

9th Meeting of the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) Ottawa, Canada, 6-10 November 2017

The ninth meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) was hosted by the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS). The meeting took place at the Fairmount Château Laurier Hotel in Ottawa, Canada from 6 to 10 November 2017. The Director General of CHS, Mr Denis Hains, opened the meeting and welcomed participants to Ottawa.

The meeting was chaired by Acting Chair of the HSSC Mr Mike Prince, Australia, and attended by 56 representatives from 22 Member States, the IHO Secretariat, and six international organizations accredited as observers. The IHO Secretary-General Dr Mathias Jonas, Director Abri Kampfer and Assistant Directors Yves Guillam and Tony Pharaoh represented the IHO Secretariat.

The Chair Group, composed of the Chairs of the HSSC and of its subordinate bodies, met on 6 November to discuss the major items on the agenda and prepare consolidated proposals for the further consideration of the Committee.

The Committee reviewed the activities, proposals, and work plans of its subordinate bodies and the decisions of other organs and organizations affecting its work and decided on a number of outcomes.



HSSC9 participants

A summary of the main outcomes is described below:

IHO Assembly-1 Decisions related to HSSC

The HSSC Chair reported that there were several issues related to the work of the HSSC and its subordinated bodies that were discussed at the first IHO Assembly. The most significant item affecting HSSC was the task to add an annex to IHO Resolution 2/2007 – *Principles and Procedures for Making Changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications* – providing guidance on the procedure for conducting impact studies.

Decisions from the IHO Council (C-1) affecting HSSC

The HSSC decided to consider the amendments to IHO Resolution 2/2007 requested by the Assembly in two steps, as a consequence of the decisions made at C-1 since it was endorsed that the procedure for approving proposals made by HSSC and IRCC will remain the same until the 2nd Session of the IHO Assembly (A-2). HSSC was therefore invited to consider their Terms of Reference (TORs) in parallel to the revision of IHO Resolution 2/2007 and to submit amendments for endorsement at the 3rd meeting of the Council for approval at A-2.

IHO publications S-66 Ed. 1.1.0, S-57 Appendix B.1, Annex A, Ed. 4.1.0 and S-11 Part A, Ed. 3.1.0 were endorsed by the Council and IHO Circular Letters seeking Member States' approval had been issued accordingly.

The HSSC Members were informed of the key priorities of the IHO Work Programme 2 – *Hydrographic Services and Standards* – that were highlighted and endorsed at C-1.

It was also noted that the Council tasked HSSC to establish a prioritized list of work items that need Special Project funding: the three requests made at HSSC-9 (development of the S-101 Portrayal Catalogue and Portrayal Catalogue Builder, creation of S-58 datasets, development of S-127 – *Traffic Management* – product specification), were approved for being funded.

S-100 and related activities

The S-100WG Chair reported that S-100 Ed 3.0.0 had been published in June 2017 and a schedule for the publications of future edition of S-100 in order to accommodate maintenance and extension to the standard was proposed and adopted.

It was noted that the draft Edition 1.0.0 of the S-100 Interoperability Specification, applicable to navigation systems only, had been completed by the S-100WG and the S-98 number was allocated to this publication.

The Committee welcomed the nomination of Mr Al Armstrong, as new S-101 Project Team Chair, noting that the development of S-101 ENC is clearly identified as the cornerstone of the IHO Work Programme 2. The participants also welcome the progress made in the development of S-121 – *Maritime Limits and Boundaries* – which is expected by the United Nations Division for Oceans and Law of the Sea (DOALOS) to enable Member States to meet their obligations to depositing their maritime limits and boundaries (more information on: www.s-121.com).

Noting to the upcoming availability of S-100 based products, proposals were made to implement robust validation checks procedures, and to use the test bed platform under development by the Republic of Korea, in general, and the validation tool developed by Canada for S-111 – *Surface Currents*.

The Committee noted the good progress made in the development of nautical information S-100 based products, such as S-122 – *Marine Protected Areas* – and S-123 – *Radio Services* – and the forthcoming challenges (effective and harmonized production, quality insurance, distribution, carriage requirements, etc.) associated with the publication of S-100 based product specifications and commissioning of S-100 based products. It was recommended that discussions on possible implementation and production plans should start in the working groups, regional hydrographic commissions, and other IHO appropriate bodies.

The HSSC agreed on the critical need for the Data Quality Working Group (DQWG) to pursue its activities, and new Terms of Reference were adopted aiming to ensure that data quality aspects are addressed in an appropriate and harmonized way for all S-100 based Product Specifications. The quality indicators for bathymetric data in S-57 ENCs and S-101 ENCs remains a critical issue that was addressed, on one hand through the development of the draft of a new publication S-67 - *Mariners' Guide to Accuracy and Reliability of ENC* – and the presentation of a possible conditional visualization methodology.

ECDIS matters and Nautical Cartography

The ENCWG Chair reported on the revisions to a number of IHO publications completed in 2017 (S-52; S-64; S-57 UOC¹, S-58, S-65 and S-66). Fruitful discussions on high density bathymetric contours in ENC's led to the conclusion that the ENCWG needed to identify the current limitations in S-57, while ENC Producers will be invited to include more contour lines in their ENC's as appropriate. Various concerns raised by INTERTANKO in its report (un-assessed CATZOC areas, high density contour lines, T&Ps, portrayal issues) provided useful mariners feedback and were addressed at the meeting as part of the ENCWG report.

The NCWG reported that Edition 4.7.0 of S-4 had been issued and the study on the “future of paper chart” was now progressing by a sub-group. The HSSC requested the NCWG to consider recent investigation reports about nautical accidents and to provide recommendations for amending the IHO standards and guidance documents if appropriate.

The Committee noted the informative report of the representative of the International Electro Technical Commission (IEC). The representative of the IEC presented the typical time line required to produce a major new revision of an IEC standard, which includes S-100 concepts for ECDIS, as well as the IEC concept of stability date.

Hydrographic Surveys Project Team (HSPT)

The HSPT reported that a number of the limitations in the current version of S-44 was identified at its first meeting and a questionnaire was produced intended to gauge the views of users and stakeholders. The Committee encouraged the HSPT to pursue its work under the proposed course of actions which includes the development of a matrix approach for the next Edition of S-44. The submission of Ed. 6 of S-44 for endorsement by HSSC is targeted in 2019-20.

Relations with Other Bodies and Stakeholders

The Committee welcomed the various presentations given by Chair of the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee, the stakeholders and expert contributors. The HSSC benefited in particular from the informative report by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), and from the user perspective provided by INTERTANKO. The awareness report provided by the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) was welcome and further actions covering cables data release, associated surveys, and the charting of cables were identified.

Chairmanship

At the end of the meeting, Captain Luigi Sinapi (Italy) and Mr Michael Prince (Australia) were elected as Chair and Vice-Chair of the HSSC respectively for the period of 2018 to 2020.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the HSSC (HSSC-10) is scheduled to be held in Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany from 14 to 17 May 2018. Future HSSC meetings are also to be held at this season of the year in order to synchronize the resulting reporting activities with the schedule of the IHO Council.

More Information

All documents considered at the meeting and further information are available on the IHO web site at [Home > Committees & WG > HSSC](#).

¹ Use of the Object Catalogue.