

CSBWG Work Item C**Gather, prioritize and respond to HO-specific issues/opportunities regarding national policy/ regulations related to CSB**

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SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides details and updates on activities conducted related to gathering, prioritizing and responding to HO-specific issues/opportunities regarding national policy/regulations related to CSB

Action(s) to be taken: See below

Related documents: CSBWG10: Responses to IHO CLs on CSB, Acceptance of CSB Activities and Provision of Resultant Datasets in National Waters of Jurisdiction, CSBWG Work Plan 2024

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Work Item Background

At CSBWG13, the working group undertook a strategic planning effort to review the current status of efforts and identification of continued and/or future needs. One such need was to gather a better understanding of hydrographic office-specific issues and opportunities related to national policy/regulations regarding CSB. The thought was that only in truly understanding what those issues are, can we begin to develop strategies to overcome them.

Current Work Item Purpose

A key purpose of this work item was to capture the known or perceived issues and look into discovering possible "unknown" or untold issues regarding national policy/regulations/culture affecting the endorsement of CSB. This work has been completed. The Team consolidated and grouped the issues below:

- I. National Policies and Regulations
 - A. CSB Data Collection Confused with Systematic Survey
 - B. Legal and Liability Issues
- II. CSB Data is Unnecessary
- III. Data Quality and Accuracy Concerns
- IV. Standardization and Compatibility
- V. Integration with Existing Data Sources
- VI. Public Awareness and Engagement
- VII. Resource Constraints
- VIII. Addressing these challenges will require collaborative efforts from governments, stakeholders, and the public.

With a better understanding of these issues, the current intent is to identify and apply potential solutions and/or suggestions to overcome them. The goal is to see an increase in [positive responses](#) to IHO CL 21/2020 and IRCC CL 01/2020 and/or an increase in coastal State engagement in the discussion and activities surrounding CSB.

Work Item Update

Work Item	Title	Priority <i>H-high</i> <i>M-med</i> <i>L-low</i>	Next milestone	Start Date	End Date	Status <i>P-planned</i> <i>O-ongoing</i> <i>C-completed</i> <i>S-Superseded</i>	Remarks
C-1	Capture issues (& propose solutions) regarding national policy/regulations /culture affecting the endorsement of CSB	H	Consolidate and draft proposed solutions to overcome them	2023	CSBWG15 & CSBWG16	O	First three issues investigated, solutions captured, activities underway. The remaining 5 will be discussed and presented at CSGWG16
C-2	Draft proposed rationale to the issuing of a new brief circular letter (and questionnaire) to MS explaining the purpose of IHO CL 21/2020 and encouraging a positive response	L	Present to CSBWG and determine whether to issue to MS	2023	CSBWG14	C	Decision made at CSBWG15 that, at present, the rationale does not exist to draft a new CL. Will coordinate with Outreach Team on future messaging and engagement (includes for IRCC Workshop)
C-3	Request the policy framework(s) or guideline(s) adopted by selected coastal States who positively responded to IHO CL 21/2020 or IRCC CL 01/2020	M	Identify States who might be willing to share their experience and request guidance.	2023	CSBWG16	O	The chair has discussed the original milestone with the IHO and has been encouraged to reach out directly to a select States that could offer unique experiences that may be applicable to others.
C-4	Educate CSBWG members on International Law of the Sea as it pertains to passage sounding collection.	H	S Keating to provide presentation to CSBWG14; provide resource materials to CSBWG16	2023	CSBWG16	C	S Keating provided shortened slide deck to CSBWG members before Dec 2024 retirement

Progress Since Prior Meeting

The team has been unable to meet since CSBWG15, however via email some progress has been made.

C-3: Request the policy framework(s) or guideline(s) adopted by selected coastal States who positively responded to IHO CL 21/2020 or IRCC CL 01/2020

Five coastal States were identified who might be willing to share their experience and guidance:

- Norway - positive response with minimal caveats (no MBES). Adopted quickly. May represent what a fast track with minimal government interference might look; confident the national hydrographer will reply to our request
- Costa Rica - positive response with minimal caveats; represents a coastal State response to the IRCC CL
- Germany - straightforward response, adopted quickly; confident the national hydrographer will reply to our request
- Kiribati - one of the newest responders; confident the national hydrographer will reply to our request
- Uruguay - feedback may help encourage additional responses in the region

Letters were sent to the national hydrographers, via the CSBWG Chair on 24 February 2025, requesting they share their experience, feedback and guidance around their adoption of IHO CL 21/2020 or IRCC CL 01/2020. As of the drafting of this report, there has been feedback from one State (Kiribati). Their response, and hopefully others, will be shared at CSBWG16. The intent is to share this information with other similar coastal States who may be receptive to this information.

C-4: Educate CSBWG members on International Law of the Sea as it pertains to passage sounding collection.

As has been discussed at previous CSBWG meetings, two main barriers around national policy/regulations occurring within coastal States are:

1. A continued focus on the rejection of systematic surveys (MSR, Hydrographic) within areas of jurisdiction taking place without permission.
2. A coastal State belief that they are taking on liability if they use CSB

There was agreement that, for those CSBWG members that wish to speak to this, accurate and consistent messaging in the form of ready-made materials that are both authoritative and concise, was needed. Before his retirement (January, 2025), S. Keating finalized a succinct briefing and these slides have been made available for others to use if they so choose. See: **CSBWGIS01-2024_2.3 Presentation** on the [CSBWG Intersession Meetings page](#) for access to the slide deck.

Reporting

The team has identified the following metrics to be used to measure or report success: (1) reporting the number of new responses to IHO CL 21/2020 and IRCC CL 01/2020, and (2) CSBWG-led activities that are intended to encourage positive CL responses and increased CSB activities.

- (1) The UKHO has signed IHO CL 21/2020. Cyprus has changed their response by removing the caveat requesting a review of the data before public distribution.

- (2) CSBWG-led activities, whose intent is to encourage [positive CL responses](#) and increased CSB activities, that have occurred since CSBWG15 include:
1. Several articles in the International Hydrographic Review (IHR) volume 30(1)
 - a. [CSB as part of the modern hydrographic toolbox](#)
 - b. [From volunteer ping to community map – The CHS’ Community Hydrography Program](#)
 - c. [Citizen Hydrospatial Sciences – To csB or not to csB, that is the question!](#)
 2. An [IRCC Workshop on Crowdsourced Bathymetry](#) was organised and hosted by members of the CSBWG and the IHO Secretariat on 26 April 2024. National Hydrographers, or their Deputies, were strongly encouraged to participate and attend. The workshop drew 107 participants from over 50 coastal States. The IHO considers the workshop a success as there was very active engagement with over a dozen questions posed, time to provide adequate answers, and very positive feedback provided during the event and afterwards. Several member states have since reached out reiterating the value of this type of engagement and highlighting that previous modes of communications around the various aspects of CSB had not always been clear.
 3. Presentations on CSB at several [RHC meetings](#).

Planned Work & Timeline

C-1: Capture issues (& propose solutions) regarding national policy/regulations /culture affecting the endorsement of CSB

The team has not had the bandwidth to discuss the remaining “...issues (& proposed solutions)” related to C-1. Our intent is to identify proposed solutions that address issues 4-8 in 2025.

1. National Policies and Regulations
 - CSB Data Collection Confused with Systematic Survey
 - Legal and Liability Issues
2. CSB Data is Unnecessary
3. Data Quality and Accuracy Concerns
4. [Standardization and Compatibility](#)
5. [Integration with Existing Data Sources](#)
6. [Public Awareness and Engagement](#)
7. [Resource Constraints](#)
8. [Addressing these challenges would require collaborative efforts from governments, stakeholders, and the public.](#)

The Chair will continue to share any identified “proposed solutions” to RHCs in conjunction with Work Item E.

C-3: Request the policy framework(s) or guideline(s) adopted by selected coastal States who positively responded to IHO CL 21/2020 or IRCC CL 01/2020

As mentioned above, the team will continue to seek feedback from coastal States and then discuss the best way to share this information to other States who may be interested.

Issues/Risks/Concerns/Barriers

After S. Keating's retirement (January, 2025), there is the known issue that the CSBWG has now lost a legal perspective that has been very valuable to the group.

Proposed Changes to Work Item

There are no proposed changes at this time.

Action to CSBWG

The CSBWG is requested to:

- A. **Note** the information provided;
- B. **Take** any other actions, as appropriate.