

11th Meeting of the Data Quality Working Group Arlington, Virginia, USA, 10 - 12 May 2016

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The 11th meeting of the IHO Data Quality Working Group (DQWG) was hosted from 10 to 12 May 2016 in Arlington, Virginia, USA, by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) at a venue made available by the Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services (RTCM). The meeting was chaired by Mr Antti Cástren (Finland). Nine delegates from seven Member States (Australia, Finland, France, Italy, Netherlands, United Kingdom, and USA) and one expert contributor from industry (Jeppesen Marine) attended the meeting. Additional NOAA representatives, including the Chair of the S-100 Working Group, participated in some sessions. Assistant Director Yves Guillam represented the IHB.



Participants in the DQWG-11 meeting, Arlington, USA

The meeting began with a comprehensive review of the work items and priorities of the DQWG programme of work, focusing on the milestones and the ways and means to deliver expected outputs in a relatively short timeframe. This review was intended to assist in reconsidering the role of the DQWG and the continuation of its activities. It was agreed that the DQWG should focus on delivering the data quality elements of the IHO S-101 – *ENC Product Specification*, and once this had been achieved, an evaluation of its remaining tasks could be completed at its next session, prior to the HSSC-9 meeting in 2017.

Following these agreed priorities, the meeting worked on the finalization of the data quality model and the decision tree for designating the quality of bathymetric data in S-101. . Considering the effort that

would be required of Hydrographic Offices to implement a new scheme, the group decided to recommend retaining the current CATZOC threshold values for data quality. As a consequence, the transition from S-57 to S-101, as far as the quality of bathymetric data is concerned, should be more easily implemented and automated.

Fruitful discussions were sparked by two papers that covered guidance on assessing respectively temporal variations of the seafloor and overlapping depth-related features, in particular for areas of mobile seafloor. It was suggested to forward these papers to the North Sea Hydrographic Commission (NSHC) Resurvey Working Group prior to the 32nd Conference of the NSHC. Other actions that were agreed included inviting the S-101 Project Team to consider the definition of new attributes regarding swept areas and deep water routes. It was also decided to review the data quality criteria contained in the European INSPIRE Directive to derive enhancements to the relevant sections of S-100 if needed.

Interesting presentations in relation to data quality were delivered on crowd-sourced bathymetry and on the next edition of the *Bowditch's American Practical Navigator* which is in preparation. Contributions can be emailed directly to Bowditch2017@nga.mil.

The next meeting of the DQWG is scheduled to take place from 13 to 15 June 2017 in The Hague, Netherlands.

Further information concerning the meeting is available on the IHO web site at www.iho.int > Committees & WG > DQWG > DQWG-11.