

Paper for Consideration by HSSC

Report on Future of the Paper Nautical Chart

Submitted by:	NCWG
Executive Summary:	-
Related Documents:	HSSC5-INF7, HSSC6-08INF1, CSPCWG11-09.6A, CSPCWG11-13.1A, NCWG2-13.1A, HSSC11-05.4B
Related Projects:	-

Background and Introduction

The idea for writing a paper on the Future of the Paper Nautical Chart originated at the ninth meeting of the Chart Standardization and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG) in 2012. During the meeting, a discussion about the relevance of the INT chart concept expanded to consider the future of the paper chart generally.

Over the span of five years, three working group chairs, and several working group members volunteering to help write a paper. This task is in the work plan of the Nautical Cartography Working Group (NCWG) (the former CSPCWG) as high-priority Item A16, "Consideration of the 'future of the paper chart.'"

The NCWG report on the Future of the Paper Nautical Chart has been prepared by a sub working group led by Colby Harmon (USA). A preliminary report was presented to HSSC at HSSC11 in May 2019.

Discussion

Sales and use of paper nautical charts is declining while use of electronic navigational charts (ENCs) is increasing. The effort required to maintain paper and associated digital raster chart formats is now becoming disproportionate to the benefit gained by the use of paper charts.

Hydrographic offices are now exploring different ways to reduce the burden of raster chart production, such as decreasing the number of charts in their suite of raster chart products, or developing simplified raster chart products that are easier to produce. Some efforts are also being made to make use of ENCs, or products derived from ENCs, more attractive to mariners and recreational boaters.

The report has been prepared to give an overview of significant issues related to the "Future of the Paper Nautical Chart". It is not an exhaustive study of global paper nautical chart production, distribution, and usage practices. Many of the sections are presented from the perspective of only one or just a few Hydrographic Offices. Although many of these experiences are considered typical, the conditions and practices in other nations may differ.

A survey conducted by the NCWG in June 2019 provided an opportunity for all IHO member states to share their individual circumstances. Survey responses were received from 52 of the 89 non-suspended IHO member states, and the results are included in the report.

The report is intended only to introduce important paper chart related issues that may require the IHO, individual hydrographic offices, regulatory organizations, mariners and other stakeholders to think about paper charts differently and to take appropriate actions to prepare for the future of the paper chart.

Recommendations

Recommendations by NCWG with their justifications are provided in Section 5 of the report.

Action Required of HSSC

The HSSC is invited to:

- a. **note** the report
- b. **discuss** and **endorse** the recommendations provided in the report