

NAUTICAL INFORMATION PROVISION WORKING GROUP

NIPWG Letter 4/2020

8 May 2020

NIPWG Members

Continuation of NIPWG activities, Consideration of postponement of NIPWG8 meeting owing to COVID-19 impact

Ref: None

Dear colleagues,

Hope that you are all doing well. Some of us might be more affected by the virus as others but we never ever give up and better times loom. I am sure, we will beat the beast.

This letter addresses following items:

- HSSC issues and progress with S-49 and the product specifications developments
- Extension of S-127 (Marine Traffic Management) product specification
- Possible postponement of NIPWG8 and video conferences

HSSC issues and progress with S-49 and the product specifications developments

The scheduled HSSC12 meeting is postponed to October 2020 owing to the COVID-19 impact. The HSSC Chair in close cooperation with the IHO secretariat decided that work items dependent on HSSC endorsement should have been provided by the WGs for consideration to the HSSC Chair and the IHO Directing Committee. On behalf of NIPWG I sought endorsement on the continuation/initiation of the S-126 (Marine Physical Environment) and S-12x (Marine Harbour Infrastructure) product specifications. I also required the HSSC endorsement and subsequently Member State approval of the S-49 revision.

The outcome is that the S-49 revision is progressing as requested. HSSC Chair also confirmed that we could move forward with the development of the two said product specifications with the advice to prioritise the S-12x (Marine Harbour Infrastructure). A status report should be provided to HSSC12.

I suggest the following procedure. We start with the scoping work. That enables us to have a clear overview on the data model components to be developed. A further NIPWG letter describing the work in more detail will be provided in June. In the meantime, you are invited to consider your possible participation in small teams focussing on the scope development. **I appreciate it to receive your participation offers by the 5th of June at the latest.**

Extension of S-127 (Marine Traffic Management) product specification

During the assessment of possible test data production methods, the Canadian Coastguard detected that the description of contact details of bridge/lock/canal passages is not covered by any product specifications under the remit of NIPWG. US (NGA) and other parties tried to figure out the reason of this omission. In addition, possible solutions were developed.

We assumed at the time when NIPWG assorted data model features to potential product specifications (Helsinki Meeting) that this information would be provided by S-101 (as it keeps all cartographic features in any case). The intention to convince the S-101PT to extend their data model and incorporate all of our data model components for contact details and for regulations/restrictions/recommendation/Nautical Information in S-101 miserably failed. Unfortunately, we forgot to integrate this missing information into our product specifications.

However, the solution is that we will incorporate this information into the next edition of S-127. To progress this request according to the defined procedure, Canada will address this problem by using the S-127 comment form. In parallel, US (NGA) will extend the test data sample accordingly. Both parties will work closely together to ensure that nothing remains untouched.

Possible postponement of NIPWG8 and video conferences

The impact of COVID19 on our business life is still unpredictable. Nobody can really say if international travels as we knew it will be possible in September. I have concerns that WG members should remain some days in quarantine before they are allowed to enter France and that they probably experience the same procedure when they travel back home.

Taking into account that the most of us need at least three months office/administration preparation time to participate a meeting abroad, and further considering the NIPWG ToR number 4 d), I intend to make a decision by the end of May. I'm aware that this will be a relatively short notice and this has effects on France (SHOM) as they kindly offered to host this meeting

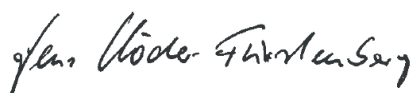
The IHO Directing Committee informed us that we have the opportunity to held video conferences with the Zoom Video System. If NIPWG8 will be postponed, I strongly suggest that we should take this offer. We should consider multiple small topic related sessions during the summer time and possibly a one or two days online meeting to present the results of the various ongoing projects in September.

I invite you to provide responses **by the 27th of May at the latest** to the following questions:

- Would Zoom work for you?
- Would you agree to have a virtual meeting (and multiple small sessions during the summer time) instead of having a face-to-face NIPWG8 meeting?
- Would you agree that we should have the next face-to-face NIPWG meeting by the end of March 2021?

This letter is **not a tacit approval** letter. Your responses to the due dates are appreciated and necessary.

Best regards,



Jens Schröder-Fürstenberg,
Chair, NIPWG