

## 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC)

### Hamburg, Germany, 15 - 26 April

#### Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2024

Task 3.8.1	Organize, prepare and report annual meetings of the International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC)
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The FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) is a joint Board of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the International Cartographic Association (ICA). They are responsible for reviewing the syllabi of programmes and individual recognized schemes from education and training institutions, maintaining IBSC publications, providing guidance to education and training institutions and supporting the IHO for the establishment of new hydrographic programmes where regional training capacity does not exist.

The 47<sup>th</sup> IBSC meeting was held in the German Hydrographic Office, the Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie (BSH) in Hamburg, Germany, from 15 to 26 April 2024. The meeting was chaired by Capt (R) Nickolas Roscher (Brazil) and attended by all the 12 Members of the Board. The new members Cdre J. Gurumani (India), Dr. Manuela Milli (Italy) and Cdr Felipe Barrios (Chile) attended an IBSC meeting as members for the first time. IHO Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas (IBSC Secretary) represented the IHO Secretariat.

In the opening session, BSH President Mr Helge Heegewaldt, welcomed the participants enhancing the responsibilities of BSH and how it is dependent to well-trained staff, highlighting the importance of IBSC.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> April, the National Hydrographer of Germany and IRCC Chair Mr Thomas Dehling joined the meeting welcoming the participants and offering the support of IRCC, being IBSC one of the IRCC subordinate bodies. He highlighted the difficulty of the work of the Board and emphasized the important contributions of the quality of education and training.



*IBSC Members with the BSH President and the National Hydrographer of Germany*

In the afternoon of Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April, the IBSC had a meeting with stakeholders from industry, academia, hydrographic offices and other governmental agencies to discuss the desired modifications of the current Standards. Several inputs were received from the different representatives.

The Board reviewed 17 submissions from 10 Countries, to recognize nine programmes on hydrographic surveying and two programmes on nautical cartography. From the 17 submissions, three were new programmes. In conclusion, 2 submissions were classified as "Not recognized" and 15 were classified as "Could be recognized", some additional adjustments were necessary to the submitted documentation, to be reviewed intersessionally.

The IBSC discussed and approved other important working items such as the IBSC Work Programme, IBSC Fund, the programmes that have lost their recognition and those needing a recognition's extension.

On-site visits (OSV) are activities of the Board contributing to confirm the internal revision of documents presented by the institutions and assessing the alignment of their programmes with the Standards, while reviewing their educational processes. During the meeting the most recent OSV to IIC Technologies and UKHO were discussed, whilst new OSV were planned and prioritized.

After the decision to recognize individual subjects of the existing S-5 Standards, the Board worked on the respective implementations, defining the necessary updates to the new edition of the Guidelines.

One of the current objectives of IBSC is to update the Standards by the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the IHO Assembly in 2026. The Board planned several consultations with stakeholders to receive their input for the updates. One of the main concerns was related to the impact on the duration of the programmes. IBSC has plans to proceed with these consultations in future meetings and workshops. To streamline the revision process, the members were divided into two different groups with the objective of identifying the topics to be added, changed and / or removed from the Standards until September 2024, by the next intersessional meeting.

To improve the quality of IBSC submissions, a workshop was planned for September / October 2024. Participants who are expected to present submissions to the annual IBSC meetings in 2025 and 2026 will be invited.

Since the internship program in 2022 had a positive outcome, IBSC expressed the intention to recruit again interns at the next intersessional meeting assisting the revision of the Standards and helping to enhance the outreach and promotion of the Board.

The 2024 Intersessional meeting is planned to be held in Athens, Greece from 11 to 15 November, whilst the 48<sup>th</sup> IBSC annual meeting is planned to be held in St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada, from 28 April to 9 May 2024.