

Paper for Consideration by ENCWG3

S-63 template for the README.TXT file

Submitted by:	Intertanko
Executive Summary:	In creating the INTERTANKO Navigation and ECDIS Guidelines, some issues have been identified with ECDIS and ENC's that require mariners to apply workarounds.
Related Documents:	S-63 1.2 - INTERTANKO Navigation and ECDIS Guidelines

Introduction / Background

Intertanko submitted a paper to HSSC 9 highlighting several issues they had encountered when using ENC's in ECDIS. Many of the issues raised are being dealt with by the ENCWG and will improve the navigational experience for the user.

Analysis/Discussion

Although the inclusion of the README.TXT file is not mandated in the S-57 Product Specification it has become an important source of information in all commercial ENC services, especially given the increasing amount of ENC's available from many different producer nations. Many of the README.TXT files consist of disclaimers and specific information from the countries that deliver ENC's. This information sometimes could be navigationally significant and required to be reviewed for changes when the ECDIS is updated.

Example of Readme Text files:

UK Admiralty:

<https://www.admiralty.co.uk/AdmiraltyDownloadMedia/AVCS/README.txt>

ENC's for New Zealand:

<http://www.linz.govt.nz/sea/charts/electronic-navigational-charts-encs#encreadme>

A lot of the information in readme text file is repeated in every update and navigator may miss the important information

Recommendations

INTERTANKO Suggest having an Initial (base) readme file which may contain the standard information which currently repeated in every update. In addition to this create a new file to contain only the changed or amended information. IHO may consider to include with fixed categories and only contents the key information for navigators (eg. ENC DATA APPEARANCE, UPDATES/ CHANGES, WITHDRAWN ENC's.). All countries that produces ENC should follow.

Justification and Impacts

Standardizing the README.TXT file will allow quicker retrieval of navigational information.

Action Required of ENCWG

The ENCWG is invited to review and discuss the proposal presented by Intertanko.