

## 44<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE FIG/IHO/ICA INTERNATIONAL BOARD ON STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYORS AND NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHERS (IBSC)

VTC, 19 - 30 April

### Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2021

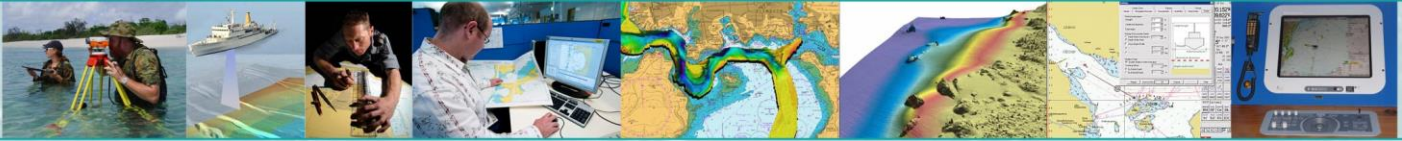
Task 3.8.1	Organize, prepare and report annual meetings of the International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC)
------------	---

The FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) is a joint Board of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), and the International Cartographic Association (ICA). The IBSC is responsible to promote, develop and maintain international standards of competence for hydrographic surveyors and nautical cartographers, to maintain publications and documents resulting from the tasks carried out by the Board, to review training/education programmes and competency schemes seeking recognition and to conduct onsite visits to institutions holding recognized programmes.

The 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of the FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) was held by VTC due to the COVID-19 pandemic, from 19 to 30 April 2021. It was chaired by Mr Ron Furness (Australia, ICA) and attended by all ten Members of the Board. IHO Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas (IBSC Secretary) represented the IHO Secretariat. IHO Director Luigi Sinapi participated in the opening session to welcome the Members and express the importance of the work of the Board.

This was the first meeting for Prof. Dr Harald Sternberg (Germany, FIG), Dr Arata Sengoku (Japan, IHO) and also for the IHO Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas, a former IBSC Member and now new secretary of the IBSC.





*Board Members and IHO Director Luigi Sinapi on the opening session of IBSC44.*

The VTC format increased the level of challenge, as normally the Board meets for more than 7 hours per day. Due to the VTC format and the different time zones of the meeting participants (Board members and submitting institutions), the daily duration of the meeting and the related discussions were reduced to 4 hours.

During the two-week meeting the Board assessed 14 applications for recognition of hydrographic (11) and cartographic (1) programmes and 2 schemes of individual competency recognition received from 9 Countries. Eight of the submitted programmes were new. Out of the 14 submissions only 1 was recognized, 3 were recognized with conditions and 10 were not recognized. However, in the effort to allow more programs to be recognized, the Board offered 6 of the 10 non-recognized submissions the possibility of submitting new versions inter-sessional. The remaining 4 were 2 new programmes and 2 schemes of individual competency recognition.

During the meeting it was also necessary to discuss and approve other important working items such as the Board Work Programme. In relation with on-site visits, the Board established a list of five priority Institutions to be visited when the situation allows.

Due to the need to proceed to the revision of the 6 inter-sessional submissions as well as the current standards, it was decided to conduct an inter-sessional workshop. The workshop is expected to be held in a hybrid format (face-to-face and VTC), as the conditions allow, in the first week of November (venue TBD).

The 45<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IBSC is planned to be held in Cádiz, Spain, in March/April 2022.