

g) CSBWG Report

Doc.: IRCC9-07G CSB Working Group (CSBWG Chair)

Norway, on behalf of the CSBWG Chair informed the meeting on the status of the preparation of an IHO document on policy for trusted crowdsourced bathymetry to provide guidance on the collection and assessment of CSB data inclusion in the global bathymetric data set which is maintained in the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB). He also reported the CSB Pilot Project teamed up by the IHO DCDB, NOAA and Rose Point Navigation Systems for mariners joining to log position, depth and date/time, to choose to be anonymous or to submit metadata about vessel and equipment.

The meeting was informed on the problems faced by the CSBWG that received minimal feedback from IRCC participants on the draft of the CSB Guidance Document and the need to overcome a degree of skepticism on the CSB concept amid the maritime community and hydrographic organizations, but that the increased awareness and information as well as stakeholder engagement/involvement should all help to overcome these reservations. He stressed the continued importance of liaising with other IHO bodies, as well as appropriate engagement with industry, mariners and HOs to progress the Guidance Document.

The meeting considered the legal aspects of the document that may be a point of weakness and that under the Law of the Sea this may not be considered as innocent passage. However, some participants highlighted that depth collection has been the passage sounding and that was not a problem before CSB. Participants also considered that CATZOC is necessary to qualify the data being collected for using in charts. The meeting agreed on the following decision and actions:

Action 20: IHO Secretariat to circulate the draft CSB Guidance Document for formal consultation with IHO Member States and relevant stakeholders (deadline: September 2017).

Action 21: RHC Chairs to encourage IHO Member States to release datasets or subsets into the public domain via the IHO DCDB (deadline: September 2017).

Action 22: RHC Chairs to request IHO Member States to consider reviewing data gathering restrictions within their maritime areas of jurisdiction to enable CSB activities to be undertaken (deadline: September 2017).

Action 23: RHC Chairs to encourage IHO Member States to support the CSB initiative with positive actions, such as requiring all research vessels collect bathymetric data for late uploading, when on passage or when it does not interfere with other research activities (deadline: September 2017).

Decision 31: to reappoint the CSBWG to continue its work on the Guidance Document under the current ToRs.

Action 24: CSBWG to investigate possible ways to encourage Member States to collect and use CSB data and report back to IRCC (deadline: IRCC10).