

**International Hydrographic
Organization**



**United States - Canada
Hydrographic Commission**



Minutes 32nd Meeting of the
International Hydrographic Organization

UNITED STATES - CANADA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

Silver Spring, MD
United States of America
9 April 2009

Co-Chairs

CAPT Steven R. Barnum, NOAA
Director, Office of Coast Survey (OCS)
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration (NOAA)

Dr. Savithri Narayanan
Director General
Dominion Hydrographer
Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS)

1. Welcoming Remarks

- a. Dr. James Turner provided welcoming remarks to the USCHC. Dr. Turner's remarks centered on continued cooperation between the US and Canada especially related to the inter-related disciplines of meteorology, oceanography and hydrography especially in light of the knowledge needed to manage climate change.

2. Opening Remarks

- a. Captain Steve Barnum opened the 32nd meeting of the USCHC. Opening remarks were provided by Captain Barnum and Dr. Savi Narayanan. Attendees to the meeting introduced themselves.

Attendees *:

Chris Andreasen (NGA)
Suzanne Bass (NOAA)
Meg Danley (NOAA)
Arwen Edsall (NOAA)
Dave Enabnit (NOAA)
Kian Fadaie (CHS)
Jeffrey Ferguson (NOAA)

Steve Gill (NOAA)
Sean Hinds (CHS)
Paul Holroyd (CHS)
Matt Kroll (NOAA)
Peter Lee (NGA)
Sean Legeer (NOAA)

Tom Loeper (NOAA)
John Lowell, CAPT (NOAA)
Daniel Pelletier (CHS)
Harvey Pfluger (CHS)
Julia Powell (NOAA)

Dave Prince (CHS)
Katie Ries (NOAA)
Robert Ward (IHB)
Craig Winn (NOAA)

*Attendees listed in alphabetical order

3. Approval of the minutes from the 31st USCHC meeting.
 - a. The commission unanimously agreed to approve the minutes from the 31st USCHC meeting.
4. Organizational Updates
 - a. Dr. Narayanan, the Canadian Dominion Hydrographer provided organizational updates that have occurred in the Canadian Hydrographic Service over the last year. Most notable are Kian Fadaie as the new Director of Hydrography in Ottawa and Andrée Bolduc as the new Regional Director in Quebec replacing the retiring Paul Bellemare.
 - b. Captain Barnum, the US National Hydrographer and Director of the Office of Coast Survey (OCS) provided organizational updates for the US. These updates included major changes related to the change in Presidential administrations, as well as OCS staff changes. These staff changes included Jeffrey Ferguson as the new Chief of the Hydrographic Services Division, Mike Brown as the new Deputy of the Hydrographic Services Division, and Lyn Preston as the new Deputy of the Marine Chart Division. Captain Barnum also officially announced his retirement to the commission, and introduced Captain John Lowell, the Chief of Marine Chart Division (MCD) as the incoming Director of OCS.
5. Chart Advisors Committee (CAC) Report
 - a. Katie Ries, the Deputy Director of OCS, presented the Chart Advisors Committee (CAC) Report. The CAC report addressed the outstanding action items from last year's USCHC and CAC meetings, as well as focusing on a proposed way forward on resolving and documenting the Pacific Region ENC Transboundary Project.
 - b. Based on the CAC Report, the National Hydrographers of the US and Canada agreed to the following:
 - i. Agreements on transboundary issues by the hydrographers of the US and Canada will be noted in the USCHC meeting minutes.

Approved supporting documents will be attached to the minutes as required.

- ii. Once all of the transboundary issues have been resolved and noted in the USCHC minutes, the ENC Transboundary Project will be formally documented using Schedule A and appended to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).
- iii. Staff and Headquarters level points of contact (POC) will manage the resolution of Transboundary issues including establishing deadlines for action completion. The points of contact are Sean Hinds for CHS, and Craig Winn for OCS.

c. Transboundary ENC Report and Recommendations

- i. The Commission agreed that the **ENC Limits Revision** document is close to a resolution.

Action Sean Legeer (MCD) and Harvey Pfluger (CHS Pacific) will revise the graphics in the ENC Limits Revision document to agree with the narrative description of the ENC cuts and deliver to the staff POCs for review by the National Hydrographers of the US and Canada.

- ii. Dr. Narayanan stated that the **Cooperative Level of Service Agreement** needs to go through legal review, but she also expressed confidence that all of the major pieces of this item are in place.

Action Dave Prince (CHS Pacific) and Julia Powell (MCD) will deliver a revised Cooperative Level of Service Agreement to CHS HQ and OCS Staff.

Action Once the Level of Service is drafted, Craig Winn (OCS) and Sean Hinds (CHS HQ) will submit the Cooperative Level of Service Agreement for legal review.

Action Following legal review, Craig Winn and Sean Hinds will submit the Cooperative Level of Service Agreement to the National Hydrographers of the US and Canada for approval.

- iii. Katie Ries delivered the feedback provided by the Baseline Committee on the **Disputed Boundary Note**. Dr. Narayanan suggested that a direct communication between the designated lawyers for each country be arranged. This direct communication could help to progress the pending status of this issue. The Commission proposed that OCS and CHS have the disputed boundary note completed and ready for approval by May 31.

Action Craig Winn (OCS) will arrange a conference call with Suzanne Bass, Sean Hinds, and other participants to be named at a later date to discuss the status of the disputed boundary note.

Chris Andreasen of NGA expressed interest in this issue, and requested that the final notes be forwarded to their office. Captain Ward of the IHB recommended contacting the UK VAR as a likely source for precedents in dealing with multiple boundaries in one ENC.

Action Julia Powell (MCD) will contact the UK VAR concerning possible precedents for handling multiple boundaries within one Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC).

- iv. Suzanne Bass provided a status report of the **Intellectual Property (IP)** note. She stated that the US Department of State will open a communication pipeline directly with Canada on behalf of OCS. Suzanne Bass stated that OleVarmer (NOAA) has suggested a revision to the US-Canada MOA. If amended, the MOA would have to go through the proper legal clearances. If the new language were agreed upon, the document could be pushed through the proper clearances. Sean Hinds (CHS HQ) recommended a direct communication with Suzanne Bass concerning US issues with the IP note and revisions to the MOA.

Action Sean Hinds (CHS HQ) will set up a teleconference with the legal experts from Canada and the US, as well as OCS Staff to discuss the revisions to the IP note and US-Canada Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

Dr. Narayanan recommended that the IP note could be submitted for approval using a two staged process to help expedite the resolution of this issue.

Action OCS and CHS will submit the English version of the IP note for approval by the National Hydrographers of the US and Canada.

Action OCS and CHS will submit the French version of the IP note for approval by the National Hydrographers of the US and Canada.

The US position on the **Encoding** of notes is agreeable in principle, but has legal implications for CHS. CHS recommends consistent practices across the International Border. The Commission recommends that the US and Canada bring encoding rules into alignment. Sean Hinds (CHS HQ) recommended a teleconference with the appropriate technical people to conduct a walkthrough of the encoding rules.

Action Craig Winn (OCS) will coordinate a teleconference with the appropriate technical experts in MCD, CHS HQ, and CHS Pacific to conduct a review of the various Transboundary encoding rules.

- v. Steve Gill (CO-OPs) presented concerns about the differing sounding **Datums** being referenced in the same ENC. He recommended that we review the areas where the tidal step could present a problem, and address accordingly.

Dr. Narayanan proposed two questions to guide the offices as they review the proposed technical solution. These questions are as follows:

- 1) have the Hydrographic Offices acted with due diligence?
- 2) how is the mariner going to use the information?

Action OCS will review the CHS technical assessment for accepting different sounding datums to ensure that this status quo serves the best interest of the Mariner.

The Commission expressed the need to overcome the education issue for the mariner concerning different sounding datums, therefore the Commission recommended that information about differing sounding datums be included in the Cooperative Communications Plan and in the OCS Coast Pilot and CHS Sailing Directions.

Action OCS and CHS will include information about the differing sounding datums used in Transboundary ENC's in the Coast Pilot and Sailing Directions when the Pacific Region Transboundary ENC Pilot project is implemented.

vi. Pan Canadian Names

Action OCS will talk to the domestic names experts, and review information in the appropriate databases to establish if the US can encode Pan-Canadian names in US ENC's.

vii. The Commission agreed that the **ENC Transboundary Distribution Statement** should be a separate document, and removed from the Cooperative Level of Service Agreement.

Action Craig Winn and Sean Hinds will prepare and vet the Transboundary ENC Distribution Statement through legal affairs pending resolution of the Intellectual Property note.

viii. Daniel Pelletier briefed the Commission on the status of the **Cooperative Communications** plan. Daniel stressed that the date for release included in the plan is contingent upon the resolution of all outstanding transboundary issues.

Action Daniel Pelletier (CHS HQ) and Matt Kroll (NSD) will include information about the methodology of the ENC cuts, and information about the differing vertical datum in Transboundary ENC's in the communications to the public.

This information will also be included in the sailing directions and coast pilots. These actions are contingent upon project implementation, but the language of the communications should be submitted for approval by May 31, 2009.

d. Other CAC Recommendations

i. Data Exchange Working Group

Action Captain John Lowell (MCD) and Craig Winn (OCS) will draft Terms of Reference and a scope

statement for a Data Exchange Working Group, and send to Sean Hinds and Doug Brunt for comment.

The intent is for this data exchange workgroup to report to the next CAC. Dr. Narayanan pointed out that Canada licenses source data, and that this could pose an issue in developing a comprehensive data exchange plan.

- ii. Dave Enabnit presented the CAC proposal to establish a **BSB Working Group**. Dr. Narayanan supports looking at the BSB license issue, but states that the draft terms of reference would have to be rewritten before CHS could participate. The draft TORs conflict with the terms of CHS's license with MAPTECH.

Action Dave Enabnit and Paul Holroyd will redraft TORs of the BSB Working Group so that CHS can participate in the proposed effort.

- iii. Tom Loeper presented personnel exchange opportunities that hold interest for the Coast Pilot Branch.

Action Sean Hinds stated that he will present opportunities to the CHS Sailing Directions group to gauge interest level in OCS Coast Pilot exchange to Canada and if Canada wishes to look to 2010 for exchange to OCS, and possibly schedule reciprocity for OCS.

Dr. Narayanan pointed out that CHS is required to develop learning plans, and that exchanges would have to be an approved part of a learning plan to justify travel to the US.

Sean Hinds presented CHS exchange opportunities. Sean pointed out that Quebec fully leverages the HPD system by allowing data compilers to move through the entire data stream process, and that this process may hold some interest for HSD. In response, Capt. John Lowell (MCD) and Jeffrey Ferguson (HSD) offered to gauge interest with OCS field units and possibly develop a manager and/or technician exchange to Quebec.

Action Captain John Lowell and Jeffery Ferguson will explore the feasibility of a managerial/technical personnel exchange to the CHS office in Quebec and gauge the interest level by OCS field components in such an exchange opportunity.

6. IHO Matters

a. Status of Protocol of Amendment

- i.** Captain Ward updated the Commission on the status of the Protocol of Amendments. As of the meeting, the IHB had received 23 approvals out of a total of 54 required for ratification.

b. IMO commitment to ECDIS

- i.** Captain Ward (IHB) stated that ENC coverage must be available to support mandatory carriage and that where there is a paper chart there must be an equivalent ENC available by 2010.
- ii.** Captain Ward (IHB) further stated that the IHB has developed a list of the 800 busiest global ports by tonnage, but that this information does not help cruise lines who frequent smaller ports of call. Captain Ward highlighted the Caribbean as an area with questionable ENC coverage.
- iii.** Lastly on this issue, Captain Ward stated that while there is a large amount of ENC coverage produced, this ENC coverage is not always readily available to the mariner.

c. E-Navigation

- i.** Captain Ward (IHB) stated that he will represent the IHO on the IALA E-Nav Committee.
- ii.** Captain Ward stressed that the IHO should participate in the process to develop E-Navigation because Hydrographic Offices provide the fundamental data layer for future E-Nav systems.
- iii.** Kian Fadaie pointed out the Canadian Coast Guard is leading the move towards E-Navigation in Canada, and is using the IMO E-Navigation Questionnaire. Canada will follow IMO's schedule to do the gap analysis.

d. GEBCO Data Request

- i.** GEBCO has requested shallow water bathymetry to support the GEBCO dataset. Proposed solutions are to strip shoal biased bathymetry from ENCs, or for member states that can do so, provide gridded source data.

- ii.** IHB has developed a tool to strip bathymetry from ENCs. This tool has been used for US ENCs as a demo.
- iii.** GEBCO dataset is data rich offshore, but needs better coverage in inshore areas.

7. Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference

a. US Proposal regarding RHCs

- i.** Chris Andreasen (NGA) presented the US proposal to the upcoming EIHC to make Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) official bodies of the IHO. The question was posed; can the IHO invite RHCs to affiliate with the IHO?
- ii.** Dr. Narayanan stated some concern that using RHCs as the basis for 20 Council seats may not give the true regional representation as intended.

b. S-100

- i.** Captain Barnum requested that Captain Ward (IHB) present a status of S-100 and the proposed actions that will be taken to publicize the new standard.
- ii.** Captain Ward confirmed that the ENC presentation will be a part of the conference agenda, and that the Chair of HSSC will provide a status update of S-100 for stakeholders.
- iii.** Captain Ward further stated that S-100 will be submitted for approval in accordance with Technical Resolution A1.21, and outlined the proposed actions of the IHB, HSSC, and IHO member states that will be required for adoption of the standard.
- iv.** Dr. Narayanan stated that there is nothing stopping member states from “playing” with the building blocks of S-100 in its current status of unapproved.

c. VP of the Conference

- i.** Canada supports the proposal of VADM Palmer as VP of the conference.
- ii.** Captain Ward stated that the President of the IHO has contacted VADM Palmer.

d. Formation of an Arctic Hydrographic Commission

- i. Dr. Narayanan opened the discussion on forming an Arctic Hydrographic Commission. She stressed the challenges in the Arctic for hydrography and charting and also the sensitivities in the region.
- ii. Dr. Narayanan offered to send an email/letter to her contacts in Russia to sound out the interest level for an Arctic Hydrographic Commission.
- iii. The US will support Dr. Narayanan's action, and Capt. Barnum recommends the soft touch first, and then pursue an official letter to impacted arctic interested parties.
- iv. In response to Capt. Barnum's concerns, the IHB will withhold a planned letter to the Arctic countries, until Dr. Narayanan has completed her action.

Action Dr. Narayanan will draft, vet, and send an email to her contacts in Russia gauging interest in an Arctic RHC.

e. IRCC

- i. US will represent the Commission at the IRCC meeting.
- ii. Captain Ward urged the Commission to possibly consider chairing the IRCC.

Action Meg Danley (OCS) will take the first cut at the US-Canada Hydrographic Commission Report to the upcoming IRCC.

Action CHS will send their coordinates to Meg Danley (OCS) for their attendance at the EIHC, so that a meeting between OCS and CHS can be arranged around the conference.

8. Information Items

a. Great Lakes and Bathymetric Survey Coordination

- i. Roger Parsons proposed that the US and Canada coordinate mapping efforts in the Great Lakes by creating a bilateral workshop.
- ii. Dr. Narayanan stated that this effort is of great interest to Canada. She mentioned that Dan Nicholson, Regional Director of the Central and Arctic Region, will be a key player in this process.

Action Dr. Narayanan will convey the specific details of the Great Lakes and Bathymetric Survey Coordination project to NRCAN for possible partnering and participation.

Action Roger Parsons will draft a white paper on the Great Lakes and Bathymetric Survey Coordination Project, and forward this paper and other supporting documents to CHS through OCS point of contact, Craig Winn.

b. Availability of Ron Brown for ECS Surveys

- i. Craig Winn stated that Canada needs to provide logistical information before an official request can be submitted,

Action Craig Winn will follow up with Gretchen Imahori (OCS) on ship request requirements for the NOAA ship RON BROWN and forward those requirements to Sean Hinds (CHS).

Action CHS will provide logistical information about survey requirements and needs related to the NOAA ship RON BROWN to OCS for submission to the proper points of contact.

9. Closing Remarks

The Commission agreed that more coordination on open issues needs to occur. Methods to support that type of coordination were proposed.

CAC conference calls
 Possible US attendance at CHS National Committees
 Possible meetings at upcoming International Events (EIHC, etc)