

Updating IHO Publication S-44, Standards for Hydrographic Surveys – Planning for the Future of Safe Navigation

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SUMMARY

The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Special Publication No. 44, Standards for Hydrographic Surveys (S-44), which can be downloaded at www.iho.int/iho_pubs/standard/S-44_5E.pdf, provides a set of minimum standards for the conduct of hydrographic surveys and collection of data that will be primarily used in the compilation of nautical charts to ensure safe navigation and the protection of the marine environment.

It is over ten years since the Monaco-based intergovernmental organisation adopted the current (5th) edition of S-44 and in November 2016 the IHO Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) established a Project Team on Standards for Hydrographic Surveys (HSPT) tasked with conducting a comprehensive review of S-44 and the development of future standards.

HSSC terms of reference require the HSPT to “...review the existing edition (5th) of the IHO publication S-44 Standards for Hydrographic Surveys, identify deficiencies...” and “...when undertaking this task, to consider, as a minimum,...” the need to prepare a draft for the 6th Edition “...in support of safety of navigation data products and services...” for subsequent approval by IHO Member States.

The composition of the HSPT was confirmed in March 2017. FIG Commission 4 is a member (Observer Organization) of the HSPT. The inaugural Project Team meeting (HSPT1) took place in Paris in June 2017, with representatives from IHO Member States and Expert Contributors.

The outcomes of the HSPT 1 meeting were presented at the 2018 FIG Congress in Istanbul. A second meeting of the HSPT was subsequently held in Niterói Brazil in July 2018 (HSPT2) and a third is scheduled to be held in Australia in March 2019, where a final draft of the new (6th) edition

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will be finalised before being sent to the HSSC and subsequently to IHO Member States for approval.

The objective of this paper is to update the 2019 Working Week on HSPT progress.

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