

PROGRESS REPORT OF COMMISSION 4- HYDROGRAPHY

Commission 4 operates under three Working Groups namely;

- WG 4.1 Standards and Guidelines for Hydrography Chair: Simon Ironside (New Zealand)
- WG 4.2 Maritime and Marine Spatial Information Management Chair: Jonathan Li (Canada)
- WG 4.3 Blue Economy Chair: Gordon Johnston (United Kingdom)

So far, WG4.1 and WG 4.3 are the most active. Hereunder are the activities of WG 4.1 and planned activity of WG 4.3

Changes and Update from Original Work Plan

Recall that Peter Barr was the Chair of the working group, but now he has volunteered to be a member of the working group. Working Group 4.1 (WG 4.1) currently consists of members from Australia and New Zealand and is supported by the respective FIG Member Associations; the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI) in Australia (SSSI) and the New Zealand Institute of Surveyors (NZIS).

Simon Ironside	Chair	New Zealand
Micheal Beard	Vice Chair	Australia
Mathieu Bestille		Australia
Peter Barr		Australia

WG 4.1 has committed itself to a number of specific outcomes based on the agreed objectives of the Working Group over the period of the work plan as follows:

- Broaden the membership of WG 4.1 to ensure its legitimacy as an active international professional body.
- Support the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) through the work of its Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) by participating in HSSC working groups to review hydrographic standards and guidelines, primarily:
 - S-44 – IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys (the most recent version is the 5th Edition, February 2008).
 - S-100 – IHO Universal Hydrographic Data Model (January 2010)
- Support FIG members on the FIG/IHO/ICA International Board of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (IBSC) in reviewing and updating competency standards, namely:
 - S-5A – Standards of Competence for Category ‘A’ Hydrographic Surveyors (currently under review).
 - S-5B – Standards of Competence for Category ‘B’ Hydrographic Surveyors (February 2015).
- Represent Commission 4 on the FIG Standards Network and other international fora where appropriate.
- Support the work of other FIG Commissions and Working Groups, and participate in Commission 4 events where possible.

Progress against WG 4.1 Objectives/Outcomes in 2016

– Broaden WG 4.1 membership

Two members, Emily Tidey (New Zealand) and Simon Allen (Australia), stood down from the WG in 2016. One additional member, Mattieu Bestile (Australia), has joined. Simon Ironside (New Zealand) who assumed the role as Chair in February 2016.

Additional members will continue to be sought in the coming year with the aim being to ensure the WG encompasses appropriate international expertise to be able to make meaningful contributions to WG outcomes/deliverables.

– HSSC Involvement

In accordance with WG 4.1 Terms of Reference, published on the FIG website (www.fig.net/organisation/comm/4/2015-2018/WG/wg_4.1_15_18.asp) exploratory discussions with the HSSC Vice Chair, Mike Prince (Australia) have been undertaken during the year. The Vice Chair remains very supportive of WG 4.1 assistance to the HSSC and its associated Working Groups in addressing hydrographic issues/standards.

The next step in this process, which is currently underway, is the formalisation of WG 4.1 involvement in the following HSSC Working Groups: S-44, S-100

S-44 is in need of review and the IHO is considering assigning this body of work to an existing HSSC Working Group rather than forming a new one. Either way, it has been agreed with the HSSC Vice Chair that WG 4.1 should be involved in the S-44 review process. This involves requesting that the Working Group Chair includes WG 4.1 as an Expert Contributor as part of any new or established HSSC Working Group assigned to review S-44. In this way WG 4.1 will be able to attend HSSC Working Group meetings as required, WG 4.1 being included on the Working Group distribution list to receive future requests to review the S-44; and take advantage of an established HSSC forum whereby WG 4.1 submissions can be formally tabled through the Commission 4 Chair.

The S-100 Working Group is already established within the HSSC. The Working Group's remit is to maintain, develop and extend S-100 Universal Hydrographic Data Model and S-99 Operational Procedures for the Organisation and Management of the S-100 Geospatial Information Registry. This is a very technical and specifically focused Working Group and it is questionable whether WG 4.1 could add any value in revising related standards.

However, the Working Group's other remit is to monitor the development of other relevant international standards. To this end, it is understood that sub Working Groups and Project Teams can be formed to undertake detailed work on specific topics under the S-100 Working Group Terms of Reference. For example, one sub-group is currently addressing under-keel clearance issues while another is looking at bathymetry.

Work in these specific sub group areas is where WG 4.1 can best contribute and the S-100 Working Group Chair will be requested to consider including WG 4.1 as an Expert Contributor in reviewing relevant hydrographic standards (eg. S-102).

– IBSC Involvement

WG 4.1 has reviewed the first draft of S-5A Standards of Competence for Category 'A' Hydrographic Surveyors. The consolidated Commission 4 submission was sent to the IBSC Secretariat on 6 April

2016. WG 4.1 is now recognised by IBSC as Expert Contributor and has been asked to be involved in the review of S-8 Standards of Competence for Nautical Cartographers.

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Support

WG 4.1 has been asked, and has agreed in principle, to contribute to the hydrographic component of the RICS International Property Measurement Standards (IPMS). FIG remains a key member of IPMS Coalition.

Planned Activities for 2017

- As Chair of Commission 4, I will be making a short presentation at the US Hydrographic Conference scheduled to take place from March 20-23, 2017 in Galveston, Texas USA.
- Working Group 4.3 - Blue Economy do hope to have a session during the upcoming ocean business in Southampton, UK from 4th to 6th April 2017.
- Arrangement are on the way to make a visit to some of the African Countries, promoting the benefit of hydrography for sustainable development in such countries. Awaiting feedback from the selected countries,
- Attend the FIG Working Week in Helsinki, 2017.

So far feedback from the working group chairs on publication have not being gotten, when received it will be sent to the secretariat.

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