

6TH MEETING OF THE NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHY WORKING GROUP (NCWG)

Video-teleconference (VTC), 3 – 4 November

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2020

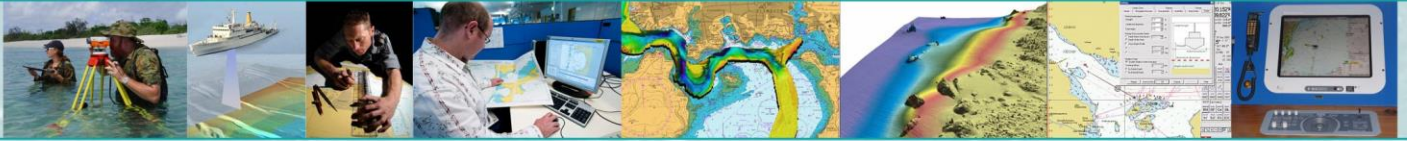
Task 2.1.2.4	Organize, prepare and report meetings of NCWG
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Initially planned to be hosted in Cádiz, Spain, by the Instituto Hidrográfico de la Marina (IHM) of the Spanish Navy, the 6th meeting of the Nautical Cartography Working Group (NCWG-6) was re-arranged by video teleconference (VTC) from 3 to 4 November 2020.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Mikko Hovi (Finland), supported by Mr James Timmins, Secretary (United Kingdom). Forty delegates from 23 Member States (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom and USA), three Expert Contributors (Esri, Navico, Teledyne-Caris) and Dr Lysandros Tsoulos, representing the FIG/IHO/ICA International Board of Competence for Nautical Cartographers and the ICA Commission on Marine Cartography, participated in the meeting. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Technical Standards Support Officer Jeff Wootton and Assistant Director Yves Guillam.

The Chair opened the meeting thanking the IHM for their earlier efforts in making arrangements to host the meeting in Spain. Due to the pandemic and the short time (3 hours) given for each of the two VTC sessions at this meeting, he also invited the participants to consider whether it would be beneficial to hold further separate VTC meetings in the future and prior to NCWG-7, to concentrate on specific work items. He then provided a summary of the outcome of HSSC-12 that impacts the activities of the NCWG.

The first main topic was related to the recommendations on the Future of the Paper Nautical Chart (FOPNC) that were endorsed. Since HSSC-12, the NCWG is tasked to develop ways to enhance or enable HO's ability to produce paper charts or raster chart images directly from S-101. The goal is to create a common IHO baseline symbology including basic symbol sets and rules. The resulting baseline symbology may then be used for further development by the production software developers and by HO's to provide simplified paper-based products. In support of this task, the US reminded the participants that a joint US/Canada proposal submitted to HSSC-12 needed to be considered by the NCWG.



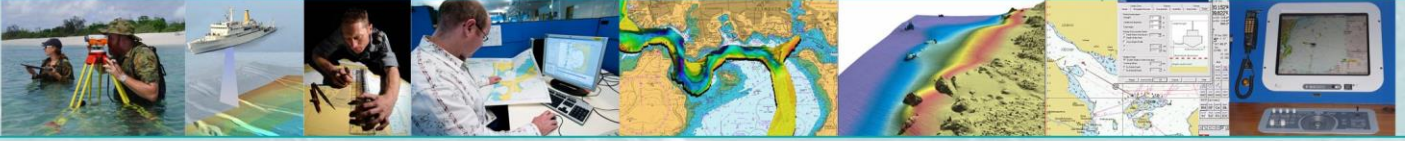
Should the SVG files meet the S-100 standard?

A presentation made by ESRI, highlighting the current obstacles to the automated production of paper/raster products derived from S-57/S-101 ENC's, was followed by a fruitful and extensive discussion on the different options and principles to move forward, which includes the development of Scalable Vector Graphic (SVG) symbols. The IHO Secretariat however reminded that, as it does not exist yet, there may be a need first to include a "use case" for the development of a new product specification (for paper/raster directly produced from S-100 products) that would justify the creation of an S-100 profile of SVG symbols. The NCWG decided to set up a special VTC meeting in the coming months to address this specific issue where the participants will first need to agree on a mandate and establish objectives.

As part of the outcome of HSSC-12, the Chair also drew the attention of the meeting to a paper submitted by Canada promoting the idea of a subscription digital service by which mariners may receive updates in pdf format to their paper charts rather than the traditional Notices to Mariners services that were considered much less efficient. The meeting agreed that further investigations and complementary detailed information were needed to be provided by Canada before the NCWG can consider proposing amendments to the B-600 (Chart Maintenance) section of S-4.



Virtual coffee break for the NCWG-6 participants ☕...



The Chair informed the NCWG that, following on from work carried out by the S-100WG, he would soon launch a consultation on portrayal harmonization for S-100 based products to be used in ECDIS. Through the development of the Annex C of S-98 - *Data Product Interoperability in S-100 Navigation Systems* in particular, this is certainly a critical task under the responsibility of the NCWG to provide suggestions and recommendations that would enable interoperability of S-100 based products when displayed in future ECDIS.

The Secretary confirmed that the UK has taken over responsibility from Germany, as custodian of the English version of INT-1, as of November 2020. The UK version of INT-1, which is called NP 5011, has been published as INT-1 Edition 8. It was noted that this is out of sequence with the existing German version of INT-1 which is Edition 9.

At the end of the meeting, the Working Group re-elected Mr Mikko Hovi (Finland) as Chair and elected Mr Nick Rodwell (UK) as the new Vice Chair. The offer made for Mr Edward Hands (Norway) to become the new NCWG Secretary was welcomed. The participants thanked Spain again for their second offer to host the 7th meeting of the NCWG in Cádiz in November 2021.