

IHO File No S3/8152 & S3/8151/S-65

CIRCULAR LETTER 42/2021 **Rev1**
14 October 2021

**OUTCOME OF THE SURVEY ON THE PRODUCTION
OF HIGH DENSITY ENC_s (HD ENC_s)**

Reference: IHO CL 26/2021 – *Survey on the production of High Density ENC_s (HD ENC_s).*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The IHO Circular Letter in Reference invited Member States to participate in a survey on the production of High Density ENC_s (HD ENC_s). The survey was carried out from July to September 2021.
2. The IHO Secretariat would like to thank the 37 Member States who participated in this survey, providing very insightful and balanced comments. The outcome of the survey is now available, in English only, on the WENDWG webpage > Repository (<https://iho.int/en/wendwg-repository>). Original comments made in French or Spanish have been translated into English by the Secretariat.
3. The outcome of the survey will be on the agenda of the next meeting of the WENDWG, planned for February 2022, for further analysis and preparation of possible recommendations to be reported at IRCC-14 (June 2022).
4. Based on a preliminary analysis of the comments received, the IHO Secretariat is of the view that the current situation is satisfactory and does not require more effort on harmonization or standardization at the IHO level for the following reasons:
 - some Member States need to gain more experience and collect more customer feedback before being in a position to set up their own general policy on the development of HD ENC / S-102 production;
 - production of either ENC_s (Berthing) or enhanced ENC_s with denser bathymetry (i.e. contour lines, soundings...) appears to be a flexible option used by some Member States to meet user requirements, noting their other priorities in the preparation and investment for the S-100 implementation;
 - local solutions for the production of non-official ENC_s (by port authorities with supervision by or delegation from the official HOs) already meet user requirements;
 - best practices kindly shared by Member States throughout this survey can certainly be used by other producers within the IHO from now, with bespoke solutions depending on the variability of situations (specific areas with variable seabed, frequency of surveys, use cases, etc.).

5. Finally, it does not seem appropriate to develop specific IHO guidelines for HD ENC production at this stage. A technical operational and effective standard is already in force for HD ENC (Annex A to S-65) and it is expected that it will remain in use during the transition to the operational production of S-101 and S-102.

On behalf of the Secretary-General

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luigi Sinapi', written in a cursive style.

Luigi SINAPI
Director

Distribution: IHO Member States
Copy: IRCC and WENDWG Chairs