

## 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Worldwide ENC Database (WEND) Working Group (WENDWG), Buenos Aires, Argentina, 20 – 22 March 2018

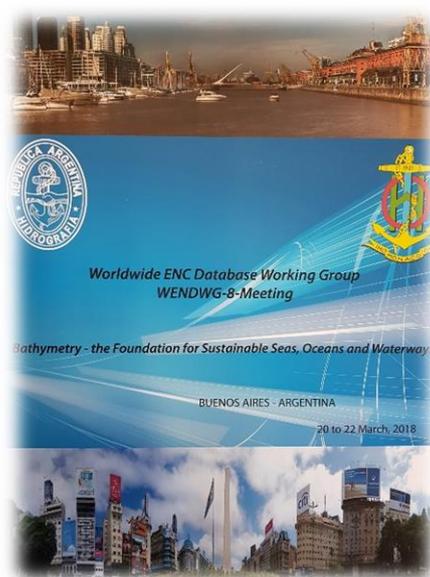
Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2018	
Task 3.4.1	Organize, prepare and report annual meetings of the WEND Working Group - Foster the implementation of the WEND principles, monitor progress and report to IRCC

The eight meeting of the Worldwide ENC Database Working Group (WENDWG) took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, hosted by the Hydrographic Service of the Navy (SHN) of Argentina, from 20 to 22 March, in conjunction with the 3<sup>rd</sup> joint meeting of the Regional ENC Coordinating Centres (RENC), IC-ENC and PRIMAR. The meeting was chaired by Mr Jamie McMichael-Phillips (United Kingdom). Thirty-two delegates from thirteen Member States (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States) representing twelve Regional Hydrographic Commissions (ARHC, BSHC, EAHC, EAHC, MACHC, MBSHC, NHC, NSHC, RSAHC, SAIHC, SWaHC and USCHC), the Chairs of the IC ENC Steering Committee and PRIMAR Advisory Committee and the directors of both RENCs attended the meeting. Additionally, five expert contributors from industry stakeholders and academia participated as observers by invitation of the WENDWG Chair. Director Mustafa Iptes and Assistant Director Yves Guillam (Secretary) represented the IHO Secretariat.

The main objectives of the WEND Working Group are to advise the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) and to assist in facilitating a world-wide consistent level of high-quality, updated official ENC through integrated services that support chart carriage requirements of SOLAS Chapter V and the requirements of the IMO Performance Standards for ECDIS.

Comodore Valentín Alejandro Sanz Rodríguez, Director of the SHN, welcomed the participants, highlighting the key role played by the WENDWG within the IHO for the safety of mariners.

Following the adoption of the IHO Resolution 1/2018 - *Elimination of overlapping ENC data in areas of demonstrable risk to the safety of navigation* -, the meeting discussed the ways and means that are at the disposal of the ENC Producers, the RENCs and the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) to implement it. It was noted that the IHO has now all the necessary tools in place to reach the objective of the elimination of overlapping ENC data (overlap checker, IC ENC policy as a decision aid on risk assessment and the new Edition 3.1.0 of S-11 Part A – *Guidance for the preparation and maintenance of ENC schemes*).



The meeting agreed to investigate the possibility of acquiring a world-wide AIS (Automatic Identification System) traffic density database to facilitate the assessment of gaps in the ENC coverage by ENC Producers and the International Charting Coordination Working Groups (ICCWG). The aim is to make the database available through the enhanced version of the INTToGIS system (INTToGIS II), developed by KHOA<sup>1</sup> in liaison with the IHO Secretariat. The representatives of the six RHCs present, agreed to experiment with INTToGIS II. The task on the monitoring of gaps will be complemented by

<sup>1</sup> Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency, Republic of Korea.

the updates to the List of Ports database<sup>2</sup> to be provided by the RHCs on a regular basis. With regards to the ENC coverage and availability, the WENDWG agreed to commission a more user-friendly version of the IHO ENC Coverage Catalogue that was under development since 2016 as part of the actions identified for a better implementation of the WEND Principles.

The WENDWG commended the high quality support provided by IC-ENC and PRIMAR and noted the establishment of the East Asia-Regional ENC Coordination Centre (EA-RECC). The representative of the EA-RECC was invited to participate in the future Joint RENCs e-meetings. The WENDWG addressed the need for all types of vessels (SOLAS, leisure boats, etc.) to be in a position, for safety reasons, to get access to the most updated navigational data (S-57) and invited the RENCs to consider the way forward for offering harmonized license management services to their Members. The WENDWG Members also agreed to consider supporting the GEBCO Seabed 2030 Initiative, as soon as this enlargement of the scope of the WENDWG is endorsed by IRCC.

The meeting reviewed its work programme and agreed on the top priority work items to be proposed for IRCC's endorsement.

Mr Jamie McMichael-Phillips (UK) and Mr John Nyberg (US) were re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair of the WENDWG respectively.

The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WENDWG is scheduled to be held in Brest, France, in early 2019.



*WENDWG-8 participants in Buenos Aires, Argentina*

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<sup>2</sup> NGA Publication 150.