

Outcome of the Meeting of ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission (RSAHC)

INT Chart Coordination Working Group (ICCWG)

Muscat, Oman 15-17 November 2022

1. Introduction: RSAHC INT Chart coordinator (Mr. Saeid Parizi) from Iran provided a comprehensive brief on INT charts status in the region, it's been mentioned that few countries have provided their INT charts updated and encouraged all MS to login into IHO web catalogue, to manage the national information contained in the database, and to start revising their schemes to allow the Regional Coordinator to approve the amendments and generate an updated version of the regional scheme. In addition, All MS are requested to fill out all the fields of INT Charts tables in IHO web catalogue as much as possible.

2. Current INT Chart scheme:

2.1. INT 751: INT Charts Coordinator highlighted the INT Chart 751 issue is still unsolved between Pakistan and India. Pakistan mentioned that they raise this issue many times in NIOHC meetings but still no response.

2.2. Oman's Proposal:

The Omani INT charts scheme which covers both areas I and J has been revised, according to national needs, coastal development, and other requirements. Accordingly, the list of Omani INT charts in S11 is proposed for updating with most updates being in area I; once this is done, changes will be reported to IHO. At the meeting of the ROPME-SAHC International Charts Co-ordination Working Group (RSAHC-IICWG) 29-30 April 2015 held by ONHO in Oman, a report on all changes and updates were forwarded to the regional coordinator (IR of IRAN). INT chart coordinator noted that Oman should follow the procedure that mentioned in the introduction.

2.3. UKHO:

2.3.1. UK touched on their plan to stop the production of paper charts by 2026, with the assurance that they would not leave the countries where UK is PCA without charting solution and they asked if any country within RSA have similar plans in coming future. Most countries responded that they would continue with paper charts production. In addition, IHO director confirmed IHO plan to develop guidelines for the automated production of paper charts meeting S-4 chart minimum content requirements from S-101 ENC data in coming future.

2.3.2. With regards to statistics of published INT Charts, charts produced by

UKHO cannot be categorized in terms of the countries they cover as mentioned by INT chart coordinator; according to this INT Charts Coordinator requested UKHO to specify relevant INT charts for each country in their reports. UKHO to specify relevant INT charts for each country when reporting to INT Charts Coordinator.

3. Requests for new/ Edit INT Charts

3.1. INT Chart Coordinator highlighted that the current chart numbers related to one country are dispersed and is not sequential, both in terms of waters under jurisdiction and chart scales, and it would be great if such numbers could follow a sequence, according to this MS are encouraged to revise their INT chart scheme and consider renumbering of relevant INT charts to be sequential and forward their views to INT Charts Coordinator.

3.2. Throughout discussion, INT Charts Coordinator requested MS to provide their INT charts updates and information frequently and to give all the INT charts reports one month prior to each RSAHC Meetings through updating IHO Web Catalogue.

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-9, IR of Iran-48, Bahrain-5, Pakistan-9 and UKHO-82 – in the RSAHC.

4.2. Updating S-11

Chart Catalogue S (S11-Part B for Region I) is not up-to-date and available on the IHO website, due to the inconsistency of regional States in reporting comprehensive information and accurate figures about the produced charts.

5. ENCs for the region

5.1. MS ENCs Overlap:

There are a number of overlap issues mentioned by ENC coordinator need to be solved. Accordingly, ENC Regional Coordinator to send IC-ENC overlap report to all member states.

5.2. IHO ENC- Catalogue issues:

5.2.1. The present web chart catalogue has the following problems:

- 5.2.1.1. searching for available new chart numbers (codes) is lengthy;
- 5.2.1.2. a number can be designated for several charts, without any errors by the system; and
- 5.2.1.3. Chart numbers pertaining to one country are dispersed, both in terms of waters under jurisdiction, and chart scales. It would be great if such numbers could follow a sequence.

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

6.1. Exchange mechanism MS:

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, Mr. Saeid Parizi (email parizi@pmo.ir).

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. The chairman then closed the meeting.