

## 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Nautical Cartography Working Group (NCWG) Video-teleconference (VTC), 24–25 November 2021

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2021	
Task 2.1.2.4	Organize, prepare and report meetings of NCWG

Following a poll among its members, the Nautical Cartography Working Group decided to hold its 7<sup>th</sup> meeting (NCWG-7) from 24 to 25 November 2021 by video teleconference (VTC).

The meeting was chaired by Mr Mikko Hovi (Finland), supported by Mr Edward Hands (Norway, Secretary). Forty-two delegates from 24 Member States (Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom and USA), seven Expert Contributors and Dr Lysandros Tsoulos, representing the FIG/IHO/ICA International Board of Competence for Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) and the ICA Commission on Marine Cartography, participated in the meeting. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Abri Kampfer, Technical Standards Support Officer Jeff Wootton and Assistant Directors Yong Baek and Yves Guillam.

The Chair opened the meeting informing participants that due to the VTC format, the agenda was limited to the most important items and proposals received since the last meeting. The Chair reported on the outcome of HSSC-13 held in May as well as on the priorities and directions given by the Council at its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, in particular for the production of paper charts from S-101 ENC chart content. An update of the NCWG Work Plan was also prepared by the Secretary.

One of the most important work item for the NCWG is the implementation of the recommendations on the Future of the Paper Nautical Chart (FOPNC) endorsed by HSSC and the Council.



### In summary

- Smaller commercial vessels are hard to reach for surveying
- Most owners run small fleets, trading regionally or more locally
- 50% of ECDIS fitted vessels carry paper as back up
- 50% of ships carry fewer than 100 charts, 25% carry 500+
- Only 10% of vessels carry a global portfolio
- 70% charts are purchased from Chart Agents but 95% purchase fewer than 50 charts per year
- 0% will carry more paper, 37% will carry fewer charts
- 68% will fit ECDIS in the next 5 years
- **Electronic charting is being used in all market sectors**

As part of this task, the UKHO kindly shared some information describing users and uses of paper charts. It was also noted that there is still some continued use of paper charts even when dual ECDIS is present, while the investment cost for Print-on-Demand remains a matter of concern on users' side.

The Chair took the opportunity to remind that there is no requirement at this stage for the NCWG to develop a new standard for back-up paper charts.

Following a short status report by Canada, leading the project team on Baseline Symbology, established to development of set of symbols for automated paper chart production from S-101 ENC data, the NCWG considered the recommendations provided by the United States and the Republic of Korea, one of which being to re-focus the priorities by creating an S-57 ENC data based solution first. After discussions on technical issues and the scope of this task, the NCWG acknowledged that there was an urgent need first to establish the Terms of Reference of the Project Team by the end of

the year and to draft a work plan to be submitted to the working group for approval by the end of January 2022.

Three main specific cartographic proposals were made at the meeting:

- One by France recommending, as a consequence of the work in progress by the S-101 PT on “Quality of Horizontal Measurement”, the population of S-57 quantitative spatial attribute (POSACC in S-57) as an amendment to S-4 and the subsequent merging of PA and PD abbreviations;
- One by the IHO Secretariat<sup>1</sup>, this time in preparation of decisions to be made by the S-101 PT, relating to the depth resolution (rounding) on charts, with some significant amendments in S-4 and the endorsement of a paper to be submitted to the S-101 PT;
- One by the United Kingdom, on the depiction of decommissioned oil/gas platform jacket, prior to the provision of a clearance certificate.



*Some participants at NCWG-7*

Germany reported on a booklet<sup>2</sup> presented in the margins of the UN-GGIM meeting in August and developed by the International Cartographic Association together with the United Nations Geospatial Information Section. This booklet covers several Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). It is proposed that the IHO gets involved in the next edition, when planned, in order to encompass marine cartography, ocean mapping and hydrography, in particular in support of SDG14).

The representative of the IBSC for Nautical Cartographers also made a call for vacancy urging NCWG members to consider becoming Members and provide expertise in accordance with NCWG TORs (Art. 1.b).



<sup>1</sup> TSSO.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.un-ilibrary.org/content/books/9789216040468#>

At the end of the meeting, the Working Group decided to hold NCWG-8 from 8 to 11 November 2022, with the venue (Australia) to be confirmed.