

## 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the US/Canada Hydrographic Commission (USCHC47)

**St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada 30 to 31 May**

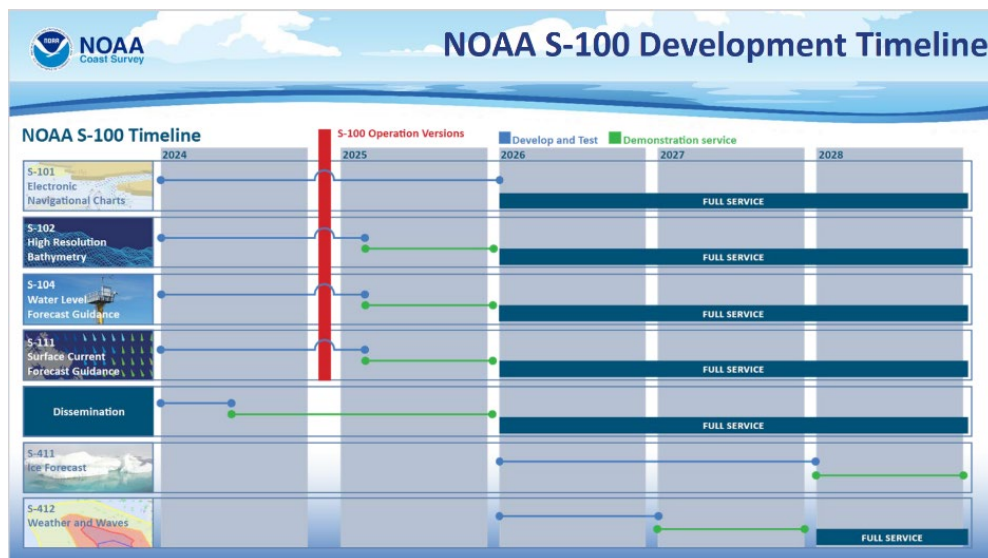
Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2024	
Task 3.2.1.15	Prepare for and report meetings of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions: USCHC

The 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the US/Canada Hydrographic Commission (USCHC47), was held from 30 to 31 May 2024 in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. USCHC47 took place in conjunction with the Canadian Hydrographic Conference 2024.


The meeting was chaired by Ms Manon Larocque, Hydrographer of Canada. Twenty-one participants attended the meeting in person and eight others attended virtually, including representatives from the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS), the Royal Canadian Navy, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), US Corps of Engineers, Naval Oceanographic Office, and the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) as observers. IHO Secretary-General, Dr Mathias Jonas represented the IHO Secretariat.

The meeting commenced with welcome words from meeting host Mr Craig Hogan, Acting Director of the Canadian National Fishery Centre, opening remarks of the Chair, the Vice-Chair Rear Admiral Benjamin Evans, NOAA Director and the IHO Secretary-General. The meeting proceeded with the approval of the agenda and the matters arising from the previous USCHC46 Meeting and the respective list of actions.

National Reports were presented in sequence from Canada and US, followed by reports of the IHO Secretariat and UKHO. According to the two national reports, notable progress was made in preparatory work for the uptake of S-100 based data services. It was confirmed that substantial production capacity will be made available for the target date for S-100 ECDIS on 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2026. The Commission agreed to create a priority list for S-101 ENC roll out taking due regard of the availability of amending services such as S-102, S-104, and S-111 services in the area. It is assumed that those data services will be made available for harbour areas and approaches at first.



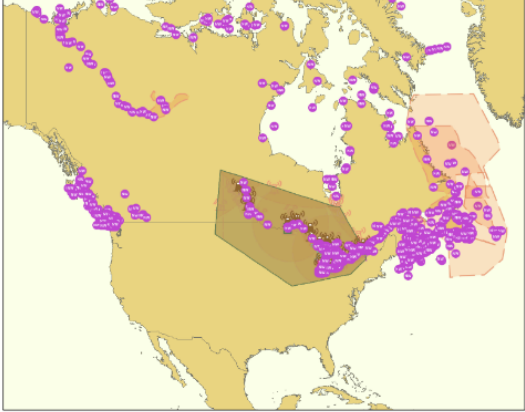
Canada reported field tests for the secure dissemination of future S-124 Navigational information making use of the SECOM mechanism as agreed by IMO to be used for seamless electronic information exchange among maritime stakeholders.

 Fisheries and Oceans Canada / Pêches et Océans Canada

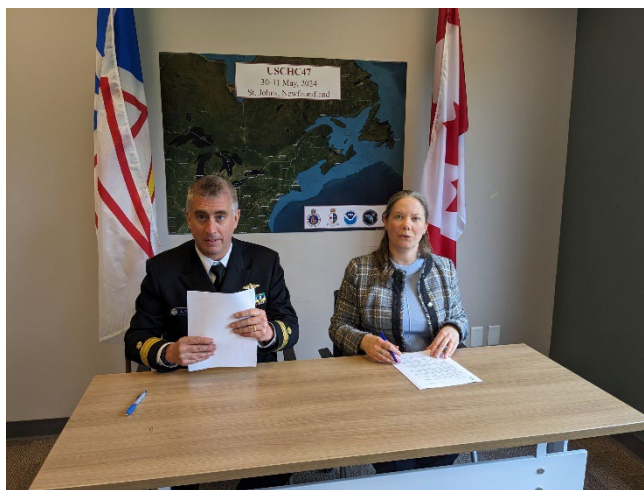
## Data Dissemination 2/2

**Maritime Connectivity Platform (MCP)/SECOM**

- Development and implementation of standards and secure means of communication to enable infrastructure for seamless electronic information exchange among maritime stakeholders.
- Goal: Provision of cybersecure infrastructure for maritime information exchange.
- Ongoing tests and trial implementations
  - Successful SECOM trials to disseminate S-124 test data in a lab environment.
  - Lessons from these trials will be used to create additional services.



Both reports highlighted the efficient cross boundary coordination to solve cartographic issues resulting from the new schemes. As a result, there is a planned issuance of coproduced ENC's stretching along the national borders.



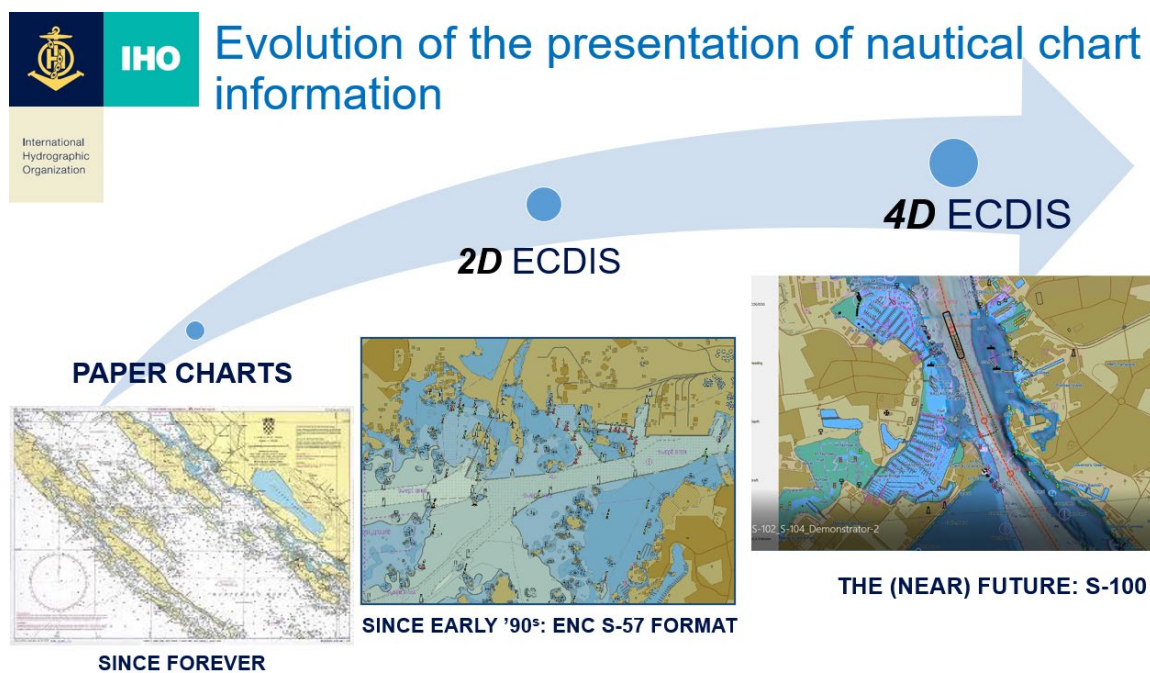
*The Chair Ms Manon Larocque and the Vice-Chair Rear Admiral Benjamin Evans signing a contract to formalize cross boundary production of ENC's and other subjects of mutual support*

Canada reported that the S-501 Project Team is making strides towards Readiness Level 1 in creating an S-100 compliant Additional Military Layers product specification. With strong engagement from many NATO nations particularly Canada, Germany, United Kingdom, and United States, preliminary test datasets representing about 40% of the catalogue should be presented to production software companies before the end of this summer. If the current momentum is maintained, the goal of reaching Readiness Level 4 will be met by summer 2025.

As another item of note, US reported on the ongoing cancellation of national paper charts. The last NOAA paper chart will be cancelled on 5 December 2024. To feed the ongoing customers' needs on printed products, NOAA has set up its Custom Chart mechanism to produce bespoke samples for domestic customers. Canada seconded to this item that a similar process was

initiated to create paper charts as much as compliant IHO S-4 Standards based on ENC content. The meeting continued with the reports of the respective national representatives in various IHO related activities, namely updates on the WENDWG deliberations with interrelations to IHO's MSDI activities and GEBCO/Seabed2030. A subitem of this mapping initiative named Lakebed2030 was agreed as a collaborative effort to map the Great Lakes according to modern standards.

The Commission discussed which position on the revision of the IHO Strategic Plan should be presented to the forthcoming IRCC meeting. The Commission agreed about an intervention proposing to keep three main goals in general but with a shifted focus on precision marine navigation with the S-100 framework as enabler, the hydrographic support of marine activities beyond navigation as a merger of the current Goal 2 and Goal 3, and the strengthening of the workforce of those who work in the hydrographic domain.



Before closing the meeting, Manon Larocque handed over to Benjamin Evans as host of the forthcoming meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 20 to 21 March 2025 in Wilmington, North Carolina, USA.

Dr Jonas took the opportunity of the preceding Canadian Hydrographic Conference to address the Conference as Keynote Speaker under the title "***Toward the digital twin of the navigable waters - Progress in the implementation of IHO's S-100 Concept***".