

Status report from the IHO EU Network WG (IENWG)

1. Background

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is established between the IHO and the European Commission (EC). The purpose is to provide a framework ensuring a continuing liaison between IHO and EU in the specific areas of common interest. The EU Commission's Directorate General (DG) for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) acts as the contact point on the EC side. From the IHO side the IHO-EU Network WG (IENWG) has been established as a working group under IRCC, which acts as the IHO contact point. The IENWG is chaired by France, Laurent Louvart, and consists of representatives from all Regional Hydrographic Commissions concerned. Germany represents the NSHC.

2. IHO-EU Network meetings and representatives

Since the 32nd NSHC meeting in June 2016 several IENWG meetings have been accomplished. Especially worth mentioning are two meetings with the EC. The first one in Brussels 13 – 14 October 2016 was arranged back to back with a presentation for the EU Committee of regions conference on "The Importance of Marine data for the Development of the Blue Economy on Local and Regional Level".

The second one has been held only four weeks ago in Brussels 27 – 28 February 2018. The internal plenary IENWG-8 meeting on the first day had the following major topics:

- Future work and structure of the IENWG
- Marine Spatial Planning
- EU Projects
- Wide scope uses of S 102 Standard (not limited to safety of navigation)
- Historical Documents

On the second day the 9th EC-IHO meeting was held at the CPMR Offices under the headline "Protecting our coasts: how to anticipate and monitor coastal risks". Several DGs and representatives were present (DG Mare, CPMR, EMODnet, Copernicus, EuroGOOS/EOOS and representatives from several regions. Very positive was the excellent representation of HOs from the NSHC. Important topics were

- Visibility of hydrography
- Future perspectives of co-operation
- Participation of IHO representatives in EuroGOOS Assembly and EOOS Conference

On the preparatory IENWG meeting for that event on 6 – 7 February 2018 Laurent Louvart, France has been re-elected as chair of the IENWG. Corine Lochet

The following member states represent the RHCs concerned:

- • Arctic HC (ARHC) – Denmark
- • Baltic Sea HC (BSHC) – Sweden
- • Eastern Atlantic HC (EAthC) – France
- • Mediterranean and Black Seas HC – Greece
- • Nordic HC (NHC) – Norway
- • North Sea HC (NSHC) – Germany
- • The IHO is represented by Director Abri Kampfner
- The meetings are always open for any IHO member state to participate in. Italy and UK participated regularly in the IENWG meetings.

3. Projects in the framework of the IHO-EU Network

Coastal Mapping

A consortium, led by SHOM (FR) with 19 partners from 15 countries was awarded the contract by the DG MARE in June 2015.

See <http://coastal-mapping.eu/>. An algorithm has been developed, and is available in the portal, in order to calculate and suggest suitable survey methods for different depths ranges and different turbidity. The project was finalized in December 2016. The portal will be up and running until 2018. A proposal of a future Joint European Mapping Programme has been proposed and has been presented to the EU Commission. Involved from the NSHC in the project were Belgium, France (lead), Germany, Ireland, Norway and Sweden.

EMODnet phase 3 - High Resolution Seabed Mapping

The EMODnet data infrastructure is being constructed in three major phases and is currently in the 3rd phase of development (2017 - 2020). Building on the EMODnet Bathymetry portal developed during Phase I (2009-2013) & Phase 2 (2013-2017), Phase 3 will see further upgrading of the EMODnet Digital Terrain Models (DTM), including incorporation of more surveys and further improvement of the digital bathymetry. Satellite Derived Bathymetry (SDB) data will be included to cover gaps in survey coverage. Coverage of the DTM will be extended to include also the European coastal zones as well as the European Arctic region and Barentz sea. Furthermore, higher resolution DTM will be developed and made available where underlying data are available and released for publication by its owners. (see also <http://www.emodnet.eu/> and <http://portal.emodnet-bathymetry.eu/>):

The Commission is invited to

- take note of the report;
 - discuss the future perspectives of the WG and the networking
 - decide on the representative of the NSHC and the communication with the MS
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