

**IHO/CHRIS Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG)
1st Meeting, IHB, Monaco, 4-5 February 2008**

Terms of Reference

1. Objective

Identify the Hydrographic Community inputs to National Spatial Data Infrastructures (NSDI).

2. Authority

This Working Group (WG) is a subsidiary of the IHO CHRIS. Its work is subject to IHO CHRIS approval.

3. Procedures

The WG should:

- a) Identify, in line with the objectives, mission and vision of the IHO, the level and nature of the IHO's role in assisting Member States (M/S) in their support of NSDI.
- b) Liaise, as appropriate, with other relevant technical bodies such as the IOC, and the World Data Centers in Oceanography, Bathymetry and Marine Geophysics.
- c) Propose any Technical and/or Administrative Resolutions that may be required to reflect IHO involvement in the support of NSDI.
- d) Identify actions and procedures that the IHO might take to contribute to the development of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and / or MSDI in support of Member States.
- e) Determine any actions that the IHO and individual M/S might take to forge links with other bodies (e.g. OGC, ISO TC211, IOC) to ensure M/S are best placed to meet the developing challenges associated with data management and governance.
- f) Identify and recommend possible solutions to any significant technical issues related to interoperability between maritime and land based inputs to NSDI, and in particular:
 - 1) Datum issues.
 - 2) S-100 interoperability with NSDI.
 - 3) S-100 interoperability with oceanographic, marine biological, geological and geophysical data structures.
- g) Identify any IHO capacity building requirements.
- h) The WG should work by correspondence, and use group meetings, workshops or symposia only if required.
- i) Submit a report and recommendations to CHRIS/20 in 2008 for subsequent consideration at the 4th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference in 2009.

4. Composition and Chairmanship

- a) The WG shall comprise representatives of Member States, Expert Contributors and Accredited NGIO Observers, all of whom have expressed their willingness to participate.
- b) Member States, Expert Contributors and Accredited NGIO Observers may indicate their willingness to participate at any time. A membership list shall be maintained and confirmed annually.
- c) Expert Contributor membership is open to entities and organisations that can provide a relevant

and constructive contribution to the work of the WG.

- d) The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be a representative of a Member State. The election of the Chair and Vice-Chair should normally be decided at the first meeting after each ordinary session of the Conference (Conference to be replaced by Assembly when the revised IHO Convention enters force) and, in such case, shall be determined by vote of the Member States present and voting.
- e) Decisions should generally be made by consensus. If votes are required on issues or to endorse proposals presented to the WG, only M/S may cast a vote. Votes shall be on the basis of one vote per M/S represented. In the event that votes are required between meetings or in the absence of meetings, including for elections of the Chair and Vice Chair, this shall be achieved through a postal ballot of those M/S on the current membership list.
- f) If a secretary is required it should normally be drawn from a member of the WG.
- g) If the Chair is unable to carry out the duties of the office, the Vice-Chair shall act as the Chair with the same powers and duties.
- h) Expert Contributors shall seek approval of membership from the Chairman.
- i) Expert Contributor membership may be withdrawn in the event that a majority of the M/S represented in the WG agrees that an Expert Contributor's continued participation is irrelevant or unconstructive to the work of the WG.
- j) All members shall inform the Chairman in advance of their intention to attend any meetings of the WG.
- k) In the event that a large number of Expert Contributor members seek to attend a meeting, the Chairman may restrict attendance by inviting Expert Contributors to act through one or more collective representatives.