

**9th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC9**

Paramaribo, Suriname, 12-14 June 2017

Paper for Consideration by IRCC9

Proposal regarding MIO/AIO

Submitted by:	Nordic Hydrographic Commission
Executive Summary:	It is proposed that the MIO service is to be an item on the IRCC and the WEND-WG agenda
Related Documents:	IRCC8-report
Related Projects:	

1. Introduction / Background

At IRCC8 decision 14 the following was recommended based on the input from the WENDWG:

“...to endorse the recommended actions from WENDWG concerning Marine Information Overlays (MIOs) as follows:

Taking into account the report of WENDWG6 concerning the situation where a Marine Information Overlay (MIO) is used to assist in drawing attention to any differences between a published paper chart and the corresponding ENC or to assist in displaying T&P notices for an ENC recommends:

- a) All parties concerned with producing the respective MIO, paper chart and ENC should agree on the promulgation of the MIO for the relevant sea area concerned.
- b) In such circumstances, and mindful of serving the best interests of the mariner, those producers of the MIO and related paper chart and/or ENC should work together bilaterally.
- c) Production of the MIO should be carried out in close cooperation of producers of both the paper chart and the ENC”

2. Analysis/Discussion

The NHC would like to raise special attention to point a. above; that is that “all” or “both” parties concerned should agree. As such, it cannot be allowed that one actor can issue a MIO, which provides information on the quality of the ENC’s in the waters of another charting authority, unilaterally. It is only after agreement between “all” or “both” parties is in place that “all” or “both” parties are to solve the details bilaterally (point b.). The wording “bilaterally” must be read in the context of point a. being in place, hence point b. starts with the wording: “In such circumstances...”.

Since all attempts to stop the relevant producer of such MIO’s have failed (several official letters on behalf of some of the members of the NHC addressing this matter have been sent since 2009), the first precondition for such an MIO to be promulgated, is not in place.

3. Conclusions

MIO’s that issue information about the quality of ENC’s can only be promulgated by another party than the relevant nautical chart authority if explicitly approved by this nautical chart authority.

4. Recommendations

Put MIO back on the agenda of the IRCC and WENDWG.

5. Justification and Impacts

Several ENC producing nations incorporate T&P messages in their ENC's and have them therefore updated real time. The MIO's to which we refer have a manual process by which an extract of the T&P messages is promulgated with a delay of 4 to 6 weeks. This has already resulted in a potentially dangerous situation in Swedish waters. The MIO's in question also compare ENC's to the relevant nautical paper charts. In several Nordic countries the paper chart is deduced from the ENC. Comparing the two has no added value for the mariner in these cases.

Though the Nordic countries acknowledge the usefulness of MIO's under specific circumstances, these circumstances are not in place for the Nordic countries. Promulgating MIO's where they are not needed by the mariner and not wanted by the relevant nautical chart authority should therefore be stopped as they can cause confusion and are potentially dangerous to navigation.

6. Action Required of IRCC

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. endorse the proposal
- b. agree on any necessary actions