

45TH MEETING OF THE US/CANADA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (USCHC45)

Ottawa, Canada, 9 to 10 June

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2022

Task 3.2.1.15	Prepare for and report meetings of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions: USCHC
---------------	---

The 45th Meeting of the US/Canada Hydrographic Commission (USCHC45), was held from 9 to 10 June 2022 in Ottawa, Canada.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Geneviève Béchar, National Hydrographer of Canada and Co-Chair RDML Benjamin Evans, NOAA Director, NOAA Office of Coast Survey. All together twenty-three participants from the two Member States (US, Canada) and associated Members (Australia and United Kingdom) participated in the meeting. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Secretary-General Dr Mathias Jonas.



Group photo of the participants at the USCHC45 Meeting

The meeting commenced with welcome words from the Chair and the Co-Chair. Both reminded the participants with sadness of the untimely passing of Rick Brennan, former



NOAA Director, only weeks after his take over in May 2021. The meeting proceeded with the approval of the agenda and the matters arising from the previous USCHC44 Meeting and the respective list of actions.

National Reports were presented in sequence from US and Canada. Notable progress was made in the definition and rework of ENC's in gridded schemes. Both reports highlighted the efficient cross border coordination to solve cartographic issues resulting from the new schemes. As an item of note, US reported on the unrestricted availability of a global AIS dataset named GMTDS to assist prioritization of survey planning. The meeting continued with the reports of the respective national representatives in various IHO related activities, namely updates on the WENDWG deliberations, the IHO MASS project team, the "Empowering Women in Hydrography" project and GEBCO/Seabed2030. Canada reported about the findings of the workshop on identifying the capabilities of the "Hydrographer of the future" and a new citizen science element named "Community Hydrography". This program is designed to equip ambitious amateurs with low cost hydroacoustic equipment for towed survey in very shallow waters. The response is so far positive and providing tangible results in terms of quality and coverage.

Fisheries and Oceans
Canada
Pêches et Océans
Canada

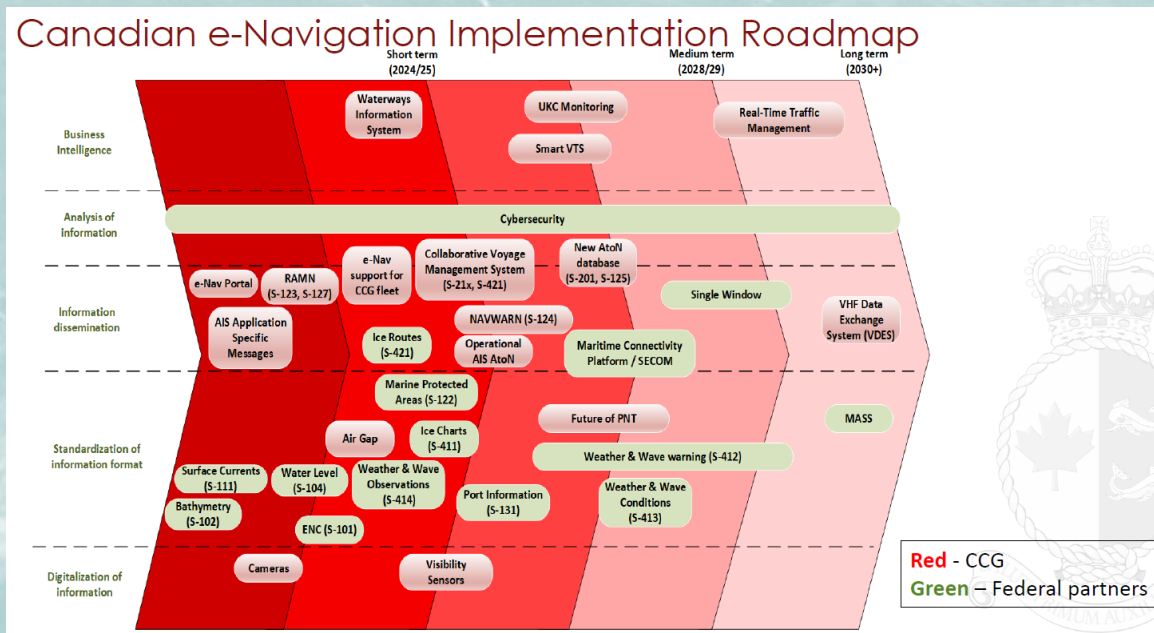
Objectives – Community Hydrography

- Data collected for free or through a modest investment!
- Fill in the gaps
- Identify dangers
- Leverage technology
 - Artificial Intelligence (multiple passes, tide correction)
 - Continuous Vertical Datum
 - Automatic data transmission and sounding computation
- Allows for the collection of validated data
- Contribute to DCDB
- Citizen Science – involvement increases interest

A lively discussion arose about the production of paper charts from ENC's. All four hydrographic offices that were present have firm plans for implementation to meet their national requirements. A standardization under the IHO framework was regarded as desirable and may be proposed to be adopted to the HSSC work plan by event of C-6.



A number of specific presentations presented the progress of S-100 compliant data services in the region. Canada presented a concise plan to bring altogether 18 data products into service to make e-navigation a reality in domestic waters. Valuable information can be found under <https://e-navigation.canada.ca>.



US and Canada confirmed to agree on the selected member of the third Council for the period 2023 – 2026 in due course. In order to assist with this decision, the Secretary-General IHO provided the current tonnage list in place to identify Member States eligible for the first ten Council seats.

Before closing the meeting Dr Bécharde handed over the chair's role to RDML Benjamin Evans. The next meeting is scheduled for 12-16 March 2023 probably back to back with the US Hydro Conference in Mobile, Alabama, USA.