5th Meeting of the Nautical Information Provision Working Group (NIPWG) Genoa, Italy, 12-16 March 2018

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2018					
Task 2.1.2.5	Organize, prepare and report meetings of NIPWG				
Task 2.5.2	Support the development and implementation of				
Task 2.8.1	Maritime Service Portfolios (MSP)				
	Maintain S-12, as appropriate - Standardization of				
	List of Lights and Fog Signals				
Task 2.8.3	Maintain S-49, as appropriate - Standardization of				
	Mariners' Routeing Guides				

The 5th meeting of the Nautical Information Provision Working Group (NIPWG) took place in Genoa, Italy, from 12 to 16 March, hosted by the Istituto Idrografico della Marina (IIM).

The NIPWG is an IHO working group reporting to the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) that is responsible for the development of S-100 conformant product specifications in support of future e-navigation services that are intended to provide mariners with harmonized up-to-date information on integrated displays.

Rear-Admiral Luigi Sinapi, Director of the Italian Hydrographic Institute and Chair of the HSSC, welcomed the participants and attended some sessions. The meeting was chaired by Mr Jens Schröder-Fürstenberg (Germany). Twenty-five delegates from 15 Member States (Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States) and six expert contributors (Anthropocene Institute, Technologies, Portolan Sciences, University of New Hampshire) attended the meeting. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Abri Kampfer¹, Technical Standards Support Officer Jeff Wootton², and Assistant Director Yves Guillam.



The meeting reviewed the IHO Resolutions that are in their remit, such as IHO Resolution 7/2009 – *Time Reference*, the amendments of which to be submitted to HSSC for endorsement were agreed. The IHO Resolution 2/2007 - *Principles and Procedures for making changes to IHO Technical Standards and Specifications* remains the most important one to be revised. By Decision 12 of the 1st Assembly, the main objective of this revision is to introduce some guidance for conducting impact assessment studies that will support the approval process of S-100-based product specifications. The first proposed amendments will be submitted to the next meeting of HSSC for discussion.

The meeting noted the progress made, by contract, on the development of the product specification S-127 (*Traffic Management*) – which was endorsed -, and by the Republic of Korea, for S-128 (*Catalogue of Nautical Publications*). While addressing the various complex issues relating to the development of these product specifications and the associated data models, questions were raised on data sources, data

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¹ From 12 to 14 March.

² From 13 to 14 March.

flows, portrayal and consistency with other subset of S-100-based products including S-101 ENCs, S-2xx and S-4xx products.

The meeting commended the S-124 Correspondence Group and its outgoing Chair (Yves Le Franc, France), for the work done. NIPWG was encouraged to adopt a similar consistent and holistic approach for the development of other S-1xx products in its remit.

Noting that the developments of S-100 based product specifications are incremental and noting further that close interactions between those product specifications may cause issues, the meeting acknowledged that there was a need to map the global system architecture for every S-100-based products in the remit of NIPWG and to further address, under HSSC guidance, the basic principles of the supply chain and its various components.

An informative presentation on the IHO Geospatial Information Registry was delivered, highlighting the need for a dedicated workshop on this topic. The comments received from the Chair of the Data Quality Working Group on the data quality component were noted and will be considered in the subsequent editions of S-122, S-123 and S-127, as appropriate.

Noting the existence of several national initiatives on the use of the XML structure for Notices to Mariners (NtM), the meeting decided to take up the harmonization of data exchange mechanism for the provision of NtM paper chart corrections that could enhance data exchanges between HOs.

The Chair reported on the outcome of the 1st meeting of the IMO-IHO Harmonization Group on Data Modelling (HGDM) and will keep HSSC informed on the invitation to submit Maritime Services descriptions, which are under IHO responsibility according to the HGDM Maritime Services template. NIPWG stands ready to coordinate the inputs from the other IHO Working Groups and Sub-Committees (WWNWS³ for instance) involved in the Maritime Services.

The meeting reviewed its work programme and agreed on the top priority work items to be proposed for HSSC's endorsement.

The 6th meeting of the NIPWG is scheduled to be held in Rostock, Germany, from 14 to 18 January 2019, and the 7th meeting, from 25 to 29 November 2019 in Saint-Petersburg, Russian Federation.



NIPWG-5 participants in Genoa, Italy

³ World-Wide Navigational Warning Service.