

PRO-1.6 Polygonal demarcation of global sea areas

Submitted by: Secretary-General

References:

- A. Assembly Decision A1/04
- B. A2/PRO 1.9 Report on the Informal consultation process for the future of S-23
- C. Assembly Decision A2/24 & 25
- D. Decision and Action IHO Council C4/07
- E. Decision and Action HSSC 13/15
- F. Decision and Action IHO Council C6/60

PROPOSAL

Noting the endorsement by the Council, the Assembly is invited:

- a. to note the timeline for the development of the S-130 Product Specification and Implementation.**
- b. to endorse the Secretary-General's recommendation to postpone the consideration of the necessity of the subsequent development of basic guidelines for the allocation and display of attributes of sea areas to be applied to Geographic Information Systems when the S-130 Product Specification and the implementation as authoritative S-130 dataset are finalized.**
- c. to endorse the Secretary-General's recommendation to postpone the consideration of subsequent amendments to the relevant IHO Resolutions 32/1919 as amended and 13/1919 as amended, for endorsement by the Council, if appropriate, when the S-130 Product Specification and the implementation as authoritative S-130 dataset are finalized.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. At its first Session, the Assembly tasked the Secretary-General to facilitate an informal consultation process regarding the future of S-23 among interested Member States, including determining mutually agreed modalities of work, and to report the result of the consultations to the Assembly at the next ordinary session (Decision A1/04).
2. In the following inter-Assembly period informal consultative meetings and conversations were held with Member States that indicated interest to participate in this process. In the absence of a consensual approach for the revision of S-23, the Secretary-General presented A-2 a concept for the modernization of standardization of the limits of the oceans and seas by means of a digital dataset designating the geographic sea areas by a system of unique numerical identifiers only (A2/PRO 1.9).
3. The 2nd Assembly approved the Secretary-General's proposal for the future of S-23 (A2/PRO 1.9) made as a package (Reference C A2/24) and tasked him with the implementation (Reference C A2/25).

4. The decisions made by A2 and considered at C4 (References C & D) tasked the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) as the responsible technical body to take action to develop a new S-130 Polygonal Demarcations of Global Sea Areas Product Specification. The 13th meeting of the HSSC, endorsed the requirement for a Project Team under HSSC with the proposed objectives aiming to develop the S-130 Product Specification as a dataset model for the subsequent production of the authoritative S-130 Dataset.
 5. The S-130 Project Team, formed of participants nominated by 11 Member States is chaired by Ms Britt Lonneville (Belgium) and works under the RoP and ToRs endorsed by HSSC (Annex A).
 6. The chair of the S-130 Project Team reported via HSSC14 progression of work according to the endorsed work programme and along the following timelines:
 - Develop S-130 Product Specification Edition 1.0.0 to be submitted to HSSC15 June 2023 for endorsement.
 - Initial implementation of S-130 Edition 1.0.0 and test phase to gain experience for Edition 2.0.0 to be completed by end of 2023.
 - Submission of S-130 Edition 2.0.0 and authoritative S-130 dataset to HSSC16 May or June 2024 for endorsement and subsequent report to the eighth Council (C-8).
 7. Under the assumption that the work programme items can be accomplished by content and timing it is expected that ninth Council (C-9) in 2025 will be in the position to report to A-4 accordingly.
 8. The 2nd Assembly's package approval of the proposal for the future of S-23 (A2/PRO 1.9) includes the element of consideration of the necessity of the subsequent development of basic guidelines for the allocation and display of attributes of sea areas to be applied to Geographic Information Systems. The ongoing work of the S-130 Project Team indicates the complexity of the development of an authoritative dataset to designate geographic sea areas by a system of unique numerical identifiers. It is therefore premature to undertake the tasked consideration and it is proposed to postpone this process until finalization of the work of the S-130 Project Team as presented under paragraph 6.
 9. The same argument applies to another element of the A2/24 & 25, the consideration of subsequent amendments to the relevant IHO Resolutions 32/1919 as amended and 13/1919 as amended for endorsement by the Council. It seems inappropriate to undertake this tasked consideration at this stage of the S-130 Project Team progression in their work. It is therefore recommended to postpone the task to the Council (C-9) to decide on the timing of this process to complete the implementation of PRO 1.9 in its entirety after finalization of the work of the S-130 Project Team as presented under paragraph 6.
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**HSSC S-130 PROJECT TEAM
POLYGONAL DEMARCATIONS OF GLOBAL SEA AREAS PRODUCT SPECIFICATION
AND DATASET**

Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure

1. Objective

To develop the S-130 Polygonal Demarcations of Global Sea Areas Product Specification and Dataset.

1.1 The definition of S-130 should take into account the following:

- i) Define a proposed dataset model using a system of unique numerical identifiers only;
- ii) Create an S-100 conformant product specification for Polygonal Demarcations of Global Sea Areas, through the profiling or adaptation of existing IHO S-100-based product specifications (such as S-121, S-122 for instance).

1.2 Once the dataset model is approved, to propose recommendations for the subsequent production and distribution of this S-130 dataset including quality control, maintenance procedure and a basic user/information manual.

The scope of this Project Team under HSSC is strictly limited to technical issues only (items 1.9.1 to 1.9.3) in support of the implementation of Proposal 1.9 made at A-2.

2. Authority

This Project Team is a subsidiary of the HSSC. Its work will be guided by the 2021-2023 Work Plan established by the HSSC and subject to its approval.

3. Composition and Chair

a) The Project Team shall comprise representatives of IHO Member States (MS), Expert Contributors (EC), observers from accredited NGOs, and a representative from the IHO Secretariat. A membership list shall be maintained and posted on the IHO website.

b) EC membership is open to entities and organizations that can provide a relevant and constructive contribution to the work of the WG.

c) The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be a representative of an MS. The election of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be decided at the first meeting of the PT after each ordinary session of the Assembly and shall be determined by vote of the MS present and voting.

d) If a secretary is required, it should normally be drawn from a member of the Project Team.

e) If the Chair is unable to carry out the duties of the office, the Vice-Chair shall act as the Chair with the same powers and duties.

- f) ECs shall seek approval for membership from the Chair.
- g) EC membership may be withdrawn in the event that a majority of the MS represented in the PT agrees that an EC's continued participation is irrelevant or unconstructive to the work of the WG.
- h) All members shall inform the Chair in advance of their intention or inability to attend meetings of the PT.
- i) In the event that a large number of EC members seek to attend a meeting, the Chair may restrict attendance by inviting ECs to act through one or more collective representatives.

4. Procedures

- a) The PT should work by a combination of correspondence, teleconferences, group meetings, workshops or symposia. The PT should meet at least once a year. When meetings are scheduled, and in order to allow any PT submissions and reports to be submitted to HSSC, meetings should not normally occur later than nine weeks before a meeting of HSSC.
- b) Decisions should generally be made by consensus. If votes are required on issues or to endorse proposals presented to the PT, only Members may cast a vote. Votes at meetings shall be on the basis of one vote per Member represented at the meeting. Votes by correspondence shall be on the basis of one vote per Member represented in the PT. Issues other than technical should not be considered at the PT level.
- c) The PT should liaise with other IHO bodies, international organizations and industry representatives to ensure the relevance of its work and timely notice of changes to the standards.
- d) The PT should report to HSSC on its activities and submit a rolling two-year work plan, including expected time frame.
- e) Once the objectives listed in section are met, then the project team should be dissolved.