

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN AND ISLANDS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION INTERNATIONAL CHARTING COORDINATION WORKING GROUP (SAIHC ICCWG)

1. Background

1.1. The Southern Africa and Islands Hydrographic Commission (hereinafter referred to as “The Commission”) recognizes the need to actively develop and maintain official nautical charts, in both paper and digital formats, which support ships engaged on international voyages in its region. Accordingly, it appoints and directs a working group to undertake this task. The working group shall be named the Southern Africa and Islands Hydrographic Commission International Charting Coordination Working Group (SAIHC ICCWG).

1.2. The SAIHC ICCWG is a subsidiary body of the Commission. It shall conduct its work in accordance with these Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure. The Commission may clarify or amend these generic Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the SAIHC ICCWG in order for these to be made specifically relevant and applicable to its region. Its work is subject to the Commission’s approval.

2. Terms of Reference

2.1. To study issues related to nautical charting of the region, in particular to coordinate the allocation of production responsibilities for paper and electronic charts (INT charts and ENC) that support ships engaged on international voyages.

2.2. To develop and maintain an integrated international chart scheme for the region.

2.3. To reach decisions on the maintenance and updating of the documents for which it is responsible.

2.4. To provide advice on chart schemes to individual Member States, in order to encourage adherence to IHO charting regulations, specifications and standards and to promote and coordinate the production of international (INT) charts and ENC.

2.5. To develop proposals for new or amended INT chart schemes to meet evolving user needs (for example, the introduction of new or amended routeing measures, the confirmed developments of international ports).

2.6. To coordinate the development and maintenance of small / medium scale ENC schemes, by regional agreement, to ensure consistent parameters are used in the compilation of ENC.

2.7. To act as the custodian and maintainer of official, version-controlled catalogues, depicting the status of published and planned charts, subject to formal review and approval by Member States of the Commission. However, the ENC catalogues may be maintained by RENCs subject to the Commission’s approval.

2.8. To provide advice to IHO Secretariat on any amendments required to maintain S-11 Part B: Catalogue of International Charts (for example, scale, limits, numbering) and, as appropriate, any corresponding ENC catalogue.

2.9. To provide advice to Chair NCWG and IHO Secretariat on any amendments required to maintain S-11.

2.10. To undertake professional consideration of new information of interest to the SAIHC ICCWG which may impact its business and responsibilities.

3. Rules of Procedure

3.1. Membership is open to all members and associate members of the Commission wishing to be represented. Each Member State shall be represented through a single point of contact. Noting the technical nature of the Group's work, participation should be limited to representatives of Hydrographic Offices concerned with nautical charting.

3.2. The Coordinator will monitor membership to encourage active participation by all chart-producing Member States within the Region.

3.3. Non-Governmental International Organizations recognized by the IHO may participate as observers in SAIHC ICCWG activities, where matters of special interest to the NGIO concerned are being considered (IHO Resolution T1.2, rule 6.c refers).

3.4. The Coordinator role shall be held by a Member State participating in the SAIHC ICCWG. The election of the Coordinator, or the reconfirmation of the existing Coordinator, shall be decided by the Commission at an ordinary meeting or, where a meeting is not convened, by correspondence. Election shall be determined by a simple majority of Member States present and voting (or responding, where determined by correspondence).

3.5. Normally, a Vice-Coordinator is not required to be appointed. However, if a Vice-Coordinator is appointed by the Commission:

Election to the post will be by the same method as for the Coordinator;

The Vice-Coordinator shall act as the Coordinator, with the same powers and duties, in the event that the Coordinator is unable to carry out the duties;

The Coordinator and Vice-Coordinator will decide between them the organization of the work entailed in these posts, or these may be defined by the Commission.

3.6. Conduct of business will be primarily by correspondence. If meetings are required, these should be planned with due regard to efficiency and obtaining the fullest membership support (for example, by holding meetings in association with meetings of the Commission). All members shall inform the Coordinator in advance of their intention to attend meetings of the SAIHC ICCWG. The working language shall be English.

3.7. Draft proposals will be circulated for review and comment to:

All members of the ICCWG and, where appropriate, all members of the Commission; Coordinators of adjoining regional ICCWG, if the scheme impacts on those regions (for example, to ensure consistency and coherence of coverage across regional boundaries, for the allocation of chart numbers);

Hydrographic Offices producing or printing charts of the Region;

Chair NCWG, if independent advice is required.

3.8. Decisions shall be made by consensus.

3.9. Where required, a Work Plan should be developed and maintained. This should include task priorities and the expected time frames for progressing tasks. The Commission may delegate tasks to the SAIHC ICCWG as it sees fit; it is also available to provide guidance on request (for example, in respect of priorities).

3.10. The Coordinator will report progress to meetings of the Commission and at other reasonable times, on request. Reports shall include but are not limited to:

An updated Regional INT Chart Catalogue;

An update of the ENC Catalogue relevant to the Region (if not undertaken by RENCs);

Changes made to the scheme of INT Charts for the Region, approved by the SAIHC ICCWG since the last report, together with a summary of reasons;

Changes made to the small / medium scale ENC scheme for the Region, approved by the SAIHC ICCWG since the last report, together with a summary of reasons;

An updated Work Plan (if used).

3.11. All participants, including the Commission members and associate members not directly represented in the SAIHC ICCWG, shall keep the Coordinator informed of any information relevant to the SAIHC ICCWG. This may include:

Submitting proposals for new INT Charts, or amendments (for example, to limits, scale of portrayal) to existing INT Charts, in the Region;

Requesting new INT Chart numbers for new charts that are planned;

Reporting the status of production of international charts (INT Charts and ENC).

3.12. SAIHC ICCWG members shall respond in a timely manner to all reasonable requests for advice from the Coordinator (for example, requests for updating the Catalogue of the INT Charts of the Region, change in points of contact), abiding by all reasonable stated deadlines.

3.13. The work shall be done in accordance with:

IHO Resolution 1/1997 as amended: ‘Principles of the Worldwide Electronic Navigational Chart Database (WEND)’, to ensure a world-wide consistent level of high-quality, updated ENCs;

S-57: “IHO Transfer Standard for Digital Hydrographic Data”;

S-11 Part A: Guidance for the Preparation and Maintenance of International (INT) Chart and ENC Schemes (English: Edition 3.1.0, February 2018 - Publication date: February 2018)

S-4: “Chart Specifications of the IHO and Regulations for International (INT) Charts”, which provides the internationally-agreed product specification for both national and international (INT) charts;

S-65 : “ENC Production Guidance”.

Reference: HSSC1 Meeting (Singapore, 22-24 October 2009)

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