

IHO File No. S3/8151/HSSC & S3/0104

CIRCULAR LETTER 46/2025 01 December 2025

ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT PROJECT TEAM ON POTENTIAL HSSC/IRCC RESTRUCTURING

References:

- A. IHO CL No. 40/2025 dated 4 November 2025 - Joint Project Team on potential HSSC/IRCC restructuring to better align future HSSC/IRCC work plans according to IHO Strategic Plan 2027-32
- B. Summary Report of the 9th meeting of the IHO Council dated 14-16 October 2025 (Decision C9/059).
- C. IRCC and HSSC Work Organization (C9 04.1B).
- D. Work Plan Revision based on the new strategic plan for 2027-2032 (C9 06.5A).

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Reference A invited IHO Member States to nominate their representatives to the Joint Project Team. To ensure balanced involvement, it was suggested that no more than one representative per Committee be proposed, preferably selected from those national representatives already serving within IRCC and HSSC. At the same time, Member States were encouraged to submit any comments regarding the proposed way forward and specific items to be addressed under the annexed Terms of Reference.
2. The Project Team shall also include the Chairs and vice-Chairs of both HSSC and IRCC, the IHO Secretariat and additional subject matter experts as deemed appropriate.
3. The IHO Secretariat thanks the following Member States for responding to the Circular Letter in Reference A: Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, France, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States of America. IC-ENC offered participation as subject matter expert.
4. The nominated representatives for the PT are listed in Annex A of the present Circular Letter.
5. United States of America recommended deleting the final bullet under "Procedures" ("The PT will be dissolved following C-10.") since there was general agreement at C-9 that it might not be possible for the PT to fully complete its work by C-10 (Reference B refers). The Terms of Reference (Annex B) are therefore modified accordingly.
6. The Joint PT is now understood as been installed and will start its deliberations without delay.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General

Annex A - List of nominated representatives for the Joint Project Team.

Annex B - Realignment Project Team - Terms of Reference.

Member State / Expert Organization	Nominated individuals	Expertise with IHO bodies	Potential role
Australia	Mrs Hilary THOMPSON	IRCC	
	Mr Alvaro SANCHEZ	HSSC	
Canada	Ms Sonja BHATIA	IRCC	
Chile	Mr Hugo Gorziglia	IRCC	Primary representative
	Mr Felipe Barrios	IRCC	Alternate representative
China	Mr Lingzhi WU	HSSC	
Denmark	Mr Hendrik STANG	IRCC, SPRWG (Secretary)	
France	Ms Nathalie LEIDINGER	HSSC (Vice-Chair)	
Germany	Mr Thomas DEHLING	IRCC Chair	
New Zealand	Mr Adam GREENLAND	IRCC	
Sweden	Mr Magnus WALLHAGEN	HSSC Chair	
United Kingdom	Ms Lucy FIELDHOUSE	IRCC	
	Mr Tom RICHARDSON	HSSC	
United States of America	Ms Julia POWELL	HSSC	Availability as PT Chair
	Mr Kevin Dickens	IRCC	
IHO Secretariat	Secretary-General and/or Director Technology and/or Director Coordination		Ad hoc participation related to the subject in consideration
IC-ENC	Mr James HARPER	HSSC, IRCC, IHO Council (invited subject matter expert)	Availability as PT Secretary

Realignment Project Team
Terms of Reference

Background

Recognizing the need to investigate a potential Committee realignment to support the IHO Strategic Plan 2027 – 2032 and improve cross-Committee efficiency, the IHO Council tasked the Chairs of IRCC and HSSC to lead a temporary Project Team to evaluate the necessity for and potential impacts of realigning the IRCC and HSSC Working Groups.

Objective

To analyze the current alignment of the IRCC and HSSC work structures with the IHO Strategic Plan 2027 – 2032 a guide and if deemed necessary to provide recommendations for realignment to improve cross Committee collaboration and efficiency.

The Project Team should consider:

- a. Working Group realignment
- b. Possible addition or retirement of Working Groups
- c. Potential impacts on the IHO Basic Documents and Structure (IHO Secretariat)
- d. Timeline for implementation
- e. Others as deemed appropriate

Authority

The Project Team is a subsidiary body of the IHO Council. Its work is subject to the Council's approval.

Composition

- The PT shall be composed of representatives from the IRCC, HSSC, and IHO Secretariat. Additional subject matter experts may be included should the Chair(s) deem appropriate.
- The co-Chairs shall be the current IRCC and HSSC Chairs or the co-Chairs may jointly designate a Chair.
- The co-Chairs shall alternate chairing duties between meetings with the non-Chair serving as vice-Chair unless otherwise agreed between.
- If a secretary is required, it should generally be drawn from a member of the PT.
- All Members shall inform the Chair in advance of their intention or inability to attend meetings of the PT.

Procedures

- The PT should work through correspondence, teleconferences, group meetings and workshops.
- Decisions should generally be made by consensus. Only Members may cast a vote if votes are required on issues or to endorse proposals presented to the PT. Meeting votes shall be based on one vote per Member represented at the meeting. Correspondence votes shall be based on one vote per Member represented in the PT.
- The PT should liaise with other IHO bodies, Working Groups, and other Project Teams to ensure the relevance of its work.
- The PT should report to Council at its 10th Meeting (C-10) on its decisions and recommendations.
- ~~— The PT will be dissolved following C-10.~~