

# Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee

## Report of the International Cable Protection Committee *Docs: HSSC11-07.8A*

### ICPC activities affecting HSSC

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International Hydrographic Organization  
*Organisation Hydrographique Internationale*

HSSC-11, Cape Town, South Africa, 6- 9 May 2019

International Cable Protection Committee



# Principal activities and achievements

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ICPC represented at NCWG-4 and resubmitted a proposal to adapt S-4 charting specifications for submarine cables taking into account deep sea mining (amendments to S-4 B-443 and C408) to align with IHO Resolution 4/1967

- All HOs saw no problem to chart cables providing reliable information provided (*as laid routes not planned routes*)
- No effect to S-57/S-100 standards were identified
- No requirement to change the chart text box (Germany) considering that instruction is provided via the Mariner Handbook
- In order to avoid new Member States approval on new proposed wording, where possible, reference to resolution 4/1967 will be made.
- Draft text will be circulated around for approval.



# Principal activities and achievements

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## Engagement with the International Seabed Authority continuing

- ICPC participated in Parts 1 and 2 of the 24<sup>th</sup> session and Part 1 of the 25<sup>th</sup> session in Kingston
- Conducted side event during Part 2 Assembly highlighting UNCLOS Due Regard principles specifically related to submarine cables and deep seabed mining in ABNJ
- Joint ISA/ICPC workshop was held October in Bangkok with participation of stakeholders including mining contractors, legal academics, lawyers, system owners, ISA LTC and Secretariat, route planners/survey organizations, cable maintainers, system suppliers, Sponsoring States
- Availability of charted positions of submarine cables to mining contractors identified as a means of planning and de-conflicting mining operations with submarine cables
- ISA see ICPC engagement with IHO as positive and supports ICPC objective to chart cables in the deep ocean
- Issues of mutual mining and submarine cable confidentiality issues remains an issue
- ICPC would like to have mining block boundaries to appear of navigational charts



# Principal activities and achievements

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ICPC was represented at the IHO Crowdsourced Bathymetry Industry Workshop held in Quebec in February 2019 hosted by the IHO and Canadian Hydrographic Service

- ICPC re-stated its position contained in the paper submitted at HSSC-10 in response to action item HSSC9/54
- Participants accepted the confidentiality and ownership of data collected during cable route surveys
- In response to the ICPC comment regarding the limited and linear nature of cable route survey data sets; the view was expressed that any data contribution was valuable
- The suggestion was made that maybe seabed features of interest could be highlighted and not the entire data set
- Provision of cable route survey data to support crowd sourced bathymetric data is an ongoing topic within the ICPC
- One concept to be explored is to provide a data provision opt in or opt out option in survey contracts



# Principal activities and achievements

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- ICPC has created a Charting Working Group comprising a cross section of members from system owners/operators; maintenance companies; route planners and survey companies
- Working Group Terms of Reference have been drafted and agreed
- Terms of Reference address both MOU and Road Map objectives



# Problems or outstanding issues

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## Road Map 2018 activities not achieved:

- Working with IRCC to promulgate IHO/ICPC MoU did not move forward – Primarily due to ICPC being unable to attend the Goa IRCC as planned and momentum lost
- Definition of parameters and way forward for pilot project with MSDIWG/OGC remains outstanding
- On-going debate within the ICPC regarding cable charting policy driven by concerns over security/malicious acts by state and non state actors



# Future Work Plan - Revised

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Activity	Target Schedule
ICPC to work with IRCC to promulgate IHO/ICPC MoU objectives	2019 onwards
Define parameters for pilot project with MSDIWG/OGC	2019/20
ICPC to develop data exchange protocol	2019/20
Develop data standards	2019/20
Complete pilot project with focus on deep sea mining areas	2020
Develop submarine cable product specification for S-4XX	2020
Migrate submarine cable data to S-4XX	2022
Develop on-going cable data maintenance protocol	2020-2022

Annual progress reviews reported at HCCS and ICPC Plenary meetings



# Action requested of HSSC

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- ICPC invites the HSSC to note this report
- ICPC invites the HSSC to Note formation of ICPC Charting Working Group and associated TOR as a means of meeting MOU and Road Map objectives
- ICPC invites HSSC to investigate the inclusion of ISA designated mining boundaries on charts
- ICPC invites the HSSC to note the revised Road Map and ICPC commitment to achieve stated milestones

