



Worldwide ENC Database Working Group (WEND-WG)

31 March 2011

Dear Chairmen of Regional Hydrographic Commissions,

World-Wide Electronic Navigational Chart Database Working Group (WEND-WG) **Circular Letter 1/2011 - Requirement for update on ENC coverage**

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Chair of IRCC's WEND Working Group to seek your advice and support in a pressing WEND matter – that of the continuing gaps in global ENC coverage. This matter is pressing in the light of the IHO commitment to provide adequate ENC coverage.

Clearly within the international hydrographic community we need to examine how we might best manage the difficult issues of both gaps and overlaps in order to provide a complete and unambiguous service to the mariner.

Tackling overlaps is a slightly more sensitive issue and thus I am taking the approach of direct and discrete communication with the Hydrographic Offices of those nations that might be affected.

In terms of gaps in coverage, I am looking towards the relevant Regional Hydrographic Commission chairs to deal with the issue on a “business as usual” basis amongst their member states.

For your information, I have attached diagrams showing potential gaps in Bands 2 to 4 ENC coverage within your sea areas. These diagrams have been produced here at Taunton based on the best information available. I appreciate that other data may exist that either supports or disproves the extent of these gaps. On this basis I would be most grateful if your Commission Members could find the time to validate the diagrams and then let me know if they are an accurate reflection or if they appear to contain errors or omissions.

As you will be aware the reason for the existence gaps may be for a variety of reasons such as:

- Accidental
- Incorrect banding
- No national chart of area
- No INT chart of area
- ENC not issued but planned for production

On the assumption that there may well be gaps amongst ENC cells within the Scale Bands as depicted in my diagrams, I would like to seek your opinion on how we might develop a suitable strategy to mitigate these.



Captain Jamie McMichael-Phillips
WEND-WG Chairman

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Explanation to diagrams

Appendix A: The diagram shows current ENCs in scale bands 2 to 4 against National paper chart within the same scale banding.

Appendix B: The diagram shows current ENCs in scale bands 2 to 4 against an International paper chart series (UK Charts) within the same scale banding. This coverage is deemed to be the minimum acceptable coverage as defined by IMO.