

Paper for Consideration by the ENCWG

**Outcome of the 4th session of the
IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications, Search and Rescue (6-10 March 2017)**

Submitted by:	IHO Secretariat
Executive Summary:	This paper informs the ENCWG of the outcome of the 4 th session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications, Search and Rescue (NCSR 4, 6-10 March 2017) and highlights items relevant to the maintenance of ENC standards.
Related Documents:	HSSC8-07.2A, IHO CL 12/2017, ENCWG2-7.4A, NCSR 4/27/5, NCSR 4/WP.1
Related Projects:	Maintenance of ENC standards

Introduction / Background

1. The 4th session of the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR 4) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) took place at the IMO Headquarters in London, United Kingdom from 6 to 10 March 2017. The Sub-Committee addressed a significant number of items of interest to IHO Member States. This paper reports on the items relevant to the maintenance of ENC standards.

Analysis/Discussion/Recommendations

2. The IHO Secretariat reported on the monitoring of ECDIS issues and Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC) coverage under agenda item 27 - Any other business. The IHO confirmed the withdrawal of the previous versions of the IHO standards for ECDIS on 31 August 2017 as agreed at NCSR 3 in 2016, following the entry into force of the revised set of IHO standards in August 2015. No comment was made on this confirmation.

3. The IHO Secretariat highlighted that some items of MSC.1/Circ.1503 (*ECDIS – Guidance for good practice*) related in particular to operating anomalies will no longer be relevant for up-to-date ECDIS and invited the Sub-Committee to consider the merit of revising the Circular in connection with the possible development of port State Control (PSC) guidelines on ECDIS. The Sub-Committee noted that the IMO Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW), at its 4th session (30 January - 3 February 2017) had revised the "ECDIS Training" section (part E) of MSC.1/Circ.1503, with the view of approval by MSC 98. HTW 4 had also issued STCW.7/Circ.24 on *Interim Guidance for Parties, Administrations, port State control authorities, recognized organizations and other relevant parties on the requirements under the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended*, which addressed, among others, the guidance to PSC authorities in relation to the training and familiarization provisions for ECDIS.

4. The Sub-Committee also noted that the development of corrections to the PSC guidelines was already being considered by the IMO Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments (III), including a number of concerns raised by Australia in document III 3/5/5 related to poor navigational practices and difficulties in operating electronic navigation equipment. A view was expressed that this was an important issue as it referred to the capability of the users of ECDIS and fundamental navigational practices, which might not be addressed by the PSC guidelines. A concern was also expressed in respect to the apparent and inappropriate use of ENC/ECDIS Data Presentation and Performance Check for ships by port State control and of vetting inspectors to check the implementation of ECDIS carriage requirements. Following discussion, the Sub-Committee decided not to take any further actions.

5. Taking into account the outcome of NCSR 4, the IHO Secretariat intends to:
 - a. respond to future ship reports of ENC/ECDIS Data Presentation and Performance Check with a reminder of the deadline for implementing the revised set of IHO standards related to ECDIS;
 - b. monitor the documents related to ECDIS issues that may be submitted to III 4 (25-29 September 2017) and take any action that may be appropriate in accordance with the recommendations in paper ENCWG2-7.4A.

Action required of the ENCWG

6. The ENCWG is invited to:
 - a. note this report
 - b. consider the information provided in this report when discussing paper ENVWG2-7.4A; and
 - c. take any other actions considered necessary.