

## Commission 4

### Working Group 4.1 – Standards and Guidelines for Hydrography Report of Activities 2015

#### Background

1. The Commission 4 Working Group (WG) 4.1 (Standards and Guidelines for Hydrography) Work Plan for the period 2015-2018 was presented at the Commission 4 meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria on Monday 18 May 15 as part of the 2015 FIG Working Week programme. A total of 24 personnel attended the Commission 4 meeting.
2. A WG report for the previous period (2011-2014) was not presented at the Sofia meeting given the moribund status of this particular group over the past few years (in its guise as WG 4.2). This has been the particular case over the last 12 months in terms of progressing specific projects and activities and the group's interaction with the FIG Standards Network.
3. In light of the decision to rename the WG (from WG 4.2 to WG 4.1) as part of the last Commission 4 forum in Kuala Lumpur in 2014, and given the desire to reinvigorate the Commission's focus on hydrographic standards and guidelines with a new Chair in place, the intent was to present a pragmatic Work Plan going forward that focussed on the future and which would deliver tangible but realistic outcomes over the next four (4) years.

#### Outcomes

4. The WG 4.1 Work Plan for 2015-2018 as presented was accepted at the 2015 meeting. This plan has now been incorporated into the overarching Commission 4 Work Plan 2015-2018.
5. The following WG 4.1 objectives and activities have been agreed:

##### *Objectives*

- Assist in the development and recognition of standards of competency for hydrographic surveyors;
- Assist in the development of technical standards and guidelines;
- Assist with the review of standards and guidelines; and
- Promote the need for and benefits of, professional hydrographic surveyor certification.

##### *Specific project(s)/activities*

- Broaden the membership of WG 4.1 to ensure its legitimacy as an active international professional body;
- Support the IHO through the work of the HSSC by participating in subordinate working groups in reviewing standards and guidelines:
  - **S44** - *IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys* (February 2008)
  - **S100** - *IHO Universal Hydrographic Data Model* (January 2010);

- Support FIG members on the IBSC in reviewing/updating competency standards:
  - **S5 -Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors** (December 2014);<sup>1</sup>
- Represent Commission 4 on the FIG Standards Network; and
- Support the work of other Commission 4 WG and participate in major Commission events.

6. Other key outcomes from the 2015 Commission 4 meeting were:

- an Expression of Interest to be promulgated in Jan 16 for the next Commission 4 Chair from 2018 onwards;
- an overview of the proposed conference activities for the next FIG Working Week in Christchurch, NZ in May 16;
- advertising the 9th International Symposium on Mobile Mapping Technology, 9-11 December 2015, in Sydney (<http://www.mmt2015.org/>);
- a presentation from the Chair of a new Commission 4 Working Group (WG 4.3) on the 'Blue Economy'. This WG aims to promote the complex nature of oceans and seas in terms of economic activity and the impact on national prosperity as well as the need for both good data and sound management in order to deliver sustainable benefits to the Blue Economy 'community of interest'.
  - A key focus of this WG will be to engage with UN and World Bank groups/agencies that are already affiliated with FIG activities; and
- a request for Commission 4 volunteers to assist in the peer review of hydrographic technical papers.

**WG 4.1 – Next Steps 2016**

7. In line with the presentation of the Work Plan the following steps for the next 12 months were agreed in moving WG 4.1 forward:

- *WG membership* – establish composition of WG 4.1 by engaging the Commission 4 membership (at an international level);

**Status:** Ongoing. Email invites from the Chair and Vice Chair have been sent to various hydrographic organisations and academic institutions. Nil responses or Expressions of Interest received to date.

- *WG Terms of Reference* – develop WG ToR that will address how the WG can best engage the HSSC and the IBSC through Commission 4, what HSSC sub-WGs can WG 4.1 participate in, and the internal arrangements within WG 4.1 to facilitate input on standards and guidelines;

**Status:** Completed. WG 4.1 ToR have now been developed and promulgated on the WG 4.1 page on the Commission 4 website.

<sup>1</sup> S5A - Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors Category A and S5B - Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors Category B.

- *IBSC HSSC WG membership – confirm arrangements with HSSC and arrange for WG 4.1 to be represented on existing/potential S100 and S44 WGs;*

**Status:** Ongoing. HSSC yet to be engaged.

- *IBSC – confirm arrangements for WG 4.1 input to IBSC;*

**Status:** Ongoing. IBSC yet to be engaged.

- *WG funding - secure SSSI funding lines for the period 2015-2018 inclusive (to allow the WG 4.1 Chair to attend future FIG Working Weeks/FIG Congress events and hydrographic fora);*

**Status:** Ongoing. To be discussed at the next Hydrography Commission National Committee meeting 4-5 Feb 16 in Sydney. Aim is to secure funding (or at least in-principle agreement to fund) WG 4.1 representation at the following fora:

*FIG Working Weeks/Congress Events*

- NZ (Christchurch) - 2016
- Finland (Helsinki) - 2017
- Turkey (Istanbul) - 2018
- Vietnam (Hanoi) – 2019

*Other Hydrographic Events*

- South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission activities – TBC (see SWPHC engagement activity below)

- *South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission - WG 4.1 to liaise with the IHO South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC) to arrange for WG 4.1 representation at SWPHC events and SWPHC into the WG 4.1 ToR; and*

**Status:** Ongoing. SWPHC yet to be engaged.

- *WG webpage* - arrange for WG 4.1 membership, ToR, its Work Plan and any activity/progress reports to be hosted, promulgated and updated on a new WG 4,1 page on the FIG Commission 4 website.

**Status:** Completed. WG 4.1 webpage has been developed and populated.



**P. Barr**  
Chair  
WG 4.1 (Commission 4)

31 Jan 16