

Paper for Consideration by WENDWG14

WENDWG Accomplishment

Submitted by:	WENDWG Chair
Executive Summary:	This paper describes the various WENDWG initiatives and their current status
Related Documents:	IRCC15_2023_07D_EN_WENDREPORT.doc
Related Projects:	S-100 implementation

Introduction/Background

The WENDWG is a subsidiary of the Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC). Its work is subject to IRCC approval. The primary task is to monitor and advise IRCC on the development of a worldwide consistent level of high-quality, updated official S-57 and S-101 ENC's, and ENDS (as well as other S-100 products and services), through integrated services that support chart carriage requirements of SOLAS Chapter V, and the requirements of the IMO Performance Standards for ECDIS. WENDWG supports the S-100-based products and services implementation strategy.

The WENDWG assembles usually once per year. In special circumstances and if subject matters allow, virtual meetings can be conducted between in-person meetings. The primary method to progress work items is email conversation.

Analyses/Discussion

WEND-100 Principles and S-1xx implementation Guidelines

The S-100 principles became part of the IHO Resolutions in 2021. Up to now, WENDWG considered their status as appropriate. Every WENDWG meeting has an agenda item to consider possible extensions of the S-1xx implementation guidelines.

WEND-100 IGIF Product and Service Matrix

Missing sophisticated methods to calculate the S-100 readiness status on national, regional and global levels, WENDWG developed the WEND-100 IGIF Matrix following the UN GGIM's IGIF nine strategic pathways. The matrix ensures that a reporting HO considers the UN-Integrated Geospatial Information Framework pathway principles when introducing S-1xx products. The Matrix aims to assist S-1xx product providers in considering good practices, such as finance, data, standards, innovation, policy and legal, governance and institutions, partnerships, resources, training, capacity building and communications.

Only 50% of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (including HCA) responded with a total score of 45.85. The problem with the score is the missing score reference. Even managing a score of 100.00 does not indicate data coverage relevant to the IHO report to the IMO NCSR.

However, the matrix is appropriate as it provides a summary of good practices to be considered when setting up an S-100 service.

S-100 readiness status

Aiming a better traceability, the WENDWG office bearer in cooperation with the IHO Secretariat, developed a new S-100 readiness status paper as the basis of a new survey. A respective WENDWG CL was issued and circulated.

We took note that the survey invitation needed to be clearer and that it caused some confusion among Member States. We missed information on how to proceed with the S-100 IGIF Matrix. However, the participation and responses were significant. The IHO Secretariat can use the findings for further actions. The IHO report to the IMO NCSR committee will benefit from the survey. It is planned to repeat the survey in 2025.

A new survey to be used from 2026 onwards was drafted and will be discussed at this meeting.

S-100 Coordinator

The WENDWG noted a lack of S-100 Coordinators in several Regional Hydrographic Commissions. WENDWG suggested assigning the S-100 Coordinator role to the ICCWGs as they might have the biggest harmonisation experiences. This new role goes far beyond their current chart related expertise though. An S-100 Coordinator should consider the following responsibilities:

- Keep an inventory of S-100 products in the region;
- Work to ensure that regional MS understand what S-100 products are available from which organisation in their region;
- Provide input to the S-100 readiness and successor surveys to WENDWG;
- Provide input to the WENDWG on RHC preferences regarding WEND-100 Principles;
- Help to communicate the latest WEND-100 Principles updates to RHC; and
- Work to coordinate new S-100 products according to WEND-100 Principles (as they are developed), following overlap, distribution and other guidance as agreed.

S-128

The WENDWG reviews the intended S-128 provision methods. These methods may have effects on the RENC operations, in particular the management of real-time data. The WENDWG identifies also impacts on the current ENC data flow between producers and distributors. One major future WENDWG focus is to discuss the controlled distribution chain of S-100-based applications across various distribution platforms.

The S-128 content itself is under the NIPWG responsibility. WENDWG agreed that the S-128 content is important for automated INTToGIS III updates.

INTToGIS III Development

The WENDWG commended KHOA and other contributors on the work done to date on the development of INTToGIS III. A prototype version is available. The INTToGIS III development is progressing slowly, due to unpredictable circumstances. The WENDWG noted the importance of INTToGIS III for sharing S-100 product coverage through S-128.

The WENDWG also appreciates US-NGA's contribution to INTToGIS II, the weekly updates of the World Port Index and the Global Maritime Traffic Density Service.

Chart Scheming Update

Following WENDWG 12, the S-101 Scheming Guidelines Project team was placed on standby, where it remains. The WG still cannot find common ground for pursuing a global common grid scheme, so it has decided to task RHC

Chart/S-100 Coordinators with reporting their planned S-101 chart schemes for each region, usage bands 1 – 4. The Group requested that submissions use INTToGIS III if and when it is commissioned.

Considering the delay in having sufficient INTToGIS III functionality, and noting further the S-128 readiness status, WENDWG took note of the German proposal to provide intended S-100 product coverage using open-source software QGIS.

Meeting arrangements and participation

Considering the necessity to have intensive meeting discussions and noting further the limitation of virtual meetings to ensure this purpose, the WENDWG agrees that each WENDWG meeting must be in-person. If it is impossible to resolve a specific discussion topic by email, virtual meetings are considered as an optional solution. Returning to normal procedures after some years of COVID restriction is a factor affecting meeting participation. Regional Hydrographic Commissions should consider the benefits of participating in in-person meetings. The exchange of views, the access to Capacity Building, the discussion on best practices and possibly, the resolution of discrepancies by meeting face-to-face provide significant value for each RHC and should not be underestimated.

The WENDWG also agreed to involve subject matter experts and stakeholders more often in WENDWG meetings. This meeting is the first attempt to satisfy this agreement.

The meeting registration is an issue though. The invitation letter provides strict deadlines for the purpose. A meeting host needs the number of participants for the meeting room arrangements and other options, such as service, food and beverages. It is a question of professionalism and courtesy against other WENDWG members to submit papers as scheduled.

WENDWG future

The primary WENDWG focus is to monitor the development of a worldwide consistent level of high-quality, updated official S-57 and S-101 ENCs, and ENDS (as well as other S-100 products and services), through integrated services that support chart carriage requirements of SOLAS Chapter V, and the requirements of the IMO Performance Standards for ECDIS.

This work is relevant and requires continuation as it ensures that the representation of the IHO Member States work is harmonised, timely coordinated, focussed on users' needs and quality controlled.

By supporting the S-100-based products and services implementation strategy, WENDWG performs detective work for the RHCs and consequently for the Member States. That takes a significant burden and improves resource deployment.

Recommendations

The WENDWG office bearers recommend the continuation of the WENDWG work. Not being involved in the development of technical standards, the workload for WENDWG members is acceptable.

Justifications and impacts

The success of the WENDWG work is significant for the IHO presentation to the world. The work supports the Member States in the provision of high-quality electronic navigation data services harmonized in terms of content and geography.

Action required of WENDWG14:

The WENDWG14 is invited to:

- a. Take note of the paper.
- b. Discuss the appropriateness of future WENDWG work items.