

**12<sup>th</sup> CHRIS MEETING**  
**Valparaiso, Chile, 23-25 October 2000**

**Report on Activities of the**  
**STANDARDISATION OF NAUTICAL PUBLICATIONS WORKING GROUP (SNPWG)**

**Activities**

1. The SNPWG met at the IHB in September 1999, however office bearers (Chairman and Vice Chairman) were not appointed until April 2000 because of nomination procedures.
2. At the September meeting it was determined that the WG should aim at drawing up guidelines for consideration at the XVI IHC in April 2002. The guidelines will provide a way of progressing from existing paper based nautical publications (NP's) towards electronic databases that are fully complementary to the ENC in ECDIS. The WG has recognised that most, if not all HO's, lack the resources to convert existing paper based NP's into fully compatible ECDIS data bases (similar to ENC's) in the near future. It was therefore decided that progress would be achieved most effectively by allowing for relatively unsophisticated electronically based NP's as a stepping stone towards fully compatible, non duplicating, non conflicting, databases for ECDIS. These products could be used in ECDIS, ECS or with paper charts. The progression of NP products is therefore:
  - o Epoch-1 NP's - existing paper documents,
  - o Epoch-2 NP's - relatively simple electronic versions based on existing paper NP's, and finally
  - o Epoch-3 NP's - non duplicating, non conflicting, databases fully complementary to ENC's.
3. The WG has agreed that technical specifications for Epoch-2 NP's should be kept to a minimum. This will allow HO's to inexpensively convert existing paper NP's for use in a computer environment using currently available (and therefore relatively inexpensive) web-based formats rather than converting data to a sophisticated database format, such as S57.
4. A common theme/keyword list (data dictionary) is a pre-requisite to any standardised approach to electronically based NP's. Accordingly, it is the first work item on the SNPWG work programme. It may well be that this list can be used to identify any additional object classes or attributes required to capture all nautical information (NP's and chart information) in S-57.
5. Other items in the work programme include:
  - o Consider appropriate data formats for Epoch-2 NP's
  - o Determine guidance on production responsibility
  - o Consider legal implications of different content between Epoch-1/2 and Epoch-3 NP's
  - o Review and propose amendments to extant NP's guidelines, technical resolutions and specifications

5. As work progresses on defining the Epoch-3 NP, close consultation will be necessary with TSMAD to ensure full compatibility with both S-57 and the S-57 ENC product specification.
7. Unfortunately, progress on the SNPWG work programme has only just begun. This is entirely the fault of the Chairman, who was called to more pressing domestic matters over the last few months. However, it should still be possible to provide guidelines for consideration at the next IHC.

**Robert Ward**  
**Chairman, SNPWG**