Work Item A

B-12 Maintenance

Report to CSBWG Meeting 16

NIWA, Wellington, New Zealand

26 March 2025

Brian Calder

CCOM/JHC, University of New Hampshire

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Why We Need a Change in B-12 Maintenance Mechanism

Technical Concerns

Administrative Concerns

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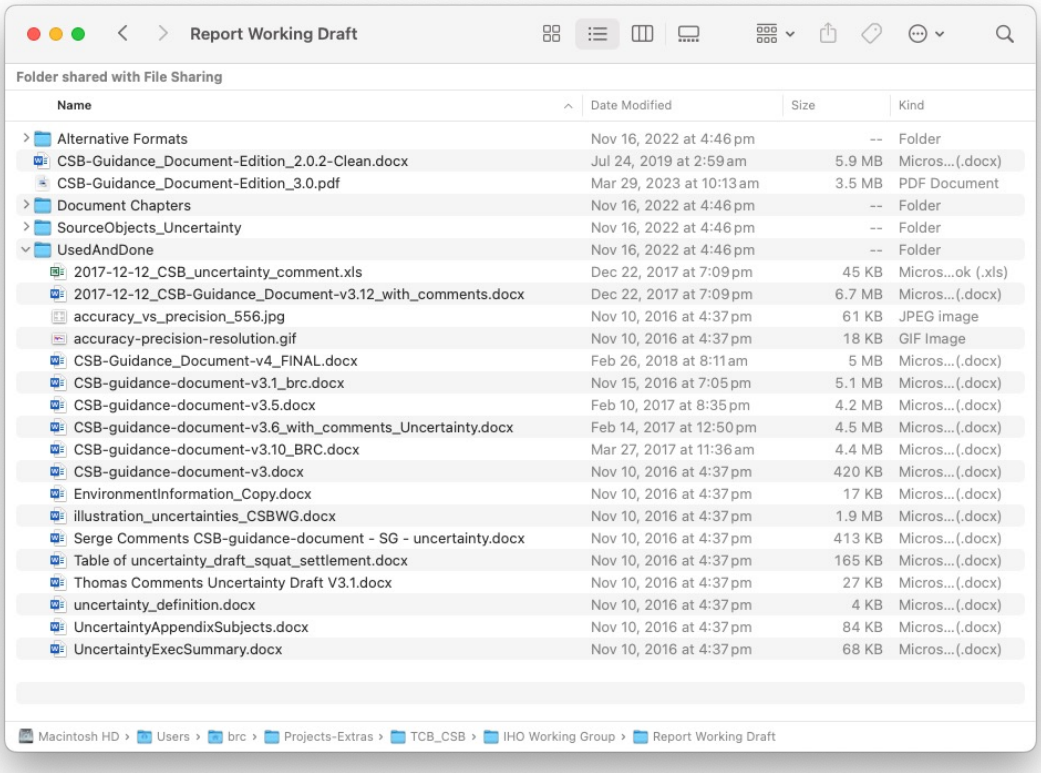
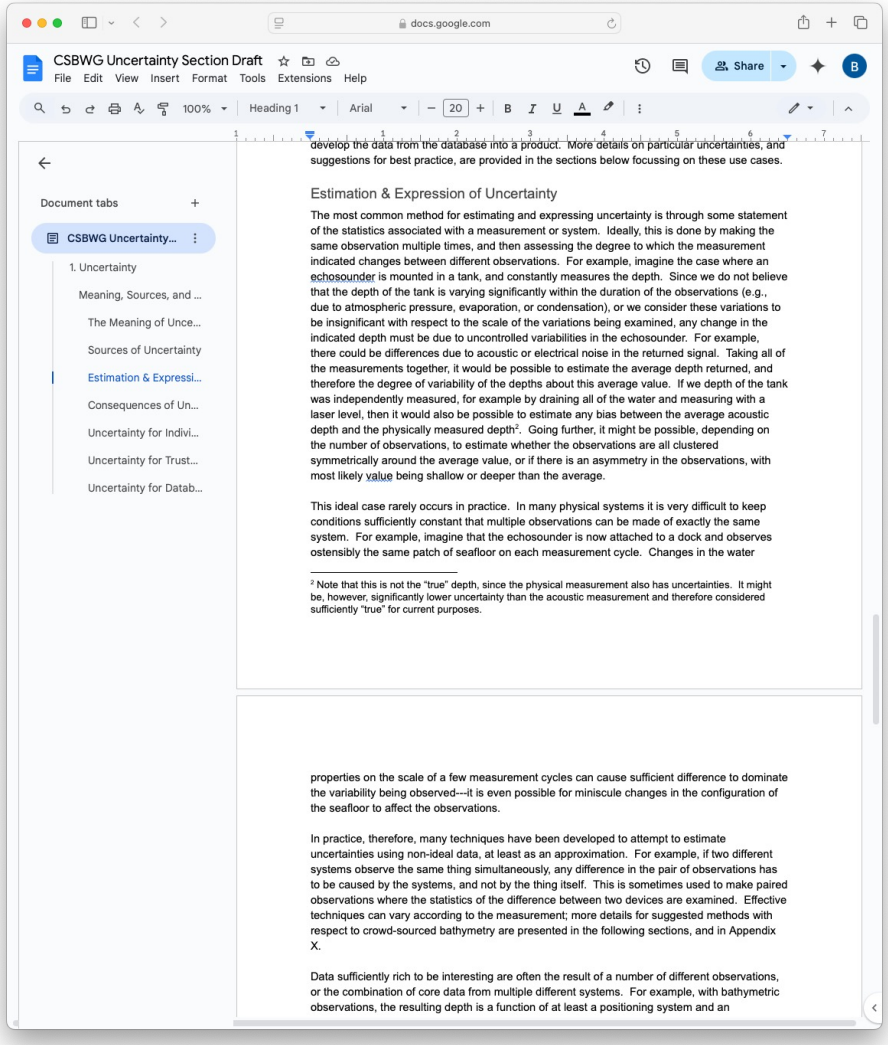
Why We Need a Change in B-12 Maintenance Mechanisms





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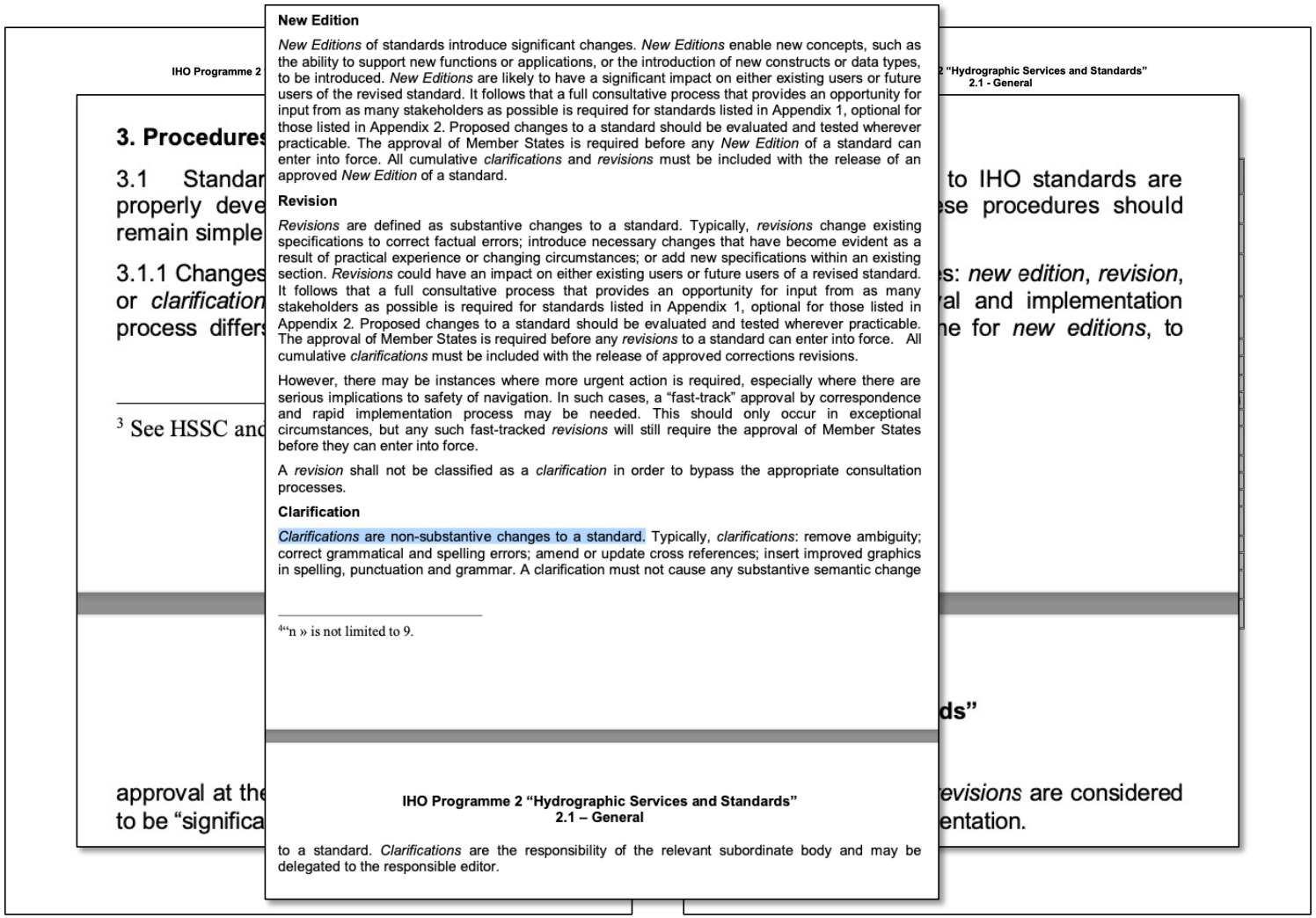
Why We Need a Change in B-12 Maintenance Mechanisms



New Edition

New Editions of standards introduce significant changes. *New Editions* enable new concepts, such as the ability to support new functions or applications, or the introduction of new constructs or data types, to be introduced. *New Editions* are likely to have a significant impact on either existing users or future users of the revised standard. It follows that a full consultative process that provides an opportunity for input from as many stakeholders as possible is required for standards listed in Appendix 1, optional for those listed in Appendix 2. Proposed changes to a standard should be evaluated and tested wherever practicable. The approval of Member States is required before any *New Edition* of a standard can enter into force. All cumulative *clarifications* and *revisions* must be included with the release of an approved *New Edition* of a standard.

Revision

Revisions are defined as substantive changes to a standard. Typically, *revisions* change existing specifications to correct factual errors; introduce necessary changes that have become evident as a result of practical experience or changing circumstances; or add new specifications within an existing section. *Revisions* could have an impact on either existing users or future users of a revised standard. It follows that a full consultative process that provides an opportunity for input from as many stakeholders as possible is required for standards listed in Appendix 1, optional for those listed in Appendix 2. Proposed changes to a standard should be evaluated and tested wherever practicable. The approval of Member States is required before any *revisions* to a standard can enter into force. All cumulative *clarifications* must be included with the release of approved corrections revisions.

However, there may be instances where more urgent action is required, especially where there are serious implications to safety of navigation. In such cases, a "fast-track" approval by correspondence and rapid implementation process may be needed. This should only occur in exceptional circumstances, but any such fast-tracked *revisions* will still require the approval of Member States before they can enter into force.

A *revision* shall not be classified as a *clarification* in order to bypass the appropriate consultation processes.

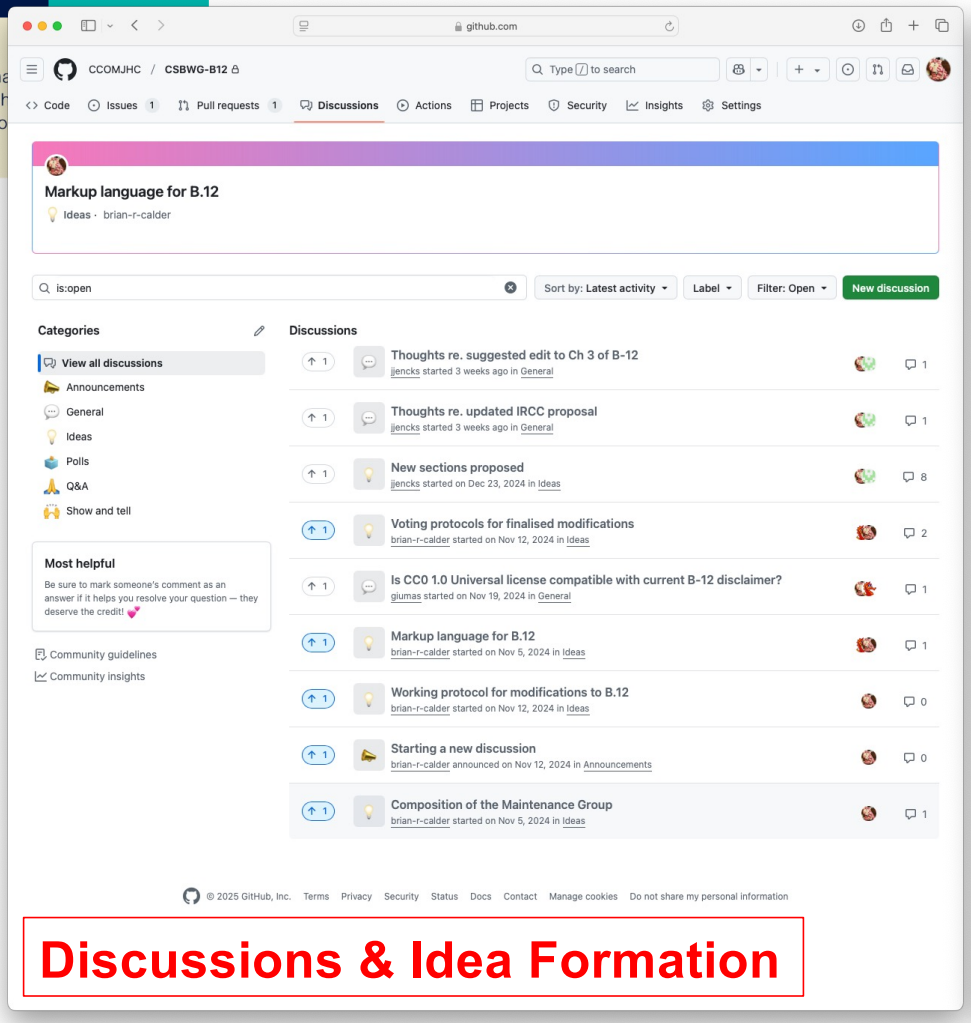
Clarification

Clarifications are non-substantive changes to a standard. Typically, *clarifications*: remove ambiguity; correct grammatical and spelling errors; amend or update cross references; insert improved graphics in spelling, punctuation and grammar. A clarification must not cause any substantive semantic change

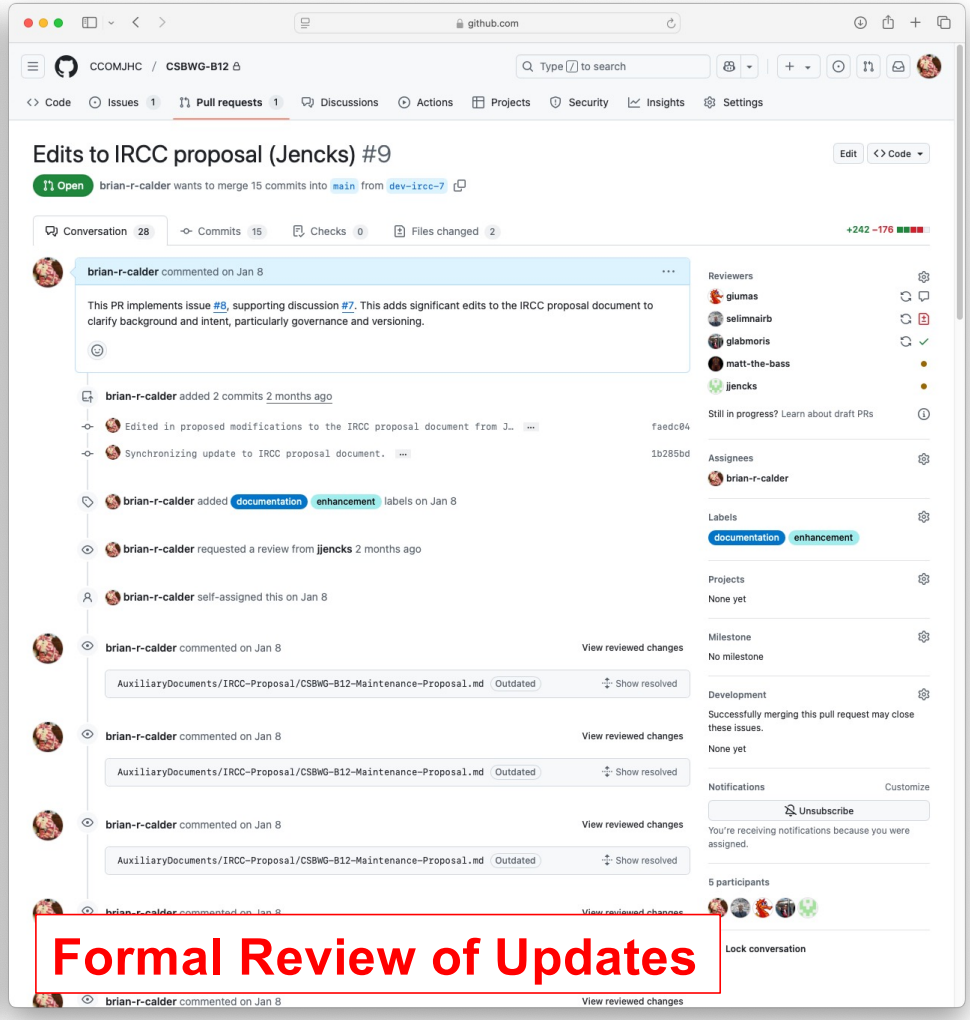
[4] "n » is not limited to 9.

to a standard. *Clarifications* are the responsibility of the relevant subordinate body and may be delegated to the responsible editor.

Context & History for the Proposal

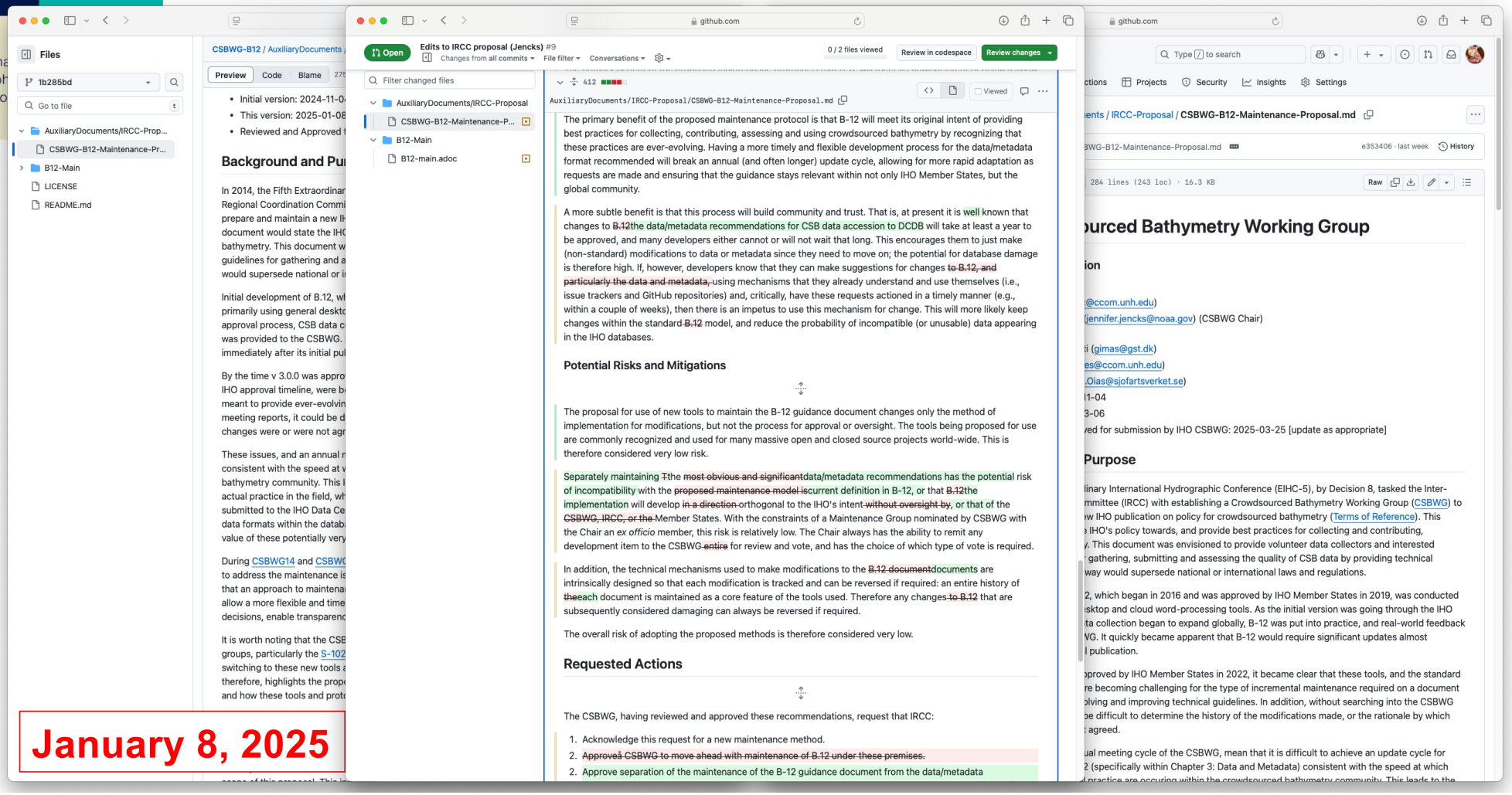


Discussions & Idea Formation



Formal Review of Updates

Context & History for the Proposal



January 8, 2025

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Context & History for the Proposal

- The proposal has to address:
  - Tooling to use for discussion, work items, formal review, etc.
  - Governance model for contributions
  - Acceptable IHO process
- The initial proposal had an “all in” strategy for maintenance
  - Significant focus on process, not entirely in line with R-2/2007
  - Probably too detailed!
- Most responses were from technologists, and entirely positive
- BUT not matching R-2/2007 was a big problem for IHO/MS

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Context & History for the Proposal

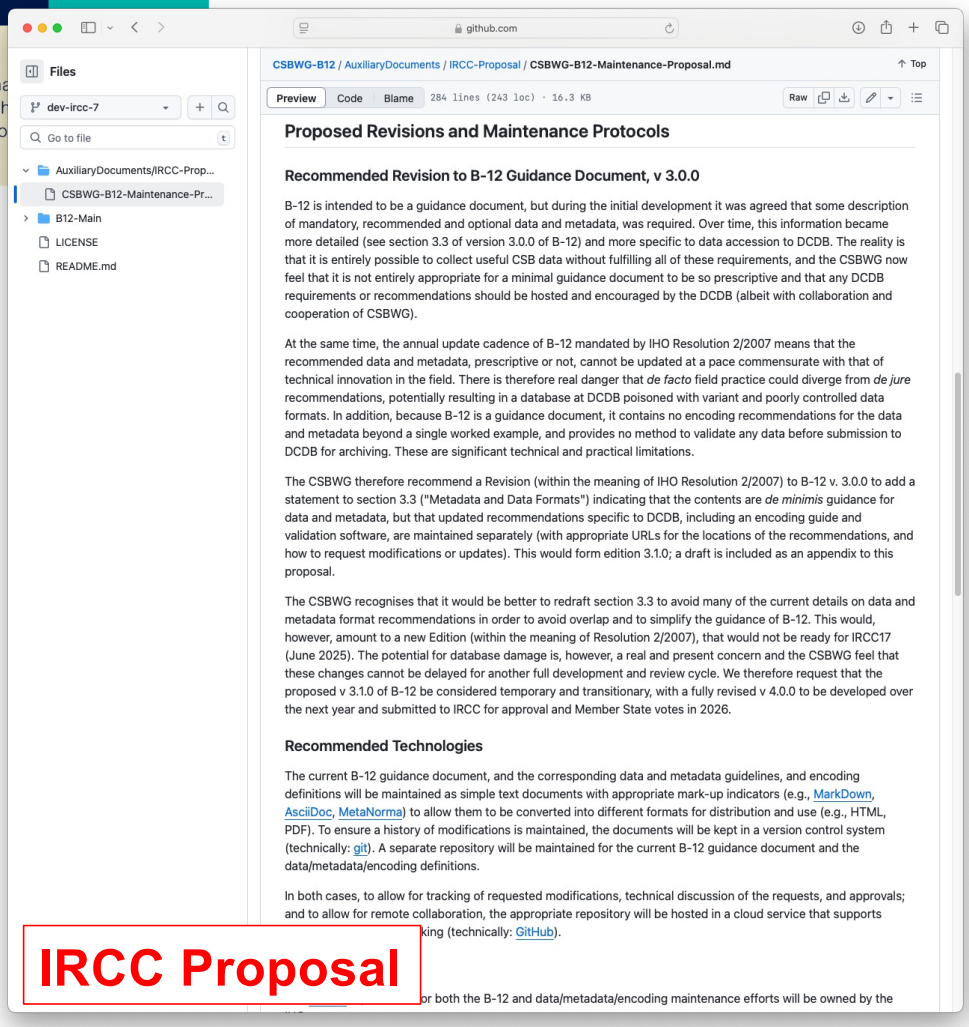
The most significant difference in V1→V2:

> **B-12 shouldn't have detailed requirements on data/metadata formatting to satisfy DCDB needs.**

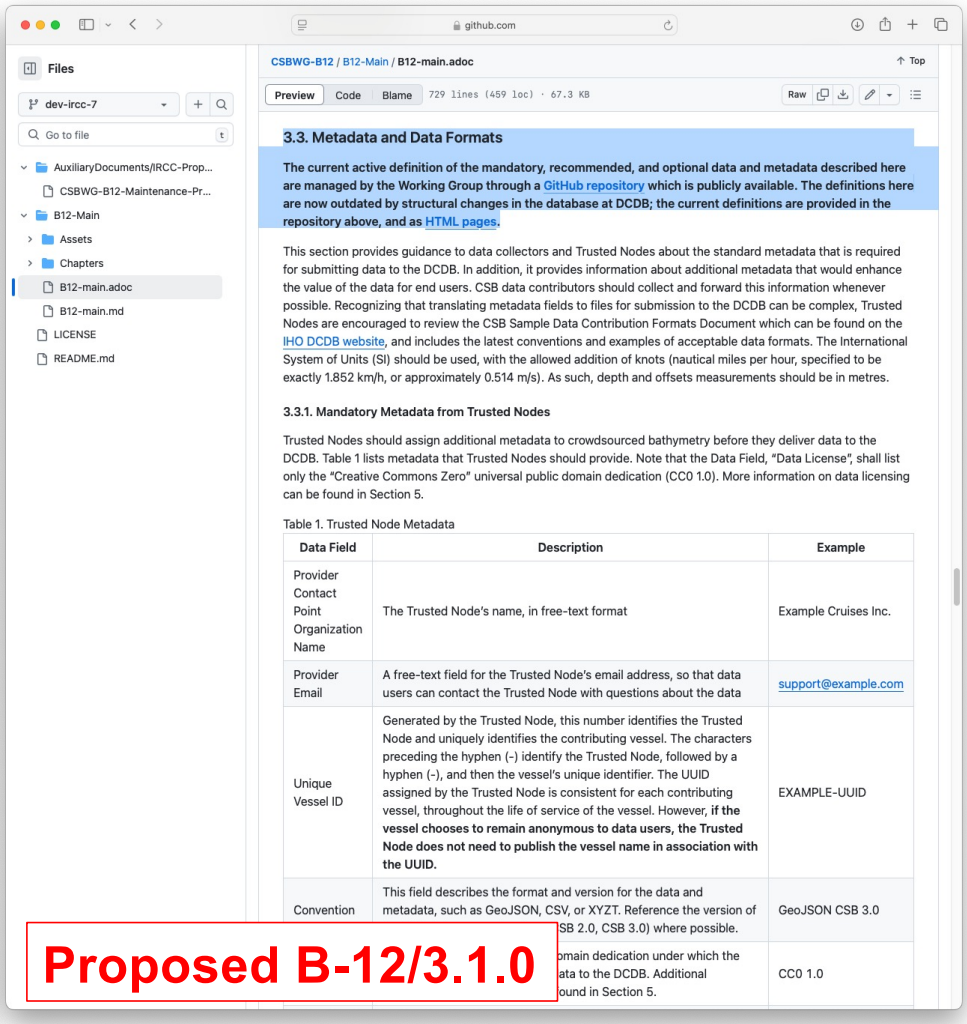
With the obvious corollary:

> **DCDB should publish their specific requirements for accession to the archive and maintain these separately.**

Context & History for the Proposal



IRCC Proposal



Proposed B-12/3.1.0

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Implications of the Proposal

- IRCC:
  - Accept proposal to use GitHub tooling for maintenance.
  - Accept proposed B-12/3.1.0 with adjusted Section 3.3.
  - [MS would also have to vote on IRCC decision]
- CSBWG:
  - Provide modified B-12/3.1.0. [done]
  - Formalize structure of GitHub repository for B-12. [copy demo repo]
  - Nominate a Maintenance Group for GitHub repository.
  - Redevelop B-12/3.1.0-3.3 → B-12/4.0.0 by 2026 IRCC.
- DCDB (with CSBWG help):
  - Establish GitHub repository for data/metadata definition. [CSBSchema?]
  - Publish documentation of current schema, ideally automatically. [done?]
  - Work with CSBWG for maintenance/development.

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Request of Work Item A to the Working Group

Debate the current IRCC Proposal document as circulated and presented.

Approve WG Chair to take the proposal to the next IRCC meeting as our request.

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Points to Ponder in Discussion

Big Picture

- Do we agree Section 3.3 (as is) is correctly a DCDB thing?
- Does this proposal meet the requirements for oversight?

Smaller Details

- Are we happy with tooling suggested?
- What formatting do we want (e.g., AsciiDoc or MetaNorma)?
- What should the Maintenance Group look like?
- How do we feel about electronic voting for approvals?
- Do we need documents (e.g., PDF) for review, or is online OK?