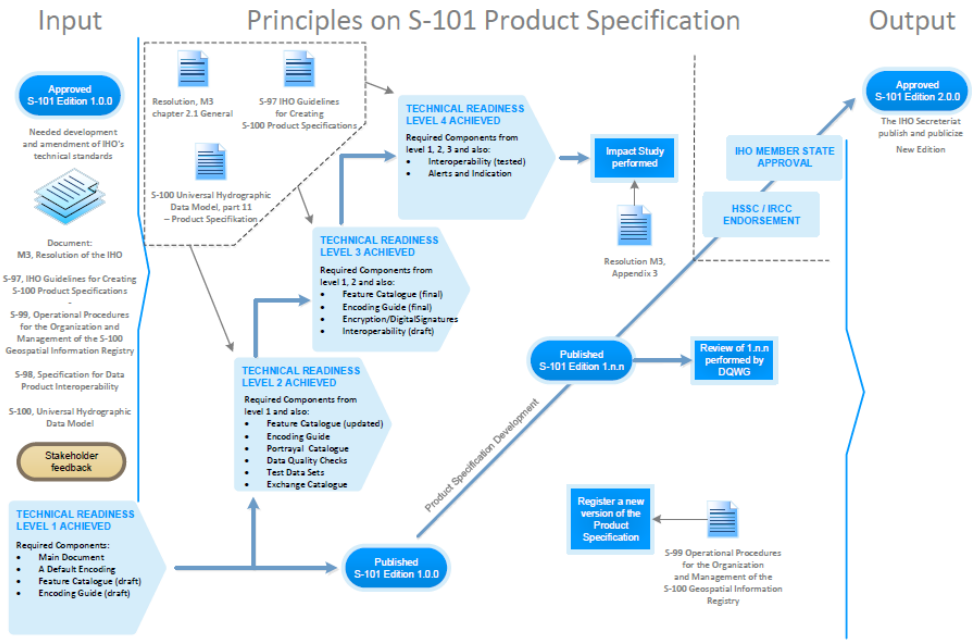
16th Meeting of the Data Quality Working Group (DQWG)
Video-teleconference, 9 – 10 February 2021

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2021	
Task 2.1.2.6	Organize, prepare and report meetings of DQWG
Task 2.4.9	Maintain S-67 – Mariner's Guide to Accuracy of Depth Information in ENCs

The 16th meeting of the Data Quality Working Group (DQWG) was held as remote video-teleconference (VTC) event, from 9 to 10 February.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Rogier Broekman (Netherlands). Forty-six delegates (a record for the DQWG!) representing 18 Member States (Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States), 2 representatives of the RENCs (IC-ENC[1], PRIMAR), 7 expert contributors (IEHG[2], ISO, NWIC[3], Portolan Science, SevenCs, Teledyne-Caris and University of New Hampshire) and 2 stakeholders (CSMART[4], INTERTANKO) attended the meeting. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Assistant Director Yves Guillam and Technical Standards Support Officer Jeff Wootton.

The Chair welcomed the participants and opened the meeting through a much appreciated introduction of the data quality reference documents available on the DQWG webpage. It was followed by an overview of the outcomes of the 12th meeting of the HSSC (19-22 October 2020) and the HSSC Chair Group meeting (9 December 2020) affecting the DQWG. He reported on the expectations from the HSSC, tasked by the Council, to experiment with the implementation of some ISO 9001 Principles in the development of some key IHO activities. A joint and collaborative effort involving the DQWG Chair, the HSSC Vice-Chair, the S-101 Project Team Chair and two subject matter experts, kindly provided by the Swedish Maritime Administration, aims to prepare a preliminary report and recommendations to HSSC-13 on the development of Ed. 2.0.0 of the S-101 Product Specification.



Scoping ISO 9001 Principle applied to the development of S-101 PS Ed. 2.0.0

[1] Chair of the S-101 Project Team.
[2] Inland ENC Harmonization Group.
[3] US Naval Information Warfare Center.
[4] Carnival's Center for Simulator Maritime Training.

Appropriate timeframes need now to be discussed and agreed for the review of subsequent editions of S-101 components by the DQWG.

The DQWG considered a request received from the CSBWG[5] seeking some support to promote the use of crowd sourced bathymetry in nautical charts, in particular when there is no other data available. This topic was addressed in addition to the work item in progress by the DQWG to develop some guidelines and recommendations to Hydrographic Offices based on best practices to allocate CATZOC values (or S-101 ZOC values) from survey data qualified in application of the new Ed. 6.0 of S-44 - *IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys*. A dedicated sub-group was created accordingly. In support of this action, PRIMAR offered to query the ENCs database in order to provide the statistics of CATZOC values per ENC Usage Bands.

The Chair reported on the outcome of his own initial assessment against S-97 Part C (Data Quality) while cross-checking the various corresponding chapters in several S-1xx Product Specifications already available as Edition 1.0.0 or more (S-101, S-102, S-111, S-121, S-122, S-123, S-127, S-129). It was agreed to create another sub-group to complete the work.

The Chair provided a short comparison of Feature Catalogues of various S-1xx Product Specifications, explaining that if the vertical consistency needed to be made per product (from feature type to simple attribute), in order to minimize interoperability issues in the future, it was also important to ensure horizontal consistency. An outstanding preparatory work had been made to convert the files into Excel format, as they are now easily readable and manageable. The US kindly offered to develop software that automatically converts xml files into readable excel format using the presented layout. A third sub-group was created to complete the work.

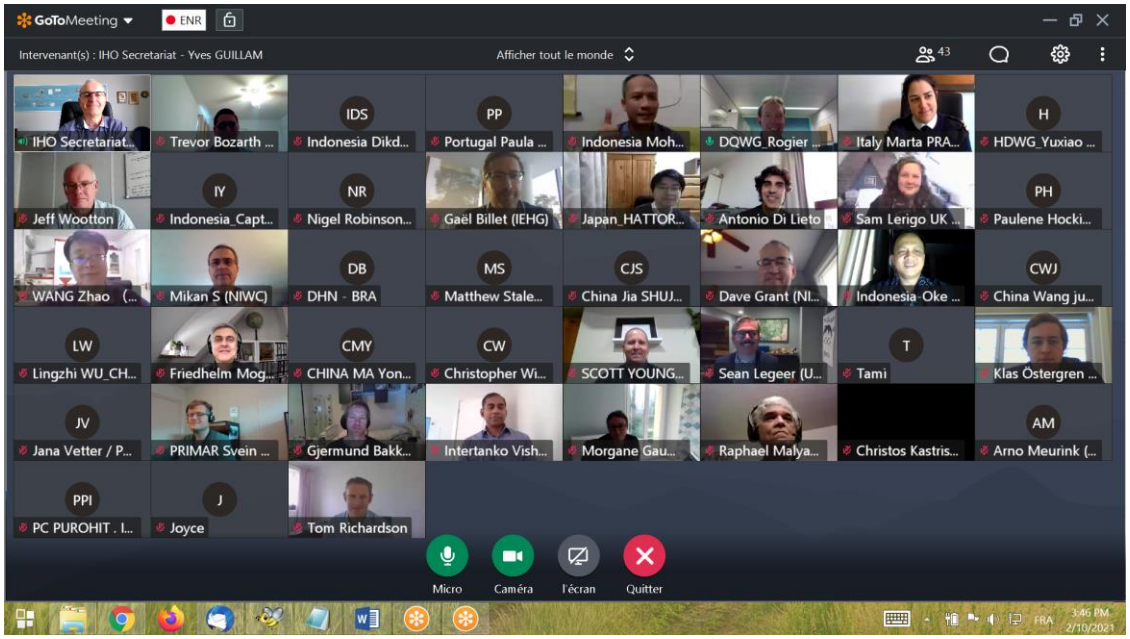
China and France kindly informed the participants that they were involved in the translation of the new Publication S-67 - *Mariners' Guide to Accuracy of Depth Information in ENCs*. Chinese and French versions are planned for May 2021.

All related to the importance of knowing data quality and therefore for HOs to populate uncertainty values, very informative presentations were delivered on autonomous shipping and chart and land vertical datums.

Mr Rogier Broekman was re-appointed as Chair of the DQWG. No nomination was received for the position of Vice-Chair which becomes vacant. Despite the continuous support provided by the IHO Secretariat, the lack of a Vice-Chair, added to the vacancy of the Secretary position, put at risk the sustainability of the DQWG.

The next meeting of the DQWG is planned from 8 to 11 February 2022 with the location and venue still to be decided.

[5] Crowdsourced Bathymetry Working Group.



Participants in the DQWG-16 VTC meeting