

Paper for Consideration by WEND-WG
[Short descriptive title]

Submitted by:	East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC)
Executive Summary:	Cartographic Boundary.
Related Documents:	Concept Paper for Cartographic Boundary Definition.
Related Projects:	Zig Zag Lines Mechanism for Clipping Overlap ENC's Between Malaysia and Thailand

Introduction / Background

WEND principle has clearly mentioned that MS should ensure the mariners, anywhere in the world, can fully obtain updated ENC's for all shipping routes and ports across the world. Therefore, MS's should work towards clipping of their respective cells, so mariners are able to navigate safely and freely through seamless ENC's.

This issue has been discussed extensively at many IHO and commissions platforms throughout the years. While problems like accidental and incorrect scale banding have been resolved to a significant level, other overriding factors driven by personal HO MS interest and objectives has created additional obstacles in the harmonisation effort.

Analysis/Discussion

A resolution of cell boundary definition by the IHO on this ENC overlapping issue is imperative. Notwithstanding to WEND principles and guidelines for MS implementation, it appears that for a number of reasons, some ENC producing nations disregard the perquisite of an agreed boundary, thus continue to act independently as if they were dealing with paper charts. Accordingly this situation in the eyes of NHC is seen as a step backwards to achieving the safe and seamless navigation required in these modern times.

Significant conflicts on ENC overlapping issues create data inconsistencies and this has become a grave concern of shipping companies and their representatives at various levels. Consistency of data made available in ENC is a challenge to neighbouring countries. It is not always about the coverage issue but it is more of data availability in specific areas of concern. Data in both adjacent ENC should be consistent to help HO's in the process of matching the cell boundary edges. When that can be done, the continuity of ENC data will be seamless between adjacent cell and it will enable the production of a higher quality ENC product for the mariners.

By a definite cartographic boundary, hydrographic survey can be done without the need to encroach neighbouring waters, which was the practice done to prepare and update paper charts. Though this practice is acceptable in the past, it is a practise that best discontinued especially taking into consideration the diplomatic quandary it may trigger taking into consideration sensitivities concerning territorial sovereignty.

Another issue that is critical pushing for the definite cartographic cell boundary is the question of keeping the ENC updated. Updating the ENC is the most critical part in making the ENC application more functional and effective. The process of updating would be a problem due to information overlap or absence of information caused by the encroachment into another cell. Without clear cartographic boundary there is no clear indication of which HO is responsible to update the overlapping cells and therefore if errors or damages occur due to errors, who shall be held responsible for the inaccuracies. It will jeopardise effective and safe navigation if critical significant updating cannot be made by the appointed; determined by the defined cell boundary, MS of the ENC in a timely fashion.

Conclusions

EAHC is looking forward to propose the best solution in resolving vital impediments facing IHO in achieving our common objectives. EAHC believes that the adoption of a clear cell boundary definition will enable the effective use of seamless trans-boundary hydrographic data and therefore provide a winning outcome for member states of IHO and added value for mariners.

Recommendations

In order to expedite the effectiveness of a seamless ENC, an urgent official definition and subsequent approval into IHO dictionary is highly recommended. In view of the preceding arguments, it is timely for IHO to establish an official definition which will provide a guideline to HOs when dealing in this trans-boundary ENC.

It is recommended that the proposed definition should be read as follows: “*Cartographic Boundary can be defined as an agreed limit to clip overlapping nautical charts or related data between two neighbouring countries. The boundary shall not be signified or regarded as a political or jurisdictional boundary. It should be as simple as possible so both data compiler and the data user will be provided with most coherent service possible*”.

Justification and Impacts

NHC strongly believes that it is essential that all IHO MS come to an agreement to what is the definition of Cartographic Boundary. Notwithstanding the legality issues which are absent in the adaptation of this concept, MS must strive towards making the cartographic boundary concept a success and further resolve the mechanism for it to come into fruition towards facilitating the progress of a seamless ENC production.

Action Required of WEND-WG

The WEND Committee is invited to:

- a. endorse
- b. agree