

**International Hydrographic
Organization**



**United States - Canada
Hydrographic Commission**



Minutes

International Hydrographic Organization

UNITED STATES - CANADA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

Charting Advisors Committee Teleconference

February 25, 2005

Co-Chairs

Ms. Kathryn Ries

Deputy Director, Office of Coast Survey

National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA)

Mr. Paul Holroyd

Manager, Nautical Publications & Distribution

Canadian Hydrographic Service

Participants

CHS

Pacific Region: Dave Jackson

Central Region: Brent Beale

Ottawa: Sean Hinds, Don Vachon, Savi Narayanan, Doug Brunt

Quebec Region: Michelle Grenier

Atlantic Region: Dick MacDougall, Steve Forbes, Nick Palmer

NOAA

Captain Jim Gardner, NOAA, Chief, Marine Chart Division

Alexandra Heliotis, Deputy Chief, Marine Chart Division

Mike Gibson, Chief, Hydrographic Surveys Division (HSD)

LCDR Carl Groeneveld, Deputy Chief, Hydrographic Surveys Division

LCDR John Swallow, Chief, Operations Branch, HSD

Captain Steve Barnum, NOAA, Chief, Navigation Services Division

Jeff Ferguson, Hydrographic Surveys Division

Kathryn Mork, International Programs

Meg Danley, International Programs

INTRODUCTIONS/WELCOME

Ms. Kathryn Ries welcomed everyone and thanked them for taking time from their schedules to participate in this conference call. She noted that the agenda was very full and anticipated a productive meeting. Mr. Paul Holroyd also welcomed everyone, and all participants of the call identified themselves. Of particular note on the Canadian side was the presence of Ms. Savi Narayanan, the Acting Dominion Hydrographer.

MINUTES OF 2004 USCHC AND CAC MEETINGS

The minutes of the last USCHC meeting were approved and Ms. Ries suggested that rather than run through each of the actions in the minutes, they would be addressed throughout the agenda of this meeting. The 2004 Charting Advisors Committee meeting was a simplified telephone conference and no official notes were taken.

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

Mr. Holroyd indicated that there have been a number of personnel changes in CHS over the past year:

- Mr. Tony O'Connor, former Dominion Hydrographer, retired a month ago.
- Mr. Denis Hains, former Acting Dominion Hydrographer, has left CHS for a new assignment.
- Ms. Savi Narayanan has assumed the role of the Acting Dominion Hydrographer until April 2005.
- Mr. Michel Poulin is on an education detail for a year.
- Keith Weaver is the new Acting Regional Hydrographer for the Central and Arctic Region.
- Mr. Jean-Claude Bouchard, Associate Deputy Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, who has been a good friend of CHS, is leaving the department

Ms. Ries introduced Ms. Kathryn Mork who is now working with Meg Danley on international programs. With this exception, there have been no personnel changes in OCS/NOAA over the past year. However, Ms. Ries gave a brief overview of two important activities that are strongly influence Coast Survey's activities and direction.

- At the USCHC meeting last year, Captain Roger Parsons, Director of Office of Coast Survey, discussed the draft report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. On September 20, 2004, the White House formally received the Commission's Final Report and the President was required by the Oceans Act of 2000 to respond to the Report within ninety-days. On December 17, 2004, the President submitted to Congress the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, his formal response to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy recommendations for a national ocean policy for the responsible use and stewardship of ocean and coastal resources for the benefit of the United States and abroad. This Action Plan established a Cabinet-level position on Ocean Policy and directed activities such as building a Global Ocean Observing System; focused coordinated ocean research and ocean observations; better coordination of ocean mapping activities across Agencies; supporting accession to UNCLOS; and a focus on ecosystem management including coral reefs, among others.

ACTION: Provide CHS with the U.S. Ocean Action Plan. (Done - attached)

- The Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 2002 mandated the establishment of a Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP) on hydrographic matters. The Panel is composed of 15 voting members appointed by the Administrator and representing a wide range of navigation interests and the length of appointment is staggered from two to four years to ensure continuity. These Panel members cannot be government employees, though retirees are eligible, and do not have to be U.S. citizens. Ms. Ries pointed out that Steve McPhee, past

Dominion Hydrographer, was on the nomination list in the past, though a technicality prevented his selection, and future candidates could be nominated from Canada. The fourth meeting of the HSRP will be held in San Diego, CA, for two days immediately following the U.S. Hydrographic Conference 2005.

ACTION: Send list of HSRP members to CHS.

(see website: <http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ocs/hsrp/hsrp.htm>. This contains all the information on the HSRP. If you click on "Panel", you will get the list of names of members and can access their biographies. You can also get information on the charter, meetings, history, etc.)

Inform CHS when future HSRP candidate solicitations are issued next year.

Canada has established a Charting Advisory Board with the goal of developing a new level of service. A consultation was held last Fall and a report was received in December. Another panel meeting will be held next week (week of Feb 28-Mar 4). It was suggested that CHS should look at broadening the panel's mandate.

Canada also has an Ocean Action Plan for which Dick Macdougall is the CHS lead. The budget was announced 2 days ago (Feb 23), but it was considerably less than what had been requested, so it isn't yet known which activities will be funded. The government agencies report to a Deputy Minister and the Canadian plan is somewhat parallel to the U.S. Ocean Action Plan.

ACTION: CHS will send information on its Advisory Board and Ocean Action Plan.

In 2003, Canada ratified a budget for UNCLOS work. Two-thirds of funding is for geological survey work; one-third is for bathymetry (led by Dick MacDougall). Canada is doing cost sharing with Denmark for ice shelf surveys in the Arctic. Dick MacDougall would like to meet with Andy Armstrong in San Diego to discuss respective survey plans and possible areas of collaboration.

ACTION: Andy Armstrong and Dick MacDougall should meet at the US Hydrographic Conference 2005 to discuss possible collaboration with a view to present recommendations to the Commission meeting, if possible.

Personnel Exchanges

Both OCS and CHS agreed that personnel are important and valuable, but also difficult with limited resources in both organizations. It was agreed that both agencies should look for opportunities. It might be easier resource-wise if attached to a project, such as transboundary ENC production. One area of interest for exchange and sharing experiences is NavSurface.

ACTION: Both OCS and CHS will look for cartographic and hydrographic opportunities for personnel exchanges, including on board ships, with field parties, and in the office.

CHARTING

Post-CRADA Plans

Captain Jim Gardner discussed OCS' plans for both raster charts and Print-On-Demand (POD) when both CRADAs with Maptech and Oceangrafix end in June 2005. OCS is currently working with NOAA's Procurement Office to develop contracts to replace the CRADAs. These will both be open competition. However, due to the slow procurement process, it may be necessary to extend one or both CRADAs for up to 6 months. It is planned that the POD contract would be at no cost to the Government to do basically what Oceangrafix is doing under the CRADA. Oceangrafix can bid on this contract, but there are no guarantees they would be awarded the contract. The contractor would do their own marketing, set up a network of remote printers, and do all the coordination with these printers regarding the POD process. The contractor will keep all the profits from their efforts; they will not need to return any profits to the Government.

ACTION: Captain Gardner will send the specifications for these contracts to CHS.

Transboundary ENC Production

Captain Jim Gardner presented a proposal for how to proceed with determining a method of dealing with the production of ENCs along the U.S. and Canada borders. Using several color-coded overhead slides of the NOAA charts along the borders (attached), Captain Gardner discussed the need for a policy decision to be made before cartographers from both countries are asked to technically implement them.

Captain Gardner pointed out that under the single agency agreement for production of paper charts Canada is responsible for most of the charts along the St. Lawrence Seaway. He proposed that NOAA give up the other charts (in paper and electronic format) and in return, take responsibility for the ENCs along the St. Marys River, St Clair River, and the Detroit River. NOAA is committed to its policy of free distribution of ENCs, while Canada recovers profits from the sale of charting products. It will be necessary to discuss the financial impact on Canada of NOAA production of some transboundary ENCs.

The WEND Principle allows splitting ENCs along any mutually agreed upon line, not necessarily along the international boundary, which will allow more flexibility for division of responsibility.

There are several boundary areas that are in dispute between the U.S. and Canada. How should the boundaries in these disputed areas be represented on ENCs? The U.S. Department of State has provided a ruling that it would be permissible to show both boundaries on ENCs and identify the claimed boundary for each country.

ACTION: Would this solution be acceptable to CHS and to the Canada Foreign Ministry?

The Straits of Juan de Fuca present special issues regarding production of charts in a way that best serves the mariner and assures safety of navigation. This among other related issues should be discussed by a policy level working group. However, discussions concerning where the ENC splits should occur should be conducted between the regional offices, but coordinated through headquarters.

Canada needs to have some policy level discussions among themselves regarding ENC's free on the internet, as the U.S. does, versus recouping funds from sales. Discussions will include determining the financial impact of providing ENC's for free, the impact on copyright, and how to show boundaries in disputed areas.

ACTION: Canada will set up a meeting of principals to discuss these policy issues.

One issue that will impact the speed with which a decision can be made regarding ENC production is the legal situation with Canada's former contractor NDI. This must be resolved before any real progress can be made. It's unclear how long it will take to resolve this legal situation.

ACTION: Both sides will identify someone to develop a list of issues that must be addressed regarding transboundary ENC production and state the decision-making level required for each. The list will be developed in time for the Commission meeting. Jim Gardner is the OCS point of contact. Savi Narayanan will send an e-mail to Katie Ries regarding her designated point of contact. (Note: E-mail on Feb 28 from Sean Hinds to Katie Ries stated that he is the Canada point of contact.)

Ms. Narayanan will consider Captain Gardner's proposal regarding the ENC's of the Great Lake waterways. Meanwhile, pending the policy decisions from Canada, working level discussions will proceed regarding technical details affecting who will produce which charts.

ACTION: Captain Jim Gardner will contact each Canadian Regional Director regarding a point of contact for each region to discuss these technical details.

HYDROGRAPHY

Cooperative Activities

See attached report from Mike Gibson concerning collaborative activities between CHS and OCS over the past year.

ACTION: OCS and CHS' Pacific Region participated in the "2nd Process Re-Engineering Workshop" July 28-29, 2004 hosted by CHS. The purpose of the workshops is to collaborate and share expertise and technology advances for advancing hydrographic data processing and compilation. The third workshop is to be hosted by the Pacific Hydrographic Branch in Seattle at a time to be determined, depending on resources. Rob Hare (CHS) will follow up with CDR Don Haines (OCS-PHB) to determine a proposed meeting time/agenda to be presented for consideration at the Commission meeting.

Dave Jackson, CHS, mentioned that a multibeam survey will be conducted for geophysical purposes in the San Juan Islands area. Data is being exchanged between the geophysical offices of both countries, but it is unclear whether the data can be used in charting and if it can be shared with the U.S. Data is being collected to IHO standards but may need formatting for charting purposes. Mike Gibson requested a survey diagram so OCS can determine if it is interested in the data. Canada point of contact is Rob Hare (CHS - Pacific)

ACTION: Dave Jackson will investigate whether data can be used for charting and will coordinate getting a copy of the survey diagram to Mike Gibson.

LCDR Jon Swallow mentioned that as part of NOAA's tsunami efforts, there was a request for Canadian Bathymetric data for use in modeling tsunami inundation mapping priority areas in Georgia Strait and Straights of Juan de Fuca. Rob Hare (CHS – Pacific) is the Canadian contact for providing this data to the Pacific Hydrographic Branch.

ACTION: Lcdr Swallow has contacted CDR Don Haines, NOAA Pacific Hydrographic Branch, and alerted him to these discussions regarding survey data from Canada and requested that he coordinate both activities with Rob Hare.

Mike Gibson mention an action from the 2004 USCHC meeting regarding the possible use of a NOAA ship to survey the Canadian waters off Queen Charlotte Island.

ACTION: Canada will check whether survey is still needed Rob Hare will coordinate with CDR Swallow.

Mike Gibson recommended that an OCS hydrographer participate in a survey with CHS.

ACTION: Dave Jackson will check with Rob Hare.

It was also suggested that perhaps a Canadian hydrographer could spend some time on board the NOAA ship THOMAS JEFFERSON and in the Atlantic Hydrographic Branch (where the survey processing is done), or perhaps a West Coast ship and the Pacific Hydrographic Branch. Canada will consider, but funding may be an issue. After discussions in San Diego, there may also be possible cooperative work on the UNCLOS surveys.

ACTION: Both OCS and CHS will develop a list of exchange possibilities and identify the most promising for presentation at the Commission meeting.

Captain Steve Barnum discussed NOAA's Navigation Response Teams (NRT) which do emergency response surveys as well as field verification of ENC's and conduct surveys in small ports. The NRT based in the Great Lakes will be working out of Chicago from April-October this year and would provide another possible opportunity for personnel exchange. CHS Central Region will consider this offer and the possibility of possible collaboration on Canada's revisory survey program.

ACTION: Captain Barnum will send the NRT schedules to Keith Weaver Acting Director, CHS Central & Arctic Region Office.

PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES–

Navigation Surface and CUBE update

Jeff Ferguson, NOAA's Hydrographic Surveys Division, provided an update on OCS' work with Nav Surface and CUBE. This year NOAA is moving away from having the smooth sheet as the final product for a hydrographic survey. Now it will be a Nav Surface file, which is a high resolution grid with attributes. CARIS HIPS 5.4 has Nav Surface incorporated into it. The NOAA ship THOMAS JEFFERSON used this program all last year and all NOAA field personnel are now being trained. The data will hopefully be archived at the National Geophysical Data Center in Bolder, Colorado.

CUBE can distinguish between fish in the water and the true bottom. By using it for processing, a lot of time is saved. It is planned that CUBE will be implemented across all platforms in the 2006 field season. CHS has some questions concerning OCS' experience with Nav Surface.

ACTION: CHS, particularly Quebec Region, is interested in linking personnel exchanges to Nav Surface. Jeff Ferguson will provide some documentation to CHS (especially Quebec and Pacific Regions). OCS will continue to keep CHS informed of our activities and experiences.

A more detailed report on both Nav Surface and CUBE is attached.

Agenda reordered:

Due to time constraints, Ms. Ries suggested, and Mr. Holroyd agreed, to reorder some of the agenda items. Item 9A (CHS Data for Tsunami Modeling) was moved up next on the agenda. (However, this topic had already been discussed under agenda item 6.)

Item 8a.(Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference and the Strategic Planning Working Group) was discussed in a separate phone call the day before, so was not addressed in this conference call.

ACTION: An important action to note from that call is for CHS to brief their Foreign Affairs Ministry on the SPWG proposals. Since they have implications for changes to the Convention it is important to ensure support from that Ministry. CHS hoped to have a read on the official Canadian position by the USCHC meeting on March 30.

Items 7b. and 7c. will be discussed next and if time allows, a report will be provided on the MACHC ECWG.

Detailed explanation and reports on the Quality Assurance and Certification Program, the "Saving Ships; Protecting Coral" Project, and the activities of the MACHC ECWG, are provided in the annexes to this report, so will not be discussed here.

ACTION: CHS asked if a set of standards is available for products under the Quality Assurance and Certification Program. Ms. Ries will check and, if they are available, will forward them to CHS.

(Since OCS doesn't yet know what kind of products might be submitted for certification, there are no sets of standards at this time. A process has been outlined to be used to develop standards when a particular product is submitted. For example, if someone sends in a cruising guide for certification, standards will be developed for a category « cruising guides », as well as a process (criteria) for comparing any cruising guide submission against these standards. Then each submission within that category will be reviewed using these standards and criteria.)

ACTION: CHS is planning to use Caris Notebook for collecting information objects. CHS should coordinate with CDR Don Haines at the NOAA's Pacific Hydrographic Branch.

ACTION: Endeavor to complete as many actions as possible before the USCHC meeting being held in San Diego, CA, on March 30, 2005, from 1:00-5:00pm.