Response to IHO CL 04/2007

9a. Member State: USA

9b. Names of States that produce derived charts: None

9c. Recommended charts:

      i.   ECDIS in RCDS Mode (APC)

           No paper charts are required for operating ECDIS in the RCDS mode in U.S. waters. A sufficiently large suite of RNCs of all scales exist for U.S. waters to provide the mariner with information on the overall navigational environment, and to provide adequate look-ahead capability. The ability of ECDIS to switch among RNCs or to display multiple RNCs, when combined with the large, up-to-date suite of US RNCs provides the necessary capabilities of the APC.

           Further, all U.S. ports of any commercial significance, e.g. where SOLAS vessels operate, are covered with ENCs, and those commercially significant ports are connected by ENCs, albeit of smaller scale. Thus no APC is required.

      ii.   As backup for ECDIS using ENCs

           The USA does not recommend which specific charts a vessel should carry. USA chart carriage regulation state:

           "a) Each vessel must have the following:
                (1) Marine charts of the area to be transited, published by the National Ocean Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or a river authority that–
                      (i) Are of a large enough scale and have enough detail to make safe navigation of the area possible; and
                      (ii) Are currently corrected."

           Selection of the actual charts aboard a vessel is left to the judgment of the vessel's Captain. In keeping with this policy, the USA's Maritime Safety Administration (the U.S. Coast Guard), and the USA's hydrographic office (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) decline to recommend a specific suite of charts to be carried as ECDIS backup, but will defer to the prudent judgment of the vessel's Captain.