

7TH MEETING OF THE MARINE SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURES WORKING GROUP

Tokyo, Japan, 27-29 January

The Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group (MSDIWG) was created in 2008 to support the IHO work programme activities related to Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) and/or Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures (MSDI), to monitor SDI activities and trends and to promote the use of IHO standards and Member States' marine data in SDI activities. The MSDIWG is also tasked to liaise with other relevant bodies to increase awareness of marine spatial data, to identify ways for the IHO to contribute to the development of SDI/MSDI in support of Member States, to identify possible solutions to any significant technical issues related to interoperability between maritime and land based inputs to SDI and to identify any IHO capacity building requirements related to MSDI. Initially established under the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee, the Working Group was transferred under the authority of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) in 2015.

The Working Group held its seventh meeting at the Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department (JHOD) in Tokyo, Japan, from 27 to 29 January. The Chair of the MSDIWG, Mr Jens Peter Hartmann (Denmark), chaired the meeting which was attended by 18 representatives from 13 Member States (Argentina, Brazil, Denmark, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Spain, Thailand and USA), and nine observers and expert contributors from Caris, ESRI, IIC Technologies, Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), OceanWise, Seoul University, SevenCs and the Pacific Community (SPC). President Robert Ward and Assistant Director Alberto Costa Neves represented the IHB.



Participants at MSDIWG7 Meeting



The meeting considered the role of the Working Group in updating IHO Publication C-17 (*Spatial Data Infrastructures: "The Marine Dimension" - Guidance for Hydrographic Offices*) and how to incorporate the necessary information to assist Member States in their provision of hydrographic-related data in support of national and regional developments beyond charting. The meeting agreed that an updated edition of the publication should also identify and promote best practice, indicate existing and new standards, and provide appropriate syllabi for education and training in MSDI. Participants also discussed ways to assess the relevant activities in Regional Hydrographic Commissions in order to be able to provide examples of the benefits of a MSDI and the drawbacks of not having such a system in the near future.

Participants also considered the relevant standards, including those related to new technologies such as the use of aerial vehicles. The meeting was informed of developments for the collection, processing and availability of significant sized datasets in an MSDI and the use of cloud storage and processing. Participants also considered examples of application for oil spill response and the development of business cases to help in the establishment of MSDIs. The meeting considered the newly created Arctic SDI, the MSDI component to the common operating picture (COP) and the need and suitability of S-100-based product specifications for coastline, administrative borders, installations at sea, restricted areas, ship routes, obstructions and depth contours.

The meeting discussed the communication mechanisms available to raise awareness of the importance of MSDI, to educate decision makers on their roles and responsibilities and to guide hydrographic offices on the establishment of MSDI. It was decided that such communication will be done through the submissions to the International Hydrographic Conference or Assembly, Inter Regional Coordination Committee, Regional Hydrographic Commissions and Capacity Building Sub- Committee, by improving the IHO web pages and by creating "Ambassadors for MSDI". During the meeting a questionnaire developed by Canada to identify aspects of established MSDIs and best practices was reviewed in order to be used during the revision process of C-17.

Participants discussed the progress made with the improved MSDI syllabus submitted to the seventh meeting of the IRCC and the use of e-learning and availability of online learning platforms such as OceanTeacher made available by the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), and other programmes provided by universities and industry members. The MSDI WG7 established four groups for developing a revised framework for the IHO Publication C-17 (Group 1), the identification of case studies and best practices (Group 2), the identification of key datasets for non-navigational purposes (Group 3) and the key messages to be presented to the next International Hydrographic Conference or Assembly to be held in April 2017 (Group 4).

Amongst the improvements to the IHO website the meeting reviewed the creation of a GIS layer to display examples of SDI and MSDI around the world, currently available at:

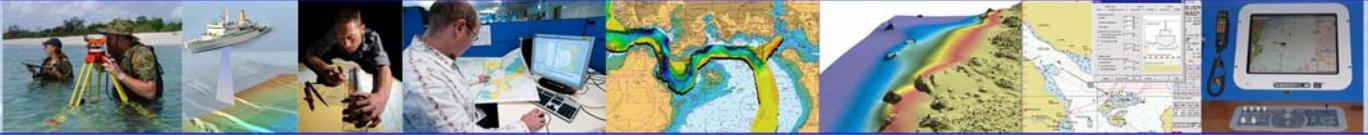
www.iho.int → Committees & WG → MSDI WG → Body of Knowledge → MSDI Examples (GIS Layer)



The MSDIWG7 meeting was preceded by an Industry Demonstration Workshop (25 January) and by an MSDI Open Forum (26 January) attended by over 100 people. The Open Forum explored the theme: "Contributing to the successful delivery of MSDI". Both events were co-hosted by the JHOD and by the Ocean Policy Research Institute, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF) and were held at Miraikan Hall, in Tokyo, together with a poster session presenting cases of success from government, academy and industry.

The next meeting of the MSDIWG, to be associated with another MSDI Forum, will take place in January/February 2017, in Canada (exact venue and dates to be decided). Further information concerning the meeting, the Industry Demonstration Workshop and the Open Forum presentations are available on the IHO web site at:

www.iho.int → Committees & WG → MSDIWG → MSDIWG7 (and → MSDI Open Forum)



4TH MEETING OF THE IHO-EU NETWORK WORKING GROUP Saint-Mandé, France, 18-19 January

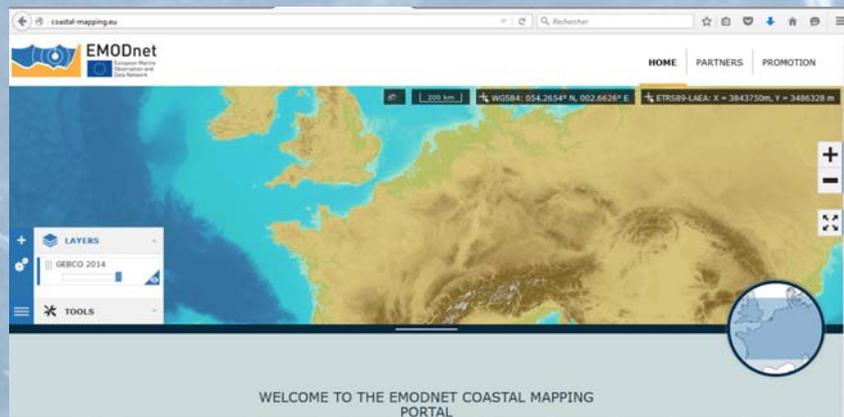
The IHO-EU Network Working Group (IENWG), established by the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) to monitor and deal with the activities and processes developed under the aegis of the European Union (EU), held its fourth meeting in Saint-Mandé, France, on 18 and 19 January 2016, at the invitation of the French Hydrographic Office (SHOM).

The meeting was chaired by Laurent Kerléguer (France) and attended by representatives from the following Regional Hydrographic Commissions:

- Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (Sweden),
- Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (France),
- Nordic Hydrographic Commission (Norway)
- North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (United Kingdom)
- North Sea Hydrographic Commission (Germany),
- South Africa and Islands Hydrographic Commission (France)
- South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (France).

Apologies had been received from Denmark, representing the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission and from Greece, representing the Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission. Director Gilles Bessero represented the IHB.

France, as the Project Coordinator, reported on the progress of the Coastal Mapping Project funded by the European Commission in support of the development of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet). The project brings together 11 European Hydrographic Offices. Its objectives are to assess the current availability of digital coastal maps in the EU, to disseminate this information by EMODnet, to share experience of coastal mapping in the EU, to develop standards for best practices and to propose how a future Joint European Coastal Mapping Programme (JECMaP) could operate. The first significant milestone was reached successfully with the opening of a dedicated portal in December 2015 (see <http://coastal-mapping.eu/>).





The meeting noted that the future call for tenders on phase III of the bathymetry component of EMODnet, which was expected in late 2015, had not been issued yet and discussed further the arrangements for preparing a response. The participants agreed that EMODnet-bathymetry should be promoted as the reference dataset in support of UN-GGIM Europe, EuroGOOS and other related European initiatives. The meeting also considered the support that Hydrographic Offices (HOs) could provide to phase III of the component of EMODnet related to human activities and drafted a report inviting the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group (MSDIWG) to analyse further the role of HOs. The participants agreed on several actions to strengthen the contribution of Hydrographic Offices to the implementation and further development of the EU Spatial Data Infrastructure framework (INSPIRE) and develop a strategy to promote the use of S-100 - *IHO Universal Hydrographic Data Model*.

The meeting considered the recent development and calls for proposals related to the implementation of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and agreed to invite participation to the calls on a case by case basis through the relevant Regional Hydrographic Commissions. France reported on the request that the IENWG be recognized by the European Commission as an observer in the MSP Expert Group.

The meeting reconfirmed its view that EU HOs should liaise with their national maritime administrations to ensure the inclusion of the maintenance of software-based marine equipment (such as ECDIS) on the agenda of the EU Expert Group on the Marine Equipment Directive (MARED). The participants acknowledged the view expressed by the *Comité International Radio-Maritime* (CIRM) that the issue would be best addressed at the level of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), but noted that a common position of the EU IMO Member States would help.

The meeting supported a proposal from France to investigate the feasibility of a project aiming at enhancing the archives held by EU HOs, in particular to support climate change studies and to ensure their conservation and accessibility in the long term. The group agreed to start with an inventory of these archives.

It is planned to hold the 5th meeting of the IENWG on 12 and 13 October 2016, in conjunction with an IHO-EC meeting.