Paper for Consideration by ENCWG3

Issues with CATZOC = U

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Executive Summary: CATZOC U is still causing problems for vessels sailing paperless. Without a

meaningful value of CATZOC within the ENC vessels do not have any data

to calculate accurate UKC.

Related Documents: Circular Letter 50/2017, S-57 UOC

Introduction / Background

During the ENCWG 2 meeting in Italy it was agreed to address the problem of CATZOC U in ENCs by issuing a Circular Letter to all MS. In Aug 2017 the IHO issued Circular Letter 50/2017 - Requirement to Provide Meaningful CATZOC Information in ENCs, this called upon HOs to review their current ENC production processes and begin populating CATZOC correctly.

Analysis/Discussion

There is still a considerable amount of work to do to ensure the global ENC dataset has been encoded correctly with meaningful CATZOC values.

To assess the current size of the issue the IHO still face regarding CATZOC U the Admiralty Vector Chart Service (AVCS) was analysed to calculate how many ENCs still were using this attribute value.

There are currently 16,097 cells commercially available within AVCS, of these cells it was found that 38% of the current ENCs available where encoded with a CATZOC value of U.

Recommendations

From these results, we can see that there is still a large amount of work that is still to be done. All HOs are urged to review their current ENC production processes and make changes where necessary to encode meaningful values of CATZOC.

Justification and Impacts

For Mariners adopting digital navigation and sailing on vessels completely paperless the encoding of the ENC object M_QUAL with a CATZOC value 6: zone of confidence U (data not assessed) gives no information to be able to compute a meaningful Under Keel Clearance (UKC). Without a value of CATZOC that can be used the Mariner is forced to adopt a worst-case scenario and insist upon a large UKC rendering some ports out of bounds.

Action Required of ENCWG

The ENCWG is invited to:

Discuss the paper and consider if there are any other actions the ENCWG can take to encourage MS to populate CATZOC with meaningful values.