

9th Meeting of the Worldwide ENC Database (WEND) Working Group (WENDWG), Brest, France, 26 – 28 February 2019

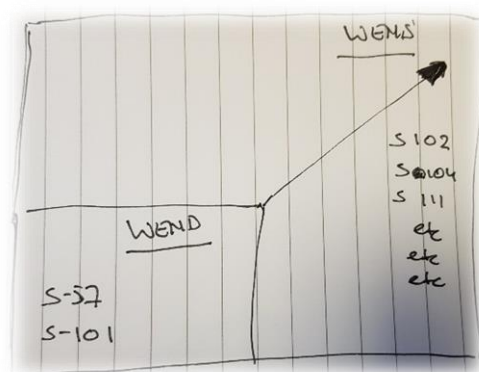
The 9th meeting of the Worldwide ENC Database Working Group (WENDWG) took place in Brest, France, hosted by the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of France (Shom), from 26 to 28 February, in conjunction with the 4th joint meeting of the Regional ENC Coordinating Centres (RENC), IC-ENC, PRIMAR and, for the first time, the EA-RECC (Regional ENC Coordination Centre) of the East Asia Hydrographic Commission. The meeting was chaired by Mr Jamie McMichael-Phillips (United Kingdom).

Twenty-one delegates from 11 Member States (Brazil, China, Finland, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States) representing 13 Regional Hydrographic Commissions (ARHC, BSHC, EAHC, EAHC, MACHC, MBSHC, NHC, NSHC, RSAHC, SAIHC, SWAtHC, SWPHC and USCHC), the Chairs of the IC-ENC Steering Committee and PRIMAR Advisory Committee and the directors of the RENCs attended the meeting. Director Mustafa Iptes and Assistant Director Yves Guillam (Secretary) represented the IHO Secretariat.

At the opening session of the meeting, Ingenieur general Bruno Frachon, Director General of Shom, welcomed the participants and highlighted the fact that the WENDWG had been a major asset for the last decade for the IHO, when actually entering the digital age with the timely delivery of qualified, updated and consistent ENCs for ECDIS. He also stressed the importance of preparing the future.

The Chair reported on the main outcomes of the last IRCC meeting held in Goa, India (June 2018), where the Committee agreed to amend the Terms of Reference of the WENDWG. As a consequence, the WENDWG is now requested to develop options to expand the value of the Worldwide ENC database to all marine data users. In particular, it is tasked to support non-ECDIS maritime community through license management of ENC data as well as the Seabed 2030 Project. Some pragmatic actions were agreed for these purposes, thanks to a joint effort provided by the RENCs with some technical support offered by NOAA/USA.

The IHO Secretariat reported on the decisions and actions from the 2nd meeting of the IHO Council (October 2018) that have an impact on the activities of the WENDWG. Two fruitful workshop sessions were organized to address the different issues raised at the IHO Council. Subsequently, the meeting agreed to submit a proposal at the next IRCC aiming to develop new WEND-like Principles as a possible component of the S-100 Implementation Strategy.



Conceptual sketch, “from the WEND to WENS (Worldwide Electronic Navigation Services)”

Following the reports provided by the representatives of the RHCs and on a more technical side, several actions were agreed to assess the feasibility of the operational implementation of the IHO Resolution 1/2018 - *Elimination of overlapping ENC data in areas of demonstrable risk to the safety of navigation* -, noting that in some Charting Regions the situation is not improving.

The RENCs will try, for instance, to improve their tracking and accounting procedures, in support of ENC Producers and RHCs, while the IHO Secretariat is now preparing the commissioning of the enhanced version of the INTToGIS system (INTToGIS II), which includes an ENC overlap checker function. Thanks to this development supported by KHOA, NOAA for the AIS (Automatic Identification System) traffic density database, NGA for the Worldwide Ports database and the RENCs, the International Charting Coordination Working Groups will soon be able to build their own assessment with regard to ENC Schemes, ENC Coverage and Overlaps and possible important CATZOC inconsistencies. The IHO Secretariat commended the ARHC, BSHC, EAHC and MBSHC Charting Regions Coordinators for their involvement in the experimentation phase of INTToGIS II.

In conclusion of a decision made at the 8th meeting of the IRCC, the meeting welcomed the latest version of the IHO ENC Coverage Catalogue, which is now fully aligned with the ENC Data Flow diagram.

The 10th meeting of the WENDWG is scheduled to be held in Hong Kong, China, in February 2020.



WENDWG-9 participants at Shom, Brest, France