

Information Paper for Consideration by IHO Council

Canadian S-100 International Sea Trial Area

Submitted by: Canada

Executive Summary: IHO HSSC(HSSC-16) endorsed Canada's proposal to designate the St-Lawrence River as an International S-100 Sea Trial Area for 2025. This achievement is part of Canada's commitment to the successful implementation of the S-100 suite of standards, which aims to enhance maritime safety and efficiency.

Related Documents: HSSC Paper – [Canada's Proposed International Sea Trial Area](#)

Related Projects: IHO strategic plan, Roadmap for the S-100 Implementation Decade

Introduction / Background

The S-100 suite's successful implementation relies on various factors, including final product specification and comprehensive testing of all route monitoring layers, delivered via encrypted and digitally signed data. The designation of the St-Lawrence River as an international trial area for these crucial tests is a significant step forward in the realization of products and services that meet the S-100 suite of standards.

Analysis/Discussion

The trial aims to evaluate the S-100 system's capabilities in ingesting and displaying the route monitoring datasets, including S-101 Electronic Navigational Charts, S-102 High-Resolution Bathymetry, S-104 Water Levels, S-111 Surface Currents, S-124 Navigational Warnings, S-128 Catalog, and S-129 Underkeel Clearance Management Data.

The trial is open to all IHO Member States, stakeholders, and manufacturers of ECDIS/PPU/Nav app. Data will be freely available from June 2025 to November 2025, using the latest encrypted and digital signature technology in S-100. For this trial, 500 accounts will be created. Two technical sessions(English and French) on how to register and prepare for the sea trials are planned for November 2024. Participants are expected to provide formal feedback. All filtered feedback will be directed to the S-100 Working Group (WG).

Conclusions

The trial will test real-world scenarios to assess how the systems portray different datasets in an integrated fashion. It will also test all operational versions of S-100 route monitoring layers in preparation for the official launch in January 2026. Successes and issues will be documented and reported to the IHO and IMO.

Recommendations

Participants are encouraged to take full advantage of this opportunity to test the S-100 systems and provide valuable feedback.

Justification and Impacts

This trial will help identify potential issues and contribute to the successful implementation of S-100 systems by the January 2026 deadline.