

Paper for Consideration by HSSC9

Comments by Shom on S-67 draft

Submitted by:	France (Shom)
Executive Summary:	This paper comments on the S-67 draft that is proposed for endorsement by HSSC, prior to Member States approval.
Related Documents:	Draft publication S-67 "Mariners' Guide To Accuracy And Reliability Of Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC)".
Related Projects:	DQWG Work Plan 2016 -17, Task C.

Introduction / Background

Paper HSSC9-05.5D explains the need for a stand-alone publication that would be a reference guide for mariners and HO's as regard to ENC accuracy, and specifically CATZOC values. A draft version (0.5) of a possible S-67 IHO standard is provided to HSSC9. It is proposed that HSSC endorses this draft before circulation for IHO Member States approval.

Analysis/Discussion

As underlined in paper HSSC9-05.5D, it is true that CATZOC, as it is shown on nautical charts, is not easily understandable by the common mariner. It is also the case with traditional source diagrams (or M_SREL objects in ENCs): a certain "hydrographic" knowledge seems necessary to make the best use of these bathymetry quality indicators. On this aspect, education is surely a key factor and Shom agree that there is probably a need for an IHO publication such as S-67.

S-67 draft, as presented, is quite a complete document. Apart from explaining the various criteria (i.e. horizontal and vertical accuracies, seafloor "coverage") for the calculation of CATZOC value, the document also provide some historical information on hydrography, makes strong references to under-keel clearance navigation and provides guidance to the HO's for the encoding of CATZOC.

As such, S-67 is a document that deals not only with data quality, but with other aspects that are under various HSSC Working Groups. This is why Shom consider that, although the draft document may have already been reviewed by DQWG members, it should be passed to other HSSC WGs (at least NCWG and ENCWG) for review by correspondence before presentation and possible endorsement by HSSC10.

HSSC validation of the concept and general content of the document would probably be a good starting point.

Conclusions

S-67 draft as presented to HSSC9 makes references to various IHO standards (S-4, S-57) which are under the responsibility of identified WGs. It seems desirable that these WGs review the proposed document before endorsement by HSSC.

Recommendations

- HSSC-9 to validate the concept of a S-67 IHO standard;
- HSSC-9 to ask NCWG and ENCWG to review the proposed S-67 draft by correspondence;

- HSSC10 to validate the S-67 final version before submission to the Member States.

Action Required of HSSC

The HSSC is invited to:

- a. note this paper;
- b. discuss the recommendations.