

Discussion on the Future of the Paper Nautical Chart from another perspective

Submitted by:	ICA/Commission on Marine Cartography (Chair and Vice Chair)
Executive Summary:	Chinese proposal for the future of paper nautical chart for use by non navigational users
Related Documents:	NCWG5-06.1D
Related Projects:	Future of the Paper Nautical Chart

Introduction / Background

In the framework of the discussion on the Future of the Paper Nautical Chart, the China MSE submitted for consideration by the NCWG a proposal on the subject that leads to the design and production of an alternative form of the nautical chart for use by non-navigational users. The users' community of this chart – called “Thematic Navigational Chart (TNC)” - will be administrators, port managers, marine planners and marine engineers, environmentalists etc.

Analysis / Discussion

As it is clearly stated in the proposal, the intended uses, and therefore the design/content characteristics/specifications of the TNC, will be different from those of the traditional nautical paper chart and, eventually, these charts will not fulfill the IHO specifications of the paper nautical charts used by navigators.

More specifically, the main characteristics of the TNCs are the following:

- Hill and bottom shading
- Use of remotely sensed information for the base map
- New symbol design, including pseudo 3D symbols and hand drawn symbols
- Decoration
- Portrayal of statistical information for the area covered
- Emphasis on the artistic beauty of the chart

From the example chartlets included in the proposal, one can see that a “Thematic Nautical Chart” is a product that does not meet the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) carriage requirements, which are obligatory for vessels under the SOLAS convention. On the other hand, these charts can be used by other users’ groups, such as the ones mentioned earlier.

Conclusions

Based on the above, it becomes evident that the scope and the approach adopted in the China MSE proposal are different compared with the stated requirements for the design/content of the paper chart to be used by mariners and be part of “An appropriate folio of paper nautical charts that may be used as a back-up arrangement for ECDIS” as stated in Regulation 19 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). Therefore, the proposal is not within the context set by the NCWG for the discussion on the Future of the Paper Nautical Chart. It is considered that the approach described in the recent NCWG report on the subject is a realistic one and the Minimum Mandatory Content for Back-up Charts for ECDIS Navigation as described in that report provides a safe and sound route for the production of paper nautical charts in the future.

Despite the above, it will be to the benefit of the discussion underway on the Future of the Paper Nautical Chart, to see examples of customized thematic paper charts produced in accordance with the China MSE proposal for non-navigational use. This will assist to better understand the potential of developing such products and trigger further discussion and consideration by the IHO NCWG.

Recommendation

The proposal for the “Future of the Paper Nautical Chart from another perspective” should not have -for now- an impact on the approach described in the NCWG report on the subject.

Justification and Impacts**Action required of NCWG**

The NCWG is invited to:

- a. note this paper;
- b. comment and provide feedback on the above recommendation.