



## IHO HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Monaco, 16 July 2019

### HSSC LETTER 03/2019

#### CALL FOR COMMENTS ON VERSION 1.7.0 OF THE DRAFT 6<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF IHO PUBLICATION S-44 – IHO STANDARDS FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS

##### References:

- A. HSSC Action 11/53 – *Circulation of final draft version 1.x.x of the 6th Edition of S-44 to all stakeholders*
- B. IHO Resolution 2/2007, as amended - *Principles and Procedures for Making Changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications*

Dear Colleagues,

1. At its 11<sup>th</sup> meeting in May 2019 the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC), on the recommendation of the Chair of the Project Team on Standards for Hydrographic Surveys (HSPT), agreed on action 53/11:

*HSSC agreed on the recommendation made by HSPT that the final draft version 1.x.x of the 6th Edition of S-44 should be circulated to all stakeholders, prior to submission for endorsement to HSSC.*

2. In accordance with the processes of consultation required under Reference B, the draft revised edition of S-44 is now available (*in English only*) on the IHO website at:

[www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) → Standards & Publications → Download → Draft Publications for discussion

3. The Chair of the HSPT has provided these comments on the draft Edition 6.0.0 to assist those reviewing and providing feedback:

Compared to the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of S-44, the entire document has been rewritten with the aim of preserving the philosophy of previous editions whilst updating the content. This work was carried out by HSPT members composed of Member States, expert contributors and observers. This rewrite was also framed by the results of a Questionnaire published at the end of 2017. The notable differences to be highlighted are:

- The abandonment of the specification “line spacing” in favor of “bathymetric coverage”. It is now explicitly stated that the Special Order and Order 1a both must achieve full bathymetric coverage.
- Because the shipping industry considers the depth range of 0 to 50 meters significant for surface navigation, the maximum depth for 2m cubic detection feature is now 50 m for Order 1a;
- The split of "Table 1" into two tables now makes it possible to separate the requirements for bathymetric surveys from those for surveys above the vertical chart datum;
- The use of a vocabulary in accordance with metrology expectations with the objective of achieving a harmonized comprehension of all terms and methodologies;

- The creation of a chapter dedicated to metadata to provide clearer and more comprehensive guidance on data to allow wider use of resultant datasets;
- The addition of an annex dedicated to a Matrix concept. The Matrix presents different criteria (rows) and specification values (columns). This tool should be considered as an aid for choosing the specifications for a survey according to the customer requirements and intended use, and, on the other hand, to allow a more quantitative analysis and assessment of the resultant data quality of the survey a posteriori. Special Order and Orders 1a, 1b and 2 are identified in the matrix, and other survey specifications can also be extracted from the matrix;
- The addition of an annex dedicated to gridded bathymetry considerations. These latter Annexes are not an integral part of the S-44 Standards and it is intended that they will be removed when the information contained is fully incorporated into IHO Publication C-13 – Manual on Hydrography.
- The document is intended to be technologically agnostic.

4. Member States are invited to review the draft document and to provide their comments on version 1.7.0 of the draft edition 6.0.0 of S-44 to the IHO Secretariat at [cl-lc@iho.int](mailto:cl-lc@iho.int). Organizations accredited as observers by the IHO and other stakeholders are also invited to provide their comments. **The deadline for comments is 31 October 2019.**

Yours sincerely,

Rear Admiral Luigi SINAPI

Chair, HSSC



Distribution:

- IHO Member States
- Observer Organizations
- Stakeholders