by: ISPWG

PROPOSAL

The 4EIHC is invited to request the IHB Directing Committee to review possible needs for assistance in preparing the annual cycles of the new strategic mechanism, in consultation with the HSSC and IRCC chairs, and to report to Member States before the end of 2010.

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

The ISPWG agreed that risk management should be included in the strategic planning process and recommends that risk management activities be addressed at two levels:

- *strategic* level by the IHB *(the IHB* to be replaced by *the Secretary General* when the revised IHO Convention enters into force*)* and processed *top down*,

- *working* level by subordinate bodies under HSCC/IRCC and processed *bottom up*.

The ISPWG considered that the appropriate monitoring of the implementation of the Strategic Plan requires the definition of performance indicators (PIs) against which progress in implementing the strategic directions can be periodically assessed. The ISPWG agreed to adopt a two level approach, similar to the approach which is proposed for risk management:

- strategic level: a small number of PIs associated with the objectives of the IHO (1 or 2 PIs per objective) and managed by the IHB (*the IHB* to be replaced by *the Secretary General and the Council* when the revised IHO Convention enters into force);

- working level: PIs associated with the strategic directions and managed by the appropriate subsidiary organs;

The ISPWG recognizes that the IHB may be confronted with some difficulties in implementing the additional tasks associated with risk management and performance monitoring.

PRO 7 - PROPOSAL TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW PLANNING MECHANISM

Submitted by: ISPWG

PROPOSAL

The 4EIHC is invited to request the IHB Directing Committee to review the implementation of the new planning mechanism, in consultation with the HSSC and IRCC chairs, at the end of each annual cycle in early 2011 and 2012 and report back to the next ordinary IHC (or to the first Assembly) in 2012.

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

The ISPWG suggests that the new planning mechanism be monitored annually by the IHB as further experience is gained with the new committee structure and that the implementation of the new planning mechanism be reviewed by the Conference / Assembly in 2012.

PRO 8 - PROPOSAL TO NOTE THE HCIWWG REPORT (ANNEX E TO THIS CCL)

Submitted by: HCIWWG

PROPOSAL

The 4EIHC is invited to **Note** the Report of the HCIWWG (see Annex E to this CCL).

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

1. The XVIIth International Hydrographic Conference decided (Decision 19) to ask the Committee on Hydrographic Requirements for Information Systems (CHRIS) to establish a working group on *Hydrography and Cartography of Inland Waters (HCIWWG)* with the purpose to analyse and recommend the level and nature of IHO involvement in the Hydrography and Cartography of Inland Waterways. The study was to involve all relevant non-IHO international bodies in its deliberations, including the IEHG. A Report was to be submitted to the 4th EIHC in 2009.

2. The CHRIS established the HCIWWG at its 19th meeting in November 2007.

3. All work was done by correspondence, except for two face-to-face meetings of the Chair Group, taking the opportunity of programmed IHO meetings: one during the 19th meeting of CHRIS, and the second one during the 11th meeting of the Committee on the World-Wide Electronic Navigational Chart Database (WEND).

4. The work program had three phases:
   - data research – from Nov 15th 2007 to Feb 10th 2008;
   - data analysis – from Feb 10th 2008 to Apr 20th 2008; and
   - report production – from Apr 20th 2008 to Sep 12th 2008.

The HCIWWG reported to CHRIS at its 20th meeting in November 2008. The CHRIS endorsed the HCIWWG report, subject to some minor amendments which have been incorporated into this report. The CHRIS decided (CHRIS Decision 20/28) that its Dictionary WG should develop a definition for *inland navigable waters*. The CHRIS acknowledged that the HCIWWG had completed its task. As a result, the HCIWWG was disbanded.

PRO 9 - ENDORSEMENT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HCIWWG, SECTION 8 OF THE HCIWWG REPORT.

Submitted by: HCIWWG

PROPOSAL

The 4EIHC is invited to endorse the following Recommendations:

a) **Invite** relevant Regional Hydrographic Commissions to

i. consider establishing liaison committees or other bodies, where relevant, to ensure consistent use and development of hydrographic standards and mutual cooperation for the enhancement of navigation safety in navigable inland waters within a region, and

ii. to encourage cooperation and mutual assistance between authorities, even from different regions but with common interests, particularly for the safety of navigation in navigable inland waters, with the purpose of mutual support and the establishment of instructions and guidance for hydrographic survey and the production of nautical charts, in accordance with the guidance in Technical Resolutions T1.3 and A3.4, and Article 8 of the future General Regulations.

b) **Invite** relevant Member States and/or Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) to submit proposals to IHO for Capacity Building Committee (CBC) projects in support of regional coordination and the exchange of know-how in inland hydrography and cartography.

c) **Agree** that, wherever possible, when developing the IHO Work Program, and standards and guidelines, the potential applicability to hydrography and cartography for inland navigable waters should be taken into consideration.

d) **Direct** the IHO Hydrographic Dictionary Working Group to establish a definition for *inland navigable waters*, taking as a starting point the definitions contained in **Annex B of the HCIWWG Report**.

e) **Establish** a formal cooperation agreement between IHO and the Inland Electronic Navigation Chart Harmonization Group (IEHG) to produce, and to advise and assist the IHO on providing for the development and extension of specifications to cover Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) and digital nautical publications for inland navigable waters.

f) **Invite** the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) to develop guidelines for those who seek to develop extensions to IHO specifications for use in inland navigable waters.

g) **Invite** the HSSC to consider the adoption of relevant extensions to IHO specifications for use in inland navigable waters developed by other organisations.

h) **Invite** the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) to foster and coordinate inland-related capacity building proposals/actions/work of RHCs and review their status at its annual meetings.

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

The recommended actions, if adopted, can:

a. Improve the safety of navigation and protection of the environment.

b. Provide greater consistency in charting and navigation services for those vessels transiting between the sea and navigable inland waters.

c. Promote the IHO and expand its influence.

d. Have minor, if any, implications to the IHO budget.

PRO 10 - ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION AS IN ANNEX G OF THE HCIWWG

Submitted by: HCIWWG

PROPOSAL

The 4EIHC is invited to adopt the following Resolution:

A 1.xx **Hydrography and Cartography of Navigable Inland Waters**

1. Relevant Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC), through appropriate liaison bodies, are invited to:

   a. encourage the consistent use of hydrographic and nautical cartographic standards and mutual cooperation for the enhancement of navigation safety in navigable inland waters within and between regions.

   b. encourage the identification of needs for developing additional regional extensions to IHO specifications to cater for inland navigable waters and foster these developments together with other relevant organisations.

   c. encourage liaison with relevant IHO bodies (International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB), Hydrographic Services & Standards Committee (HSSC)) to ensure that any extensions to IHO specifications for navigable inland waters are consistent with IHO specifications and are as far as possible harmonised between other regional extensions.

   d. encourage liaison, when appropriate, with other bodies working with inland hydrographic and nautical specifications, especially with the Inland Electronic Navigational Chart Harmonisation Working Group (IEHG), to ensure consistency and harmonisation as far as feasible with their specifications.

   e. encourage cooperation and mutual assistance between relevant authorities, even from different regions but with common interests, particularly for the safety of navigation in navigable inland waters, with the purpose of mutual support and the establishment of instructions and guidance for hydrographic survey and the production of nautical charts (see also Resolution A3.4).

   f. Monitor the development and use of hydrographic and cartographic standards on navigable inland waters, and report as necessary to the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC).

Where the responsibility for hydrography and nautical cartography of maritime and navigable inland waters is divided among different organizations, Member States are encouraged to create National Hydrographic Committees. (See also Resolution T1.3).

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

Recognizing that:

   a. under the Convention on the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), Article II, an object of the Organization is to seek the greatest possible uniformity in nautical charts and publications;

b. under the amendments to the Convention, agreed by the 3rd Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC) and now awaiting formal ratification by the required majority of Member States, Article II has been expanded to include: *the widest possible use of hydrography, and the widest possible use of IHO standards*. These amendments place no geographical limits on the application of hydrography or its associated standards;

c. the IHO is already involved in hydrography and cartography of navigable inland waters, both through the responsibility that some of its members already hold, and by the fact that considerable nautical traffic passes from the sea to navigable inland waters and vice versa. This calls for the harmonization of hydrographic and cartographic information and services provided to navigators to assist the safety of navigation and protection of the environment;

d. the IHO is recognized by the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations International Maritime Organization (IMO) as the technical authority for issues concerning hydrography and nautical cartography;

e. the responsibility for hydrography and nautical cartography for navigable inland waters in States is often divided among different organizations, not all of them having representation in the IHO, and that the limits of responsibility among these organizations may differ according to the legislation in each State.

Acknowledging that:

a. IHO has an extensive set of specifications for hydrography and nautical cartography developed for sea and coastal areas, but used widely also on navigable inland waters; however

b. these IHO specifications for hydrographic survey and nautical cartography are currently not sufficient for application to all navigable inland waters and do not cover all hydrographic and nautical cartographic needs in navigable inland waters;

c. extended regional specifications for hydrographic survey and for nautical cartography for navigable inland waters are needed to take into account a variety of environmental characteristics and the different nature of circumstances, use and traffic in each waterway; and

d. these extended regional specifications should be as far as possible consistent with the IHO specifications;

e. there are other bodies, such as the Inland Electronic Navigational Chart Harmonization Group (IEHG), which has already published format and data specifications for inland electronic nautical cartography;

f. no recognized organization other than the IHO is in a position to foster harmonization between hydrography and cartography in maritime areas and the corresponding activities in navigable inland waters;

The HCIWWG has proposed the above resolution.

PRO 11 - PROPOSAL TO NOTE THE MSDIWG REPORT, ANNEX F TO THIS CCL

Submitted by: MSDIWG

PROPOSAL

The 4EIHC is invited to **Note** the Report of the MSDEWG (see Annex F to this CCL).

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

1. The 17th International Hydrographic Conference, in May 2007, considered the development of national and marine spatial data infrastructures and directed that the Committee on Hydrographic Requirements for Information Systems (CHRIS) establish a Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG), the purpose of which would be to analyse and recommend the nature and level of the IHO role in assisting Member States to support their NSDI through development of and/or aligning with the Marine Spatial Data communities in the development of an MSDI. The MSDIWG was duly constituted at the 19th meeting of CHRIS.

2. The MSDIWG reported to CHRIS at its 20th meeting in November 2008. The CHRIS endorsed the MSDIWG report, subject to some minor amendments which have been incorporated into this report. The CHRIS agreed that the MSDIWG should continue its work to complete a definitive and practical publication to assist IHO Member States in contributing to MSDI at their national or regional level and submit the document to the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) at its inaugural meeting in late 2009.

PRO 12 - ENDORSEMENT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MSDIWG, SECTION 7 OF THE MSDIWG REPORT

Submitted by: MSDIWG

PROPOSAL

The 4EIHC is invited to endorse the following Recommendations:

a. The IHO develops an SDI policy in support of its Member States by developing relationships with other SDI stakeholder groups and through active participation in such groups to strengthen understanding and knowledge of the role of hydrography in MSDI.

b. IHO develops, through the MSDIWG, a definitive and practical publication to assist IHO Member States to be better prepared to develop and / or join MSDI at their national or regional level.

c. IHO develops an SDI capacity building plan (e.g. in-country practical training and advice) to provide the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding of key components of SDI as described above.

d. IHO considers the development of a web based facility to encourage knowledge transfer, best practice and on-line guidance and training material.

e. MSDI be introduced as a standing agenda item at meetings of Regional Hydrographic Commissions in order to monitor and report progress in Member States' MSDI engagement and development. MSDIWG will provide benchmarks against which reporting might be measured.

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

The MSDIWG drew the following conclusions.

1. The data gathering served its purpose in measuring the current status and future aspirations for MSDI within Member States and providing headline information to enable the MSDIWG to understand the issues involved.

2. The analysis provided clear evidence that there is a need for assistance in helping to develop the roles of hydrographic offices in MSDI/ NSDI which in turn enables the IHO to define its role and the possible help it can give to Member States as they work towards involvement in a fully optimised MSDI.

3. Training and knowledge transfer is required mainly in data management, MSDI framework development, data standards and dissemination. IHO should be encouraged to develop and disseminate guidelines and procedures in these areas.

4. Capacity and capability across the HO community will be improved through increased resources, funding and policy development.

5. Member States in Southern Europe/ North Africa, Asia, Africa, Central and South America will benefit most from IHO assistance.

6. The work undertaken has provided valuable information about those Member States who responded. Concerns remain as to how non-responding Member States understand and / or participate in MSDI/ NSDI development in their respective States.

PRO 13 - ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION AS IN ANNEX H OF THE MSDIWG REPORT

Submitted by: MSDIWG

PROPOSAL

The EIHC to adopt a formal resolution on MSDI reflecting in general terms the role and involvement of IHO in supporting MS' roles in MSDI. The proposed draft Resolution is contained as follow:

A1.xx **Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) Policy**

1. The IHO will support Member States in the identification, development and implementation of an appropriate role in national Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) and MSDI initiatives. This will be achieved through:

   - The development and maintenance of a Special Publication that will provide a definitive procedural guide to establishing the role of the national hydrographic authority in MSDI.
   - Developing an MSDI capacity building plan comprising knowledge transfer and training to Member States.
   - Developing and managing a web-based facility to encourage knowledge transfer, best practice and provision of on-line guidance and training material.
   - Formalising relations between IHO and other SDI stakeholder groups and through actively participating in these groups to strengthen understanding and knowledge of the role of hydrography in MSDI.

2. IHO Regional Hydrographic Commissions are encouraged to monitor and report progress in Member States' MSDI engagement and development as a means of benchmarking the role of the national hydrographic authority in MSDI.

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

Recognising that:

1. The Vision of the IHO is to be the authoritative worldwide hydrographic body which actively engages all coastal and interested States to advance maritime safety and efficiency and which supports the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment;

2. The IHO has developed standards and specifications in areas of nautical cartography, hydrography and geospatial data management that have been accepted and implemented on a world-wide basis;

3. National and/or Regional legislative processes are increasingly mandating IHO Member States' public sector information providers to engage in greater interoperability at the organisational and technical level;

4. IHO publication M2 provides guidance on how a national hydrographic service can be established, how to define individual national requirements, how to decide upon the necessary resource levels and describes the benefits which accrue in respect of many aspects of national development.

Acknowledging that:

1. In relation to the development of EU legislation concerning SDI, the IHO is recognised by the European Commission as a Spatial Data Interest Community (SDIC);

2. It is appropriate for IHO to define its role in MSDI activity.

The MSDIWG has proposed the above resolution.

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ANNEX C to CCL 5

PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY MEMBER STATES

PRO 14 - EXPEDITING THE RATIFICATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE IHO CONVENTION BY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

Submitted by: Australia

PROPOSAL

The Conference is requested to consider and approve the following:

(a) "That the IHB liaise with the representatives of each maritime state seeking membership of the IHO to explain the effect of all current proposals for amendment to the Convention and encourage its consideration and acceptance of the proposals at the same time as its consideration and acceptance of the IHO Convention."

and

(b) "That the President of the Directing Committee shall request the Government of the Principality of Monaco to submit all current proposals for amendment to the Convention to each new Member Government for its consideration immediately following its deposit of its instrument of accession to the Convention."

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 3rd EIHC (2005) approved a Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention. As per Article XXI of the IHO Convention, any amendment to the Convention is effective only after it has been approved by two-thirds of the Contracting Parties (Member Governments).

The national processes of acceding to the Convention and to the Protocol of Amendments to the Convention are often bureaucratic and protracted. This is evident from the fact that all of the 5 Member States who joined after the 3rd EIHC (2005) have yet to approve the Protocol of Amendments.

Part (a) of this proposal aims to assist in streamlining and expediting the process of approving the Protocol of Amendments to the Convention by ensuring that prospective Member States are made aware of these proposed changes to the Convention when they initially apply for membership of the IHO. This process will enable prospective new members to seek their Governments' consideration and acceptance of the Convention and their consideration and acceptance of the Protocol of Amendments simultaneously. It would enable them to lodge their instruments of accession to the Convention and the protocol of Amendments in quick succession.

Part (b) of the proposal ensures that new Member States who have deposited their instruments of accession to the Convention are officially advised of the outstanding Protocol of Amendments to the Convention at the earliest possible opportunity.

IHB COMMENT

This proposal should be considered in conjunction with the recommendations of the Legal Advisory Committee (LAC), forwarded to Member States for approval with CL 02/2009.

PRO 15 - REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS AS BODIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION

Submitted by: United States of America

References:
- Convention on the International Hydrographic Organization
- IHO Administrative Resolution T1.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS (RHC)
- IHO Work Programme for 2008-2012

PROPOSAL

The United States proposes that the Regional Hydrographic Commissions be designated as bodies of the International Hydrographic Organization.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

U.S. RATIONALE

The Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) concept was formed several decades ago as the result of a proposal for more frequent I.H. Conferences to increase coordination and communication. An alternative solution was to create the RHCs to increase regional coordination while maintaining independence from the IHO. Membership in an RHC was voluntary.

During the 2007 I.H. Conference, it was noted that even with the eventual adoption of the Protocol of Amendments to the Convention of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the increased role of the RHCs, their status would be unchanged and RHCs would still NOT be bodies of the IHO.

The U.S. considers that the RHCs have become important elements of the Objects of the IHO (Article II of the Convention), particularly with regard to the coordination of the activities of national hydrographic offices, and the achievement of the greatest possible uniformity in nautical charts and documents. Most recently, the RHCs have clearly become an important element of the IHO capacity building effort and are now included in detail as a part of Work Programme 1, Co-operation with Member States and with International Organizations, and Work Programme 2, Capacity Building, of the IHO Work Program for 2008-2012. In addition, when the new Convention comes into effect, 2/3 of the membership of Council will be selected on the basis of the RHCs.

The U.S. believes that many of the issues problematical with the achievement of global coverage and harmonization of the data and products produced by IHO Member States, especially those that are digital, transcend regional coordination, and that the RHCs should be recognized as an integral part of the Organization. In view of the significant impact of RHCs on the structure and operation of the Organization, the U.S. believes the RHCs should properly be bodies of the Organization.

Participation would remain voluntary and funding of the activities would remain within the purview of the RHCs with costs defrayed by the respective regional Governments. Regional coordination would continue to be a primary focus of their activities. IHO Technical Resolution T 1.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS (RHC) governs the membership of regional commissions and this would remain the same. That is, although IHO bodies are normally open to the participation of any Member State, in this case, the purpose is to foster regional interaction and the Technical Resolution as currently written, which provides for participation as observers, is proper and should continue as written.

Implementation of this proposal does not require amendment of Technical Resolution T 1.3 in that the first paragraph already states, "As part of the IHO, the RHC shall complement the work of the Bureau." Inclusion of the RHCs as bodies of the IHO will foster cross RHC harmonization of data, products and consistency efforts.

IHB COMMENT

In order to contribute to discussion of this proposal, the IHB makes the following comments:

- The issue of whether RHCs should become bodies of the IHO was discussed at length during the meetings of the SPWG. This was required in order for the SPWG and LEX to properly and correctly draft the new and amended Articles of the Convention and General Regulations. New Article 8 of the amended General Regulations, concerning the RHCs, was drafted and agreed based on this decision;
- The decision regarding the status of RHCs presented and accepted at the 2005 and 2007 Conferences was that "RHCs should be recognized by the Assembly, without formally becoming organs of the IHO";
- If it is now accepted that the RHCs should become bodies of the IHO, further consideration will be required regarding their formal status and relationship with the Organization and whether the new and amended Articles of the IHO Convention, the General Regulations and Technical Resolution 1.3 require further amendment;
- The US Proposal does not appear to have financial implications for the Organization.

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