

To: All RENC members

From: IC-ENC General Manager & Director PRIMAR

Copy: WENDWG Chair, IHO Secretariat

IC-ENC ref: IC-ENC Circular Letter 2017/11

5th July 2017

Dear RENC members,

Proposed Joint RENC policy on IHO Secretariat’s use of ENC CATZOC file analysis

At the WENDWG7 meeting the following Action WENDWG7/09 was set. More recently, this subject has been discussed at the MBSHC20 meeting this week where the IHO Secretariat displayed composite CATZOC situation reports, highlighting the areas where CATZOC values are populated or un-assessed.

4.2 IHO Performance Indicators, IHO ENC Catalogue – Preparation of 1 st Session of IHO Assembly, Support to IRC				
	CATZOC	WENDWG7/09	RENCs invited to seek the approval of their members for the IHO Secretariat to brief with composite CATZOC reports at RHCs meetings WENDWG Chair to report at IRCC-9 on this issue seeking further endorsement	End of March 2017 15 April 2017

Prior to this, at the HSSC-8 meeting in November 2016, IEC and INTERTANKO together raised the fact that CATZOC can be a source of confusion for mariners and therefore was not necessarily well accepted and so there is a need to improve the situation in the future. It was generally agreed that the main drivers of discontent from mariners were caused by the fact that many HOs are not populating CATZOC values in the ENCs. As a consequence, the following action was decided:

HSSC8/38: *HSSC to invite IRCC to remind IHO Member States the importance of populating ENCs with assessed CATZOC values (1 to 5).*

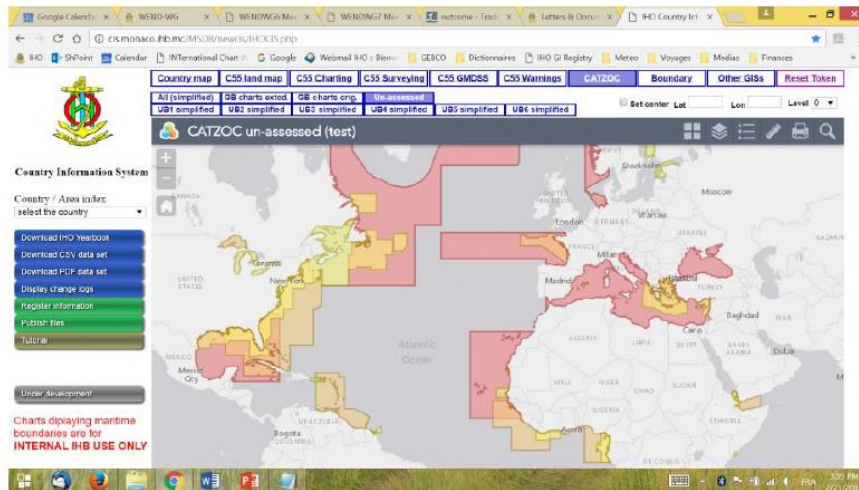
Following previous Steering Committee and PRIMAR Advisory Committee decisions, the IHO Secretariat receives RENC members’ ENC CATZOC files for internal analysis only. On a practical level, this is achieved through supply to the IHO Secretariat from PRIMAR, on a continuous basis. The IHO Secretariat then process these files on a periodic basis.

The recommendation from the IHO Secretariat is for the available CATZOC information/analysis to be used in more open forums, such as Regional Hydrographic Commissions. The goal is to support discussion and progress regarding greater, meaningful and harmonised population of CATZOC in ENCs to support navigation. This is also important to ensure an efficient, harmonized and sensible conversion from S-57 to the new S-101 standard and its component for the quality of bathymetric data, in due course.

At the WENDWG7 meeting, it was recognised it would be wise to seek permission from ENC Producers for the ‘external’ use of the CATZOC analysis. This joint RENC letter is the result.

The relevant extract from the WENDWG7 Minutes is here:

The Secretary gave a live demo of the improvements on the IHO ENC Catalogue made by the IHO Secretariat since 2016. Following the provision of CATZOC data by the RENCs, with the approval of ENC Producers, he also briefed the participants on the experimentation in progress at the IHO Secretariat for making composite geospatial reports of the areas around the world where “un-assessed” CATZOC values are encoded in ENCs. This presentation was well received as a potential useful additional tool to be used by RHCs for making risk assessment analysis.



Experimentation at the IHO Secretariat for displaying “un-assessed” CATZOC values in a composite report (here for ENCs, usage band 1 to 3 only)

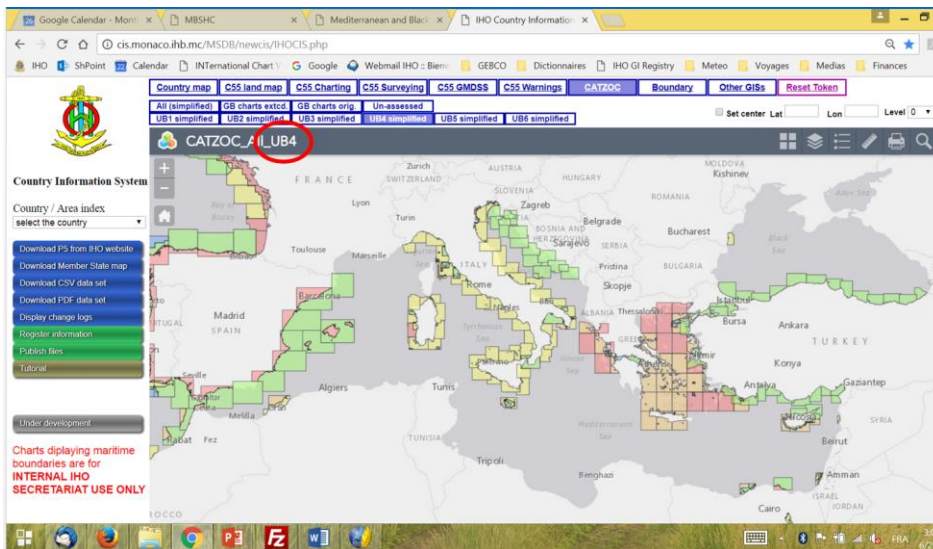
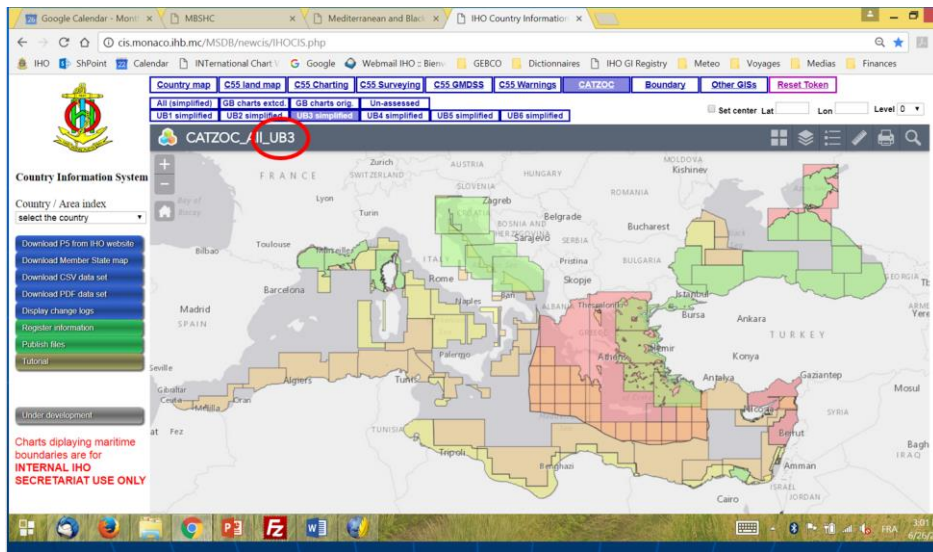
Outcome:

- The presentation of the IHO Secretariat on the experimental development of composite CATZOC reports (of “un-assessed” values) was considered to be very promising by RHCs representatives.

→ Action [WENDWG7/09](#)

At the MBSHC20 meeting this week, IHO Secretariat raised this issue directly with the RHC, through the following example screenshots. These are test screenshots from the system, developed for proof of concept discussions only.

+ Use of composite CATZOC reports to brief RHC meetings: subject to the approval of RENC members (see action WENDWG7/09)



The general summary from the IHO Secretariat at the 20th MBSHC Conference was that there is useful potential for this analysis to be used wider, for example in risk assessment work.

The current ENC Producers in the MBSHC region are RENC members (a combination of IC-ENC and PRIMAR). For the non-RENC members in other parts of the world, the IHO Secretariat will be liaising directly with them on the subject of CATZOC analysis, as appropriate.

A group (Joint RENC) policy is preferred, this is after all one of the benefits of the RENC system. The alternative is an “opt-in” system, but this reduces the benefit of the activity, and adds complexity.

The following proposal is therefore presented jointly to IC-ENC Steering Committee (SC) and PRIMAR Advisory Committee (PAC):

“IC-ENC and PRIMAR members’ ENC CATZOC file analysis can be used by the IHO Secretariat in IHO meeting and other external forums, in order to raise the awareness on survey requirements and to improve and harmonize ENC CATZOC population within the IHO member states”

The IHO Secretariat is an appointed Observer at SC and PAC and so this proposal will be put on to the agenda of these meetings for discussion, review, endorsement/amendment/rejection by SC and PAC. Prior to this, RENC members may have further questions/clarifications in order to have an informed discussion/conclusion. Please email any questions/comments to your respective RENC Manager/Director, **by 15th August**. A consolidated list will then be provided to the IHO Secretariat for answering, and circulated to RENC members prior to the IC-ENC SC meeting in mid-September.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Harper'.

James Harper,
IC-ENC General Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hans Christoffer Lauritzen'.

Hans Christoffer Lauritzen
Director PRIMAR