

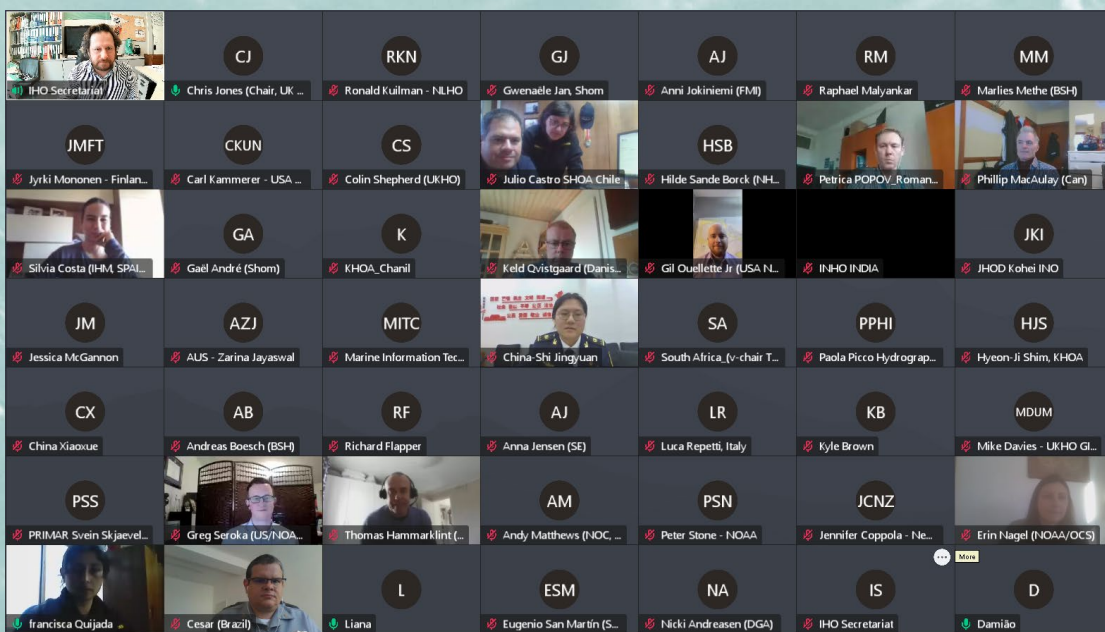
7TH MEETING OF THE IHO TIDES, WATER LEVEL AND CURRENTS WORKING GROUP

Virtual Online Meeting, 22nd Feb - 2 March

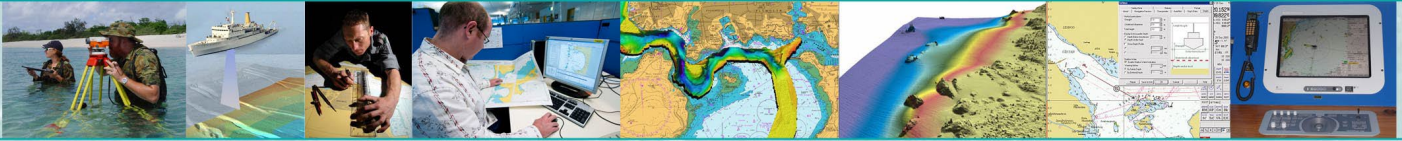
Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2023	
Task 2.1.2.7	Attendance of TWCWG7 meeting

The Tides, Water Level and Currents Working Group (TWCWG) has been tasked by the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) to monitor and develop the use of tidal, water level and current information as well as to advise on tidal, water level and current observation, analysis and prediction.

Due to challenges with the original scheduling of an in person meeting, the 7th meeting of the Tides, Water Level and Currents Working Group (TWCWG7) originally planned to be held in South Africa, was held as a virtual meeting from 22 Feb – 2 March under the chairmanship of Mr Chris Jones. The meeting was attended by 64 delegates from 23 IHO Member States and observers from, the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC), ER Systems, PRIMAR, Portolan Services, GEOMOD and the University of South Florida. Assistant Director Sam Harper represented the IHO Secretariat.



Some of the participants at the TWCWG7 meeting



The Chair provided an update on the interaction and discussions which had taken place with other IHO subordinate bodies, in particular NIPWG, DQWG, HSWG, CSBWG and S-100WG.

A significant amount of TWCWG7 was devoted to reviewing the finalised versions of the S-100 based Product Specifications for which the group is responsible – S-104 (*Water Level Information for Surface Navigation*) and S-111 (*Surface Currents*).

S104 & S-111

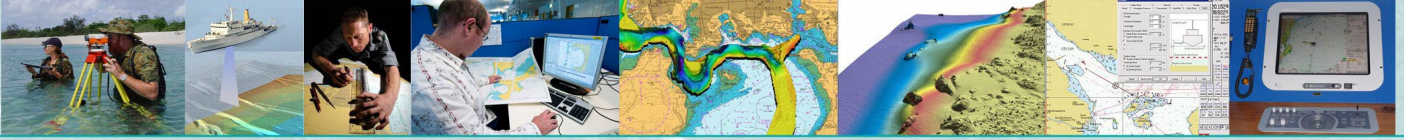
Aside from specific updates to S-104 and S-111, the group observed that both product specifications had been fully aligned with S-100 Ed 5.0.0. In addition the following issues had been addressed:

- Specified data type size for HDF5 attributes.
- Harmonized enumeration for types of data
- Additional guidance for production
- Requirements for compliance with S-98 (Interoperability)
- Guidance for “cell scheming”
- Rules for dataset and support file names (allowed characters, length)
- Annex F describing product specific validation checks (“informative” in this edition).
- Temporary removal of screen captures in Annex E.
- Updated references
- Minor editorial corrections throughout

It was noted that both Product Specifications had been submitted to the GI Registry for copy-editing and subsequent formal release. In terms of future development, it was agreed that the focus would now be on working towards Ed 2.0.0. Additional Member States volunteered to join the Project Team groups to assist the development. It was noted that to reach this milestone, fully operational test datasets would be required. The proposed timeline for publication of Editions 2.0.0 is likely to be Q3/Q4 of 2024.

Survey/Questionnaire on Member State Readiness for S-104 and S-111

KHOA presented the results of their survey designed to assess the current state of ‘readiness levels’ of Member States in terms of their production plans for S-104 & S-111 outputs. The reported that useful information gained on setting a ‘priority order’ of datatype (i.e. real-time, forecast, predicted.....). Responses from 16 Member States were received and the results showed a variety of vertical datums, numerical models and grid sizes were in use. Those Member States who are currently outputting data, provide Forecast, Predicted and Real-time datatypes. Those Member States who are not currently outputting data do have plans to do so in the future. They also noted that PRIMAR training modules are available as a development aid.



HSWG/TWCWG collaboration to improve tidal observation uncertainty standards within the relevant sections of S-44

The Chair of the HSWG joined the meeting to present the issue of tidal observation uncertainty within S-44. He noted that S-44 currently holds very limited information about “tidal observation uncertainties”. He explained that Edition 6.1.0 only refers to observation/measurement uncertainties for ‘Water Flow Direction’ and ‘Water Flow Speed’. It was noted that there is the potential to re-define the existing criteria, and add new criteria for Water Levels. In response, a TWCWG task team was established to investigate further in time for the next Edition of S-44.

The 8th Meeting of the TWCWG was scheduled for February 2024, with the 9th Meeting being brought forward to November 2024 in order to assume a new regular schedule that is early enough to make reporting for HSSC easier.