

11th Meeting of Nautical Cartography Working Group

Tórshavn, Faroe Islands

04-07 November 2025

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2025

Task 2.1.2.4; 2.2.1;
2.2.2 Organize, prepare and report annual meetings of the Nautical Cartography Working Group. Maintain S-4 (*Regulations for International (INT) Charts and Chart Specifications of the IHO*) and related publications (INT 1/2/3); Maintain S-11 Part A - *Guidance for the Preparation and Maintenance of International Chart Schemes and Catalogue of International (INT) Charts*

High level summary

- The NCWG11 meeting reviewed the status of the publications under its remit (S-4, S-11 Part A), including S-4 supplementary national Publications INT1, INT2 and INT3.
- The meeting discussed reports and proposals from Member States, other HSSC Working Groups, in particular from the S-101PT in regard to S-101 ENC Product Specification development, and Expert Contributors for improvements to S-4 being the core IHO standard for nautical charting. The meeting also discussed three Marine Incident reports for possible lessons to be learned or charting action.

Details

The 11th meeting of the Nautical Cartography Working Group (NCWG11) was held from 04 to 07 November 2025 in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands at the invitation of Denmark. A total of 49 participants attended the meeting, including 18 who joined remotely. Delegates represented 26 IHO Member States, as well as representatives from Cway7, ESRI, Teledyne CARIS, Geomod by Coexya, Japan Hydrographic Association, and Korean Hydrography and Research Association. The meeting was chaired by Mr Mikko Hovi (Finland). The IHO Secretariat was represented by Technical Standards Support Officer Jeff Wootton; and Assistant Director Eric Langlois (remote).

Main Discussions and Decisions

NCWG INPUT TO S-101 DEVELOPMENT

The meeting discussed proposals and requests for guidance from the S-101PT related to tidal stream panel information; categorization of CATZOC; depth discontinuities between survey information; depiction of subsurface cliffs on charts; and extraction/dredging areas, related to S-101 ENC Product Specification development. Recommendations to the S-101PT aimed at ensuring consistency between S-4 and S-101 were agreed, with new specification for the inclusion of subsurface cliffs on charts approved to be included in the next Edition of S-4, noting that S-4 Edition 4.10.0 was currently in the IHO Member State adoption process.

CHART CONTENT, PORTRAYAL AND GENERAL S-4 ISSUES

Several proposals for improvements/enhancements to S-4 from Working Group Members were considered for inclusion in the next Edition of S-4. These included new charting requirements for offshore energy devices; clarification on the depiction of wrecks; and use of gender including language throughout S-4. Amendments to S-4 were approved during the meeting, with some further work required on some issues to be reported out at the next NCWG meeting.

It was noted that the United Kingdom, France and Spain are planning to publish new Editions of their national versions of INT1 (adopted by the IHO as the “official” English, French and Spanish versions of INT1) during 2026. These publications will be updated to incorporate the changes introduced in S-4 Edition 4.10.0.

A revision to S-11 Part A, Section 200 will be initiated to incorporate guidance for S-101 ENC schemes.

BASELINE SYMBOLOGY PROJECT TEAM

The meeting approved the revised Baseline Symbology Project Team Terms of Reference; and agreed on a way forward with registering the colour tokens required to support the automated production of paper Charts from ENCs in the IHO Geospatial Information (GI) Registry.

Photo



Upcoming meetings

The meeting agreed on the schedule for upcoming NCWG meetings:

- NCWG12 will be held on 03-06 November 2026 (venue TBC).
- NCWG13 will be held in November 2027 (dates and venue TBC).