

LETTER OF INTENT REGARDING FUTURE COLLABORATION BETWEEN IHO AND IC-ENC

The International Hydrographic Organization is an intergovernmental consultative and technical organization that was established in 1921 to support safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment.

The object of the Organization is to bring about:

- The coordination of the activities of national hydrographic offices
- The greatest possible uniformity in nautical charts and documents
- The adoption of reliable and efficient methods of carrying out and exploiting hydrographic surveys
- The development of the sciences in the field of hydrography and the techniques employed in descriptive oceanography.

IC-ENC is a Regional ENC Co-ordinating Centre (RENC), as envisaged under IHO's Worldwide Electronic Navigational Database (WEND) Principles. It is operated by the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office, with a Headquarters in the United Kingdom and a network of regional offices across the globe. IC-ENC works multilaterally with Hydrographic Offices (its Members) to provide ENC and S-100 support services.

IHO Secretariat and IC-ENC Members (through the IC-ENC Steering Committee) recognize their symbiotic, mutually beneficial, relationship and the importance of working together to advance hydrography, ensure safe navigation, and support sustainable marine management.

This Letter of Intent confirms that IHO and IC-ENC will develop a Memorandum of Understanding to underpin future collaboration, support of joint activities, and define the governance aspects through which this will be achieved.

The envisaged collaboration will focus on (but is not limited to) activities in support of standards development (including associated elements such as validation checks and test datasets, training and capacity development, operational assistance, human resources/workforce, and technical infrastructure including hardware and software.

The IHO Secretariat and IC-ENC will jointly draft the Memorandum of Understanding to be brought forward for IHO Member State and IC-ENC Member approval. The expected schedule is June 2026 (for consideration by IC-ENC Members at the IC-ENC Steering Committee meeting) and to bring it forward to IHO Member State Approval before IHO Council meets in October 2026.



IHO (Secretary General)

Date: 21/04/26



IC-ENC (Vice Chair)

Date: 21/04/26



IC-ENC Operator (UK National Hydrographer)

Date: 21/4/26