

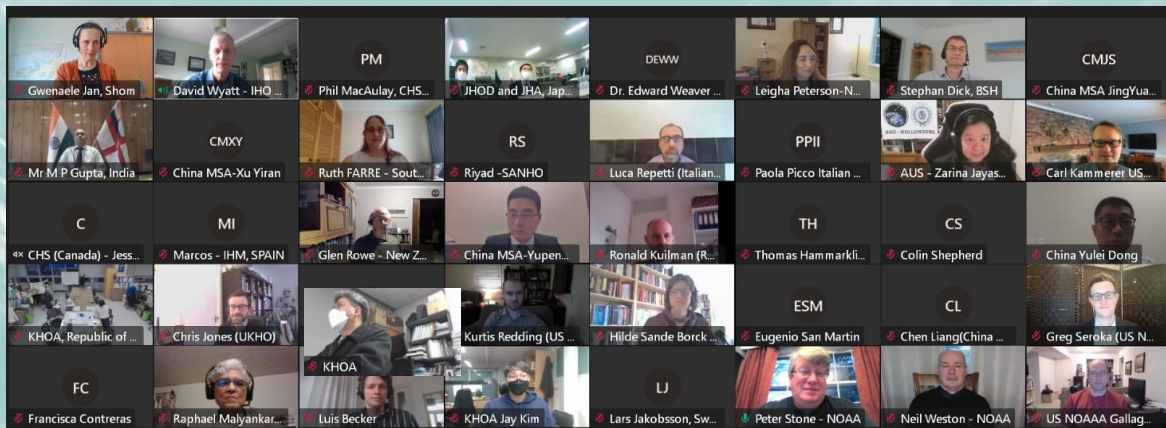
5TH MEETING OF THE IHO TIDES, WATER LEVEL AND CURRENTS WORKING GROUP

Virtual Online Meeting, 16-18 March

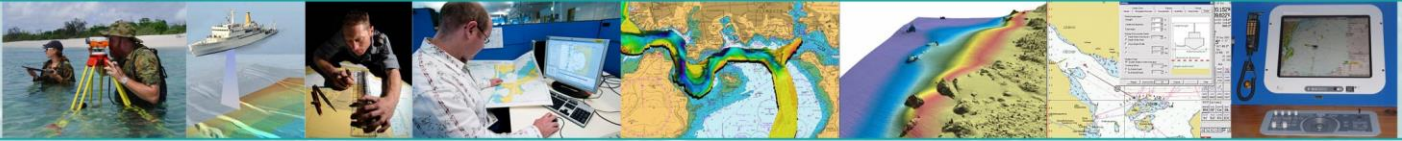
Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2021	
Task 2.1.2.7	Attendance of TWCWG5 meeting

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 the ongoing global COVID19 pandemic and the associated travel restrictions in place, the 5th meeting of the Tides, Water Level and Currents Working Group (TWCWG5) originally planned to be held at the Norwegian Hydrographic Service Office in Stavanger, Norway, 25 to 29 May 2020, was held as a series of virtual meetings from 16 to 18 March 2021 under the chairmanship of Dr Gwenaële Jan (France). The meeting was attended by 65 delegates from 21 IHO Member States (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, UK and USA) and observers from WR Systems, Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping/Joint Hydrographic Center – University of New Hampshire (CCOM/JHC - UNH), ECA Robotics, Portolan Sciences, the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC) and the Chair of the IOC Global Sea Level Observing System Group of Experts (GLOSS). Assistant Director David Wyatt represented the IHO Secretariat.



Some of the participants at the TWCWG5 meeting



The Chair provided an update on the interaction and discussions which had taken place with other IHO subordinate bodies, in particular NIPWG, DQWG, HDWG and S-100WG. The TWCWG devoted considerable time on reviewing the current draft 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*) – and the various use case projects being undertaken by various coastal states. A report was received on the comparison of tidal predictions generated from the analysis of common datasets using different national analysis software and the resultant tidal constituents generated. This is important work as individual national organizations upgrade their analysis software to ensure the results are consistent and better than those generated by their current software.

The final draft amendments to the IHO resolutions, for which the TWCWG is responsible, were presented by South Africa. Two new draft resolutions were proposed covering metadata for tide recordings and metadata for current recordings. All the proposed amendments and draft new resolutions were approved for submission to HSSC and subsequent consideration by IHO Member States. It was recognised that a similar comprehensive review of relevant charting specifications was needed, South Africa agreed to lead the task and provide initial draft revisions for consideration at TWCWG6.

The Group also took the opportunity to review the material created for a Tides, Water Level and Currents training workshop, which has been translated from English into French, Spanish and Portuguese. China proposed to provide a Chinese version later in the year. It was agreed that the course needed to be highlighted through Regional Hydrographic Commissions with the purpose of raising awareness of the course and encouraging additional requests for its delivery.

The inventory of tide gauges and current meters, and the list of Actual Tides On-line Links were highlighted. Participants were requested to check both lists periodically to ensure currency and that they should be highlighted through Regional Hydrographic Commissions with the purpose of raising awareness and encouraging additional inputs.

The Chair, Dr Gwenaële Jan (France), and Vice-Chair, Mr Peter Stone (USA), stood down and Mr Chris Jones (UK) and Ms Ruth Farre (South Africa) were elected as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for the next triennium. South Africa offered to host the 6th meeting of the TWCWG in Cape Town in 2022 in the April to May period.