

NSHC 33 Conference
Ostend, Belgium
27th of March 2018

Explanatory note
Item B.3
France

Status report of the Strategic Plan Review Working Group (SPRWG)

1. Background

The establishment and maintenance of a Strategic Plan was decided by the International Hydrographic Conference by its resolution 12/2002 as amended. At its first meeting in April 2017, the Assembly of the IHO tasked (decision 3) the Council of the IHO to:

- Conduct a comprehensive review of the Strategic Plan.
- Provide a draft revised Plan to the 2nd Assembly (2020).

At its 1st meeting in October 2017, the Council of the IHO decided (decision 37) to:

- Establish a Strategic Plan Review Working Group.
- Propose draft ToR and RoP.

The IHO circular letter 66/2017 asked Member States (MS) for approval of the ToR & RoP. The IHO circular letter 20/2018 issued the final version of ToR & RoP and the list of MS who expressed their intent to participate to the correspondence work of the WG.

2. SPRWG programme and membership

The work is to be conducted in a two stages process, with milestones for reporting to the Council, which will submit a report and recommendations to the Assembly in 2020.

- Scoping phase: review and restate the strategic contexts; propose the definition of success for IHO in 2026; identify deficiencies in the existing Plan; consider appropriate goals, and means that could address deficiencies; establish management plan for drafting proposed revisions to the Plan.
- Drafting phase: define criteria for measuring success and propose priorities; consider the interrelation to budget, WP and performance indicators; prepare draft revised plan in accordance with management plan and timetable.

Membership (NSHC members underlined): Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mozambique, Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Suriname, United-Kingdom, United-States of America

Chair: Bruno Frachon (FR)

Vice-chair: Shigeru Nakabayashi (JP)

Secretary Doug Brunt (CA)

3. SPRWG timelines

For the scoping phase:

- 31st of March 2018: inputs from the WG members are awaited on : strategic assumptions; current shortfall of the Organization, most desired improvements and definition of success for IHO in 2026.
- 9th of April: synthesis.
- 20th of May 2018: inputs from WG members on appropriate goals, ways and means that could address deficiencies.
- 5th of June 2018: SPRWG meeting back-to-back to the IRCC-10 meeting (Goa).
- 30th of June 2018: proposal to the WG members by the chair of a management plan for drafting proposed revisions to the Plan.
- 1st of August 2018: interim report provided to the IHO Secretary General, for submission to the members of the Council (normally before the 9th of August).

The Council will hold its second meeting from the 9th of October 2018, and will review the interim report and provide further guidance to the SPRWG.

The final report of the second phase (drafting phase) will have to be submitted to the members of the Council before mid-August 2019.

4. Reflection topics proposed by chair

From received contributions and discussions, the chair has proposed to the WG some topics for further reflections:

- How the strategic plan should include stakeholders' views: other international organizations, which have their own strategic plans, specific communities (mariners and others). This could lead to have more focus on how these communities are using hydrographic products.
- Data, and the posture of IHO: given the increasing role of data, and the diversity of organizations involved in marine data, what should be the scope of IHO in that field?
- Speed of technology: taking into account the role of an international organization, are there domains for which making faster or simpler would be beneficial for the IHO?
- Communication: what place should have communication in the strategic plan, for instance with regard with objective as the "awareness of the necessity of hydrography"?
- Scope of the strategic plan: which balance between general strategic directions and precise objectives?

Other important matters raised through contributions from WG members will have also to be handled, like the capability of IHO MS to follow the pace of technology and of building or maintaining the effective hydrographic capabilities necessary to fulfil their international commitments in the maritime field.

5. Actions for the commission

The Commission is invited to

- Take note of the report.
- Discuss its possible contribution to the SPRWG.