

International Centre for Electronic Navigational Charts (IC-ENC) Technical Conference 24-1

Athens, Greece, 19-21 March

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2024	
Task 3.4.2	Maintain liaison with RENCs

The International Centre for Electronic Navigational Charts (IC-ENC) is the largest Regional ENC Coordinating Centre (RENC) globally, representing over half of the world’s Hydrographic Offices. IC-ENC is a member-led organisation which provides cost effective services to ensure that Member’s maritime data products are compliant with international Standards and uphold the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). IC-ENC also works to ensure that their Members’ ENCs are consistent across the global dataset and readily available for use via approved service providers.

The first IC-ENC Technical Conference of 2024 (TC24-1) was chaired by Ms Su Marks (UK, IC-ENC operational unit). 74 delegates representing 44 of the 50 IC-ENC Member nations attended the meeting in person, with a further 3 IC-ENC Member nations represented virtually among the 41 on-line Member nation participants. Industry representation at the meeting consisted of ESRI, Teledyne Geospatial (CARIS) and SevenCs; and IIC attended the meeting as an Expert Contributor. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Technical Standards Support Officer (TSSO) Jeff Wootton.



IC-ENC TC24-1 in-person participants

The technical conference commenced with a welcoming address from Commodore Dimitrios Efstathiou, Director of the Hellenic Navy Hydrographic Service. This was followed by an opening address by the Chair of IC-ENC, Mr Burak İnan (Türkiye), who stressed the important role that the RENCs are playing, and will continue to play, in coordinated and consistent provision of maritime data products and services. This will be particularly important during the transition from the current S-57/S-52 ECDIS environment to the provision of S-100 products and services.

The main themes for the Technical Conference were IC-ENC product support updates; S-101 focus; S-102, S-104, S-111 and S-128 service developments and Member experiences; ENC conversion (S-57 to S-101 and S-101 to S-57); and wider S-1xx activities. Feedback from the Singapore Lab ENC Conversion Workshop conducted in November 2023 was also provided by IIC and IC-ENC Member attendees. The second day of the Conference was devoted to Workshops on ENC conversion and S-101 ENC production, where Members were given the opportunity to discuss their experiences so far in these areas with Industry experts.

Introducing the theme S-101 Focus, Mr Jeff Wootton from the IHO Secretariat provided a general overview of the S-101 ENC Product Specification, the current state of S-101 development and the timeline for finalization of the S-101 Edition 2.0.0 operational edition of the Product Specification in order to meet the Roadmap for the S-100 Implementation Decade (2020-2030). This presentation was very well received, with many IC-ENC Member representatives initiating out of session discussions during the week to seek further information. Mr Wootton also gave informational presentations on the progress made in the development of IHO Publications S-65 Annex B – *S-57 ENC to S-101 Conversion Guidance* and S-65 Annex C – *S-101 to S-57 ENC Conversion Guidance*; and the process for applying for S-100 Data Producer Codes using the IHO Geospatial Information (GI) Registry.

IC-ENC members always share their insights gained from the practical handling of ENC quality assurance and distribution management with all stakeholders including the involved IHO technical bodies.