



16th Meeting of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee

Report of the Hydrographic Surveys Working Group (HSWG)

Agenda Item HSSC15-05.6A

Authored by David Parker (UK), HSWG Chair

Presented by Cdr Carlos Videira Marques (Portugal), Secretary

HSSC-15, Tokyo, Japan, 27-31 May 2024



IHO

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS 1 - HSWG

International
Hydrographic
Organization

- a) HSWG5 held in person, [Lombok](#), Indonesia, [October 2023](#)
- b) HSWG6 held [VTC](#) + Hybrid Hub (Dublin, Ireland) [February 2024](#)
- c) Both included [Project Team work](#) (Manual on Hydrography PT - C-13 and Satellite Derived Bathymetry PT).
- d) [S-44 v6.1](#) published [October 2022](#), Following two-year maintenance cycle, [v6.2](#) now supplied for [HSSC endorsement](#). Key changes for S-44 v6.2:
 - a) Liaising with the GEOHAB Backscatter Working Group to develop content and standards around backscatter. Help make S-44 more universally used in seabed mapping.
 - b) Addition of a priori uncertainty and a posteriori uncertainty, clarification of the term total horizontal uncertainty
 - c) Revision of section 3.8 Nature of the Bottom



IHO

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2 - HSWG

International
Hydrographic
Organization

1. Tracking of S-44 downloads against IHO Strategic Objective 2.2.2 underway.
2. B-13 SDB Best Practice Guide v1.0 published March 2024.
3. C-13 Manual on Hydrography progress continues – target completion date late 2025.



IHO

PROBLEMS OR OUTSTANDING ISSUES

International
Hydrographic
Organization

1. **C-13 progress still slow** due to size of the task and limited number of consistent contributors.
2. **Attendance at in-person meeting more limited** due to financial / ecological restrictions on travel from member organisations.
3. **Some misalignment noted between S-44 and S-100 standards.** Includes description of uncertainty and other terminology/definitions. Although S-44 definitions believed to be correct, not easy to propose changes to S-100 standards due to high priority timelines.
4. **How much priority should a standards organisation place on standardisation between standards?**



IHO

FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

International
Hydrographic
Organization

1. Ongoing longer-term updates of S-44 underway as per maintenance schedule. V6.3 due 2026. HSWG maintains a suggestions log for all to contribute.
2. Maintenance of B-13 planned on a two-year cycle following publication in March 2024. Led by Knut Hartman.
3. C-13 update ongoing, led by Ian Davies. Target for updated version Dec 2024.
4. Suggested working with TWCWG on development of tidal height and stream uncertainty standards to be included in S-44 – now awaiting their proposals.



IHO

ACTIONS REQUESTED FROM HSSC

International
Hydrographic
Organization

1. Endorse S-44 v6.2
2. Approve amendments to HSWG ToRs
3. Note challenges relating to the new version of C-13.
4. Note challenges relating to current misalignment between S-44 and S-100 standards.
5. Agree and support proposed work plans.