

5th Meeting of the IHO Hydrographic Surveys Working Group Lombok, Indonesia, 2 - 5 October

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2023	
Task 2.1.2.9	Attendance of HSWG5 meeting

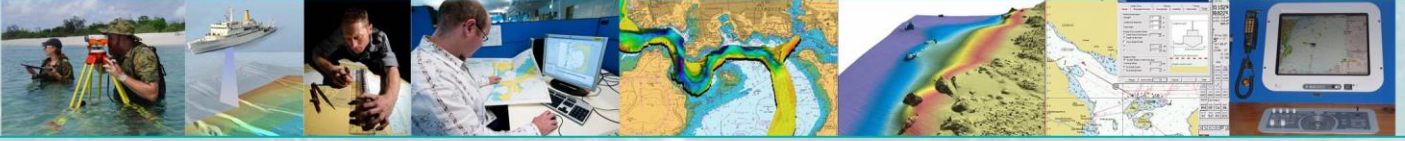
The Hydrographic Surveys Working Group (HSWG) has been tasked by the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) to act as the focal point for hydrographic surveying industry engagement with the IHO and maintain and promote the use of IHO publications S-44 *Standards for Hydrographic Surveys* and C-13 *Manual on Hydrography*.

The 5th meeting of the Hydrographic Surveys Working Group (HSWG5) was Pushidrosal on the island of Lombok, Indonesia from 2nd to 5th October 2023, under the chairmanship of Mr David Parker (UK). The meeting was attended by 20 delegates from 10 IHO Member States (Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, UK and USA) and a range Expert Contributors from industry and academia. The IHO Secretariat were represented by Assistant Director Sam Harper.

Introducing the meeting, the Chair summarized the intentions for HSWG5. The main focus of HSWG5 was progressing the work on updating C-13, The Manual on Hydrography, with a particular focus on ensuring that the project team had clarity on the purpose and target audience of the revised publication. He noted that it was also his intent to review the S-44 update process and discuss the key elements of S-44 which would be the focus of the next revision.

S-44. Following a recap of the process leading to approval of S-44 Ed.6.1.0, the update process was reviewed and agreed to be every 2 years. The key areas that would be the focus of the next revision were agreed to be Backscatter, Seafloor Coverage and Uncertainty. It was noted that Backscatter would be an entirely new addition to S-44 and that external expertise would likely need to be sought. The plan to have these revisions ready for December 2024 for onward submission to HSSC17 was agreed.

C-13. Ian Davies (UK) led the Project Team through the results of the questionnaire that had been prepared to gauge the interest, scope and intended audience of a revised C-13 publication. Previously it had been envisioned that C-13 should be a companion guide to the S-5 and S-8 syllabi. However, in exploring the mechanics of



maintaining a publication that kept up to date or at least consistent with S5 and S8 some significant challenges were identified. After much discussion it was agreed that the content of S-5 and S8 would be a starting point for the new edition of C-13, however it would be a standalone reference publication that seeks to provide the latest thinking with regards to Hydrographic Sciences.

Other Matters. Noting the inter-linkages with other IHO bodies, presentations and discussion on key issues were had relating to the Data Quality Working Group, the Hydrographic Dictionary Working Group, the Tides, Water Levels and Currents Working Group, the S-100 Working Group, The GEBCO Technical Sub-Committee on Ocean Mapping and the Crowdsourced Bathymetry Working Group. It was noted that the HSWG would need to be proactive in reaching out to these groups to provide support and a number of associated actions were assigned. Of particular note was the growing need for HSWG representation within the working groups that are responsible for various S-10x Product Specifications. It was noted that in many cases, language, terminology and the general approach to discussing and describing issues relating to measurement uncertainty is inconsistent across many of these groups and that there is a role for the HSWG to assist as the subject matter experts.

Election of the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Both the Chair and Vice Chair completed their first 2 year terms at HSWG5. Both were willing to stand again and in the absence of any other nominees, were voted in by acclimation. The secretary also indicated his desire to remain in post which was supported by the members of the working group.

The 6th Meeting of the HSWG will be held via VTC on the 26 and 29 February 2024.



Some of the participants at the HSWG5 meeting