Paper for Consideration by WENDWG14

Canada's Vision for an Integrated National S-128 Catalogue

Submitted by:	Canada
Executive Summary:	This paper outlines Canada's vision for S-128: A member-state produced, single unified catalogue, which will support the development of a global S-128 catalogue and a more streamlined user experience.
Related Documents:	S-100
Related Projects:	Ongoing project by Canada's S-100 Interdepartmental Committee.

Introduction/Background

For the past five years, Canada's S-100 Interdepartmental Committee has held monthly meetings to ensure a cohesive strategy for all S-100 services across the Canadian government. Each S-100 layer has been strategically mapped to departmental mandates. S-128 has also been discussed in the same manner and it was concluded that Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) would create the S-128 catalogue for Canada. Other government departments will share product and service information with CHS. The objective is to establish a unified, real-time S-128 catalogue of services for the country, the scope of which has been expanded to include data to verify local content against the latest available information.

A diagram showing the Canadian approach for a unified S-128 catalogue is shown in Annex A.

Analyses/Discussion

Many member states are currently targeting a limited number of S-100 layers, and may be overlooking the importance of the delivery of a single, unified member state-produced S-128 catalogue due to the complexities associated with engaging all of the national S-100 producing groups in the discussion.

S-128 presents a unique opportunity to catalogue all S-100 products globally. By embracing this opportunity, member states can contribute to creating a comprehensive and globally accessible catalogue of S-100 services. By developing a single, unified S-128 catalogue per member state, the IHO will be able to compile a global S-128 catalogue more efficiently. Additionally, clients will be able to quickly and easily verify that they have the most up-to-date suite of S-100 data products using a single reference.

It is worth noting that member-state developed S-128 catalogues will be crucial in the dual fuel period, and until all products and services have been fully transitioned to S-100 because these catalogues cover all navigational products, including S-57 and paper products. During this period, navigators will need to know about non-S-100 products needed to comply with carriage requirements. Comprehensive details in S-128 products will help navigators be aware of what is actually needed for a voyage, where to get this information, and help keep these carriage requirements up-to-date.

Regional ENC Coordinating Centres (RENCs) and Value Added Resellers (VARs) may create their own S-128 catalogues to ensure an accurate account of the datasets that were validated and 'ready for release' in their offerings to their customers. These S-128 catalogues from RENCs and VARs, however, would not include all of the products from members states portfolios, such as paper products. They would therefore would be a compliment to member-state produced S-128 catalogues.

Conclusion

The S-128 Catalogue is the key reference document for clients and those accessing a member state's data to ensure they have the most up-to-date suite of available products. Adopting the proposed approach will provide the most streamlined experience for users and reduce the risk of errors in version control. The unified approach for all S-100 services put forth here should be considered for global standardization.

Action required of WENDWG14:

The WENDWG14 is invited to:

a. Consider the potential advantages of a unified S-128 catalogue of services.

b. Integrate this vision in WEND S-100 principles

c. Elevate to IRCC

Annex A – Diagram showing Canada's vision for an Integrated National S-128 catalogue