

Outcome of the Meeting of ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission (RSAHC) INT Chart Coordination Working Group (ICCWG)

Muscat, Oman

29-30 April 2015

(Numbers refer to agenda item of this meeting)

1. Introduction

The chairman thanked the hosts, the Sultanate of Oman, for arranging the meeting at such short notice and providing the forum to address a number of issues for INT Charts and ENC's. He highlighted the good cooperation between the UKHO and the IR of Iran in the creation of the Region I chart scheme and the ongoing work in maintaining S-11 Part B. He noted the high cooperation of some RSAHC member states (MS) and also the disappointing lack of engagement of some others. He highlighted the importance of the meeting to ensure the scheme is up to date and dialogue was maintained.



The IHB gave a presentation on the INT Chart concept, providing background and clarifying a number of key points, which it was hoped would assist in the discussions.

2. Current INT Chart scheme change proposal

2.1. INT 750 no action requested from MS. Oman gave of presentation on their perspective of the INT Charts and asked whether there was a future for paper charts and the whole INT Chart concept? The UK highlighted the numbers of INT Charts allocated to each MS, also noted charts were allocated for some waters where coastal state do not have the ability to produce INT Charts or ENC's; also noted that when the capability was developed, the UKHO would hand over the Producer Nation role (including supporting data) and take on Printer Nation status. UAE asked whether original data could be passed to the coastal state to avoid having to start from scratch; UK indicated this could be achieved for data not originally from the coastal state through Bilateral agreements.

2.2. Oman's Proposal: two proposals for INT Chart scheme were presented which achieve good coverage of Oman water, whilst minimizing the number of charts included in the INT Chart scheme from their national scheme. Both proposals would result in the removal of a number of large, medium and small scale charts from the INT Chart scheme, which it was agreed would simplify their part of the Region I scheme with minimal impact. Particularly noted was the reduced coverage of 1 ; 125,000

charts along the Batinah coast, IR of Iran suggested viewing their own revised scheme to ensure harmonization. After discussion it was agreed proposal one should be taken forward for further action.

The Action: Oman will forward their first proposal to Regional I coordinator for confirmation and inclusion as an update to S-11 Part B accordingly.

2.3 IR of Iran: introduced an updated national scheme and noting common coverage, proposals for new charts to be added to the scheme were highlighted. These proposals were later displayed as a graph to aid discussions.

2.4 UKHO: highlighted the need to harmonize coverage with ENC bands in discussion with UAE. UK displayed a number of INT Charts with comments of various aspects of the charts.

2.5 Saudi Arabia: proposed a new scheme covering their northern coast as charts SA31 to SA35. The need for SA35 was questioned. UK noted that their coverage would need to be adjusted until the KSA charts were available. It was agreed Region I coordinator would allocate appropriate numbers for the INT Chart scheme and the UK would withdraw their own charts in coordination with KSA.

3. Requests for new INT Charts

IR of Iran requested to add 12 charts as INT Chart from different scales.

The Action: it was agreed that INT Charts 7304 and 7307 should be rechecked and updated by IR of



Iran. Oman suggested both charts should be moved to south to reduce the overlap area between IR3072 and INT7304 in the northern part of INT7304. It was also discovered that INT Chart 7236 which is produced by UK should be amended by following changes: Plan F (Kish Anchorage) and Plan H (Bandar-E Lengeh) should be removed and replaced by New INT Charts producing by I.R. of Iran.

(INT 7234 and INT 7237). The rest of the proposal by IR of Iran was agreed by the all MS.

4. Updating of S-11 Part B for Region "I"

4.1. List of produced INT Charts (allocated to MS): at present the numbers of INT Charts produced by MS is – Oman-25, Kuwait-7, IR of Iran-10, Bahrain-5, Pakistan-8 and UKHO-62 – in the RSAHC.

4.2. INT Charts limits change/amended:

Pakistan requested to change the limits of PAK58 (INT7019) to INT Chart Coordinator.

The Action: IHB representative explained the outcome of the ICCWG of Region J and advised Pakistan to discuss this issue through correspondence with India as Region J coordinator via the IR

Iran, as Region I coordinator. The Region I coordinator was requested to contact India for further discussion and to seek a solution, keeping Pakistan and the IHB informed of progress and seeking clarification where necessary.

4.3. Estimated publication dates:

The Action: KSA advised their 5 new INT Charts to be published, which will replace current BA charts, were anticipated to be available within two years. It was agreed until the KSA charts are available, the UK will continue to maintain their present INT Charts and coordinate their withdrawal with KSA so as to have continuous coverage of up to date charts.

IR of Iran confirmed that 12 new charts have been published but they have no INT numbers assigned to them yet.



5. ENC for the region

5.1 MS ENCs production status:

The Action: All MS, by end of 2016, were requested to have suitable ENC cells, at least equivalent to the current INT Chart coverage, covering the entire international waters of their areas.

5.2. ENC related issues: Pakistan raise the issue of ENC covered INT751 with India national ENC at the same band.

The Action: Pakistan will discuss with India their scheme to avoid the overlapping using the Region I and J limits as the cartographic boundary as proposed at NIOHC ICCWG meeting.

5.3. ENC catalogue updating procedures: UAE is intending to join a RENC in near future but so far they have not produced ENC.

Oman is planning to join a RENC and so far they have produced 8 ENC cells.

Pakistan will have produced a further 5 ENC by the end of July; this will increase their total ENC cells to 8.

KSA does not have any ENC produced for Region I.

IR of Iran has produced 19 ENC for the coastal waters and plans to make 48 ENC by the end of this year; they have signed bilateral agreement with PRIMAR.

6. Exchanging information with regard to INT charts/ ENC Cells

6.1. Exchange mechanism MS:

The Action: each MS is responsible for sending the latest ENC, INT Chart and national chart information as soon as they are available to the Regional INT Chart Coordinator, informing IHB, for attention of Mr. Yves Guillam (adsc@iho.int).

6.2. Disseminate through the Region Coordinator: All MS are supposed to send the latest information concerning INT and ENC production to the Region Coordinator as soon as they completed INT Charts and ENC Cells. In both cases above, if no response is received from the Regional Coordinator within one month, the MS should resend the information, requesting an acknowledgment of receipt.

7. The chairman thanked everyone for their input to the meeting and noted how much progress had been achieved over the one and half. He again thanked the Sultanate of Oman for hosting the meeting. All agreed that further meetings would be of benefit and suggested that they be held ahead of RSAHC meetings rather than on a half day immediately before. IR of Iran would investigate hosting the next ICCWG in Tehran in September/October 2016, about 5 to 6 months ahead of the next RSAHC meeting. The chairman then closed the meeting.