

**8th Meeting of the Nautical Information Provision Working Group
(NIPWG)
Video-conference, 23 – 25 March 2021**

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2021	
Task 2.1.2.5	Organize, prepare and report meetings of NIPWG
Task 2.5.2	Support the development and implementation of Maritime Services
Task 2.8.1	Maintain S-12, as appropriate - <i>Standardization of List of Lights and Fog Signals</i>
Task 2.8.3	Maintain S-49, as appropriate - <i>Standardization of Mariners' Routeing Guides</i>

The 8th meeting of the Nautical Information Provision Working Group (NIPWG) was arranged by video teleconference (VTC) from 23 to 25 March 2021.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Jens Schröder-Fürstenberg (Germany), supported by Mr Thomas Loeper, Secretary (USA). Forty delegates from 16 Member States (Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom and United States) and eight expert contributors attended the meeting. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Abri Kampfner and Assistant Director Yves Guillam.

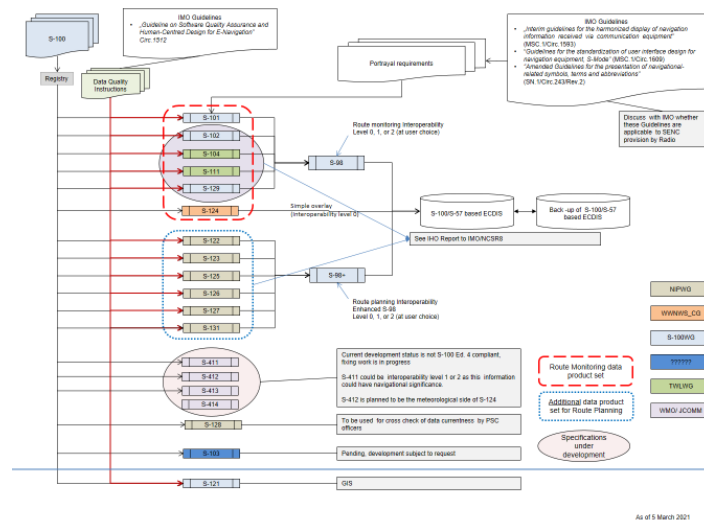
In order to familiarise new members and refresh experienced members with the main objectives of the group, the Chair opened the meeting with an overview of NIPWG activities and the current work status. This was followed by a presentation by the representative of the IHO Secretariat on the outcomes of several important events since the last NIPWG meeting (HSSC-12, A-2, C-4 and DQWG-16) with some recommendations to be considered on their impact on NIPWG activities.

A report on the progress made in the development of the S-131 Product Specification - *Marine Harbour Infrastructure* – in liaison with IHMA throughout the year, led to important suggestions such as the value of developing an IHO-flagged database for collecting, storing and providing marine harbour infrastructure information. These recommendations will be reported to HSSC-13. The experience gained by Norway with interfacing the Hydrographic Service and marine harbour authorities is going to be used in the S-131 development for possible alignment. The US (NGA) also reported on the improvements in progress for the development and upgrade of their World Port Index web services. A new API is to be developed to facilitate the online direct maintenance by users and for connecting to INTOGIS services.

The working group considered a liaison note (vision outline) from IALA on the development of S-125 – *Marine Navigational Services*. Many advantages are expected by Hydrographic Offices from this work item, one of which being a more efficient data stream exchange with Aids to Navigation authorities all over the world. As the data model looks satisfactory at this stage, it appears that some governance and operational issues still need to be addressed, among which the possible side effects with S-124 – *Navigational Warnings*.

Following a presentation on Maritime Connectivity Platform, NIPWG agreed that the appropriate provision of Maritime Services in context of e-Navigation under the remit of IHO was essential. References were made to the IALA recently developed G1128 document providing a template for the description of associated technical services and to G1157 for web-based S-100 data exchange. NIPWG will provide HSSC with contribution to the Roadmap

for the S-100 Implementation Decade through a reference to the description of such Maritime Services.



Conceptual S-100 Architectural Display, maintained by NIPWG

Noting the lack of understanding or at least different expectations on how the different products under the remit of IHO should work together in a future S-100 based ECDIS machine, noting the description of IMO's Maritime Services in context of e-navigation, NIPWG raised the urgent need, to be reported to HSSC, that an operational concept paper (incl. data stream, governance, stakeholders' involvement, etc) is prepared. This paper will complement the S-100 Display Architecture currently maintained by NIPWG to which it was suggested to add S-128 – *Catalogue of Nautical Products*.

At the end of the meeting, Mr Eivind Mong (Canada), also Chair of the S-124 Project Team, was elected as Chair of NIPWG while Mr Stefan Engström (Finland) was re-elected Vice-Chair. All the members congratulate Mr Jens Schröder-Fürstenberg (Germany), out-going Chair, for his outstanding commitment and full dedication at the helm of NIPWG for many years.

The 9th meeting of the NIPWG is scheduled to be held in Niteroi, Brazil, in September 2022. VTC inter-sessional meetings are also planned in September 2021.