Summary Record
Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP)
November 15-16, 2004
Norfolk, Virginia

Introduction – Monday, November 15, 2004

On the call of the Designated Federal Official, Captain Roger L. Parsons, NOAA, and after public notice in the Federal Register (Volume 69, No. 202, Page 61657, dated October 20, 2004), the Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP) meeting was convened on November 15, 2004, at The National Maritime Center, One Waterside Drive, Norfolk, Virginia 23510. All voting members attended. The following report summarizes the deliberations of that meeting. Documents available to and or prepared by the HSRP are available for public inspection via the web at http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ocs/hsrp/archive/documents.htm and copies can be requested by writing to the Director, Office of Coast Survey, 1315 East West Highway, SSMC3, N/CS, Silver Spring, MD 20910. A list of the HSRP members and other attendees is provided in Appendix 1.

HSRP Chair Mr. Scott Rainey, Deputy Director, American Pilots' Association, called the meeting to order at 0830, presented opening remarks and reviewed the Agenda. Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Proposed Certification Requirements for Distributors of NOAA Electronic Navigational Charts/NOAA Hydrographic Products

Mr. Rainey opened the floor for discussion on four proposed documents that he had provided in advance of the meeting for Panel members to review and draft recommendations or comments. The first was Federal Register (Volume 69, No. 199, dated October 15, 2004). Mr. Rainey introduced Mr. Dave Enabnit, Technical Director, NOAA's Office of Coast Survey, who gave a brief overview on Electronic Navigational Charts, their free, internet availability and NOAA's desire to solicit private entities to download and distribute these charts. Mr. Rainey prepared a draft list of recommendations as a discussion beginning-point on which the Panel reviewed, edited, appended and voted. Discussions included but weren't limited to: 1) fees, 2) Government liability, 3) data identification, 4) U.S. Coast Guard responsibilities, 5) chart coverage, 6) certification procedures. 7) training, and 8) distribution. The Panel's final, submitted recommendations can be viewed at http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ocs/hsrp/archive/documents.htm.

Proposed Quality Assurance and Certification Program for NOAA Hydrographic Products

Mr. Rainey presented a summary about NOAA's proposed certification requirements for privately produced hydrographic products and discussion followed concerning NOAA's proposed program. The HSRP's final, submitted

recommendations can be viewed at http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ocs/hsrp/archive/documents.htm.

"Strategic Plan of the National Ocean Service 2005-2010"

Mr. Rainey provided several comments on the National Ocean Service Strategic Plan including understanding and awareness of Global Leader in Integrated Management of the Ocean (GLIMO); Ecosystem Management; NOAA's Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution System (PPBES); hydrographic products; Corporate Performance Measures; and resource prioritization and allocation. HSRP discussions included critical survey area priorities, real-time water level observations, maritime industry issues, critical survey backlog, up-to-date charts, and safety issues. Mr. Dassler commented that in the interest of maritime safety, it is paramount that NOAA's Strategic Plan emphasizes the need to reduce the survey backlog. There was no immediate consensus on the strategic priorities among NOAA hydrographic services. As a result, the issue was tabled with the understanding that further, in-depth review of the NOAA Strategic Plan would be undertaken by the workgroup on NOAA's Hydrographic Services Roles and Mission.

Proposed "First Annual Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Development Plan"

Ms. Brohl prepared draft recommendations and comments for the HSRP to discuss and offer recommendations on the IOOS Development Plan. Discussions included but were not limited to: HSRP support for IOOS; fund, develop and maintain real-time observation systems for maritime operations; quality control and observation integration programs; NOAA's leadership role in real-time observation data collection, quality control and distribution; Physical Oceanographic Real Time-Systems (PORTS); National Water Level Observation Network (NWLON); charting and mapping roles in IOOS; critical area survey backlog elimination; and the importance of near-shore observations. Opinions were expressed on the pros and cons of IOOS. Dr. Lapine and Mr. McGovern expressed a desire that the HSRP place the highest priority on meeting the needs of safe navigation and transportation and high priority should be placed on those core components and programs that support that need. The Panel wanted to ensure that as NOAA embraces IOOS, safe navigation, bathymetry and real-time tides and currents are given high priority. The Panel also discussed Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services' (CO-OPS) potential role as a data clearing house for integration, quality control and accessibility/dissemination. The Panel's final, submitted recommendations can be viewed at http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ocs/hsrp/archive/documents.htm.

NOAA Hydrographic Survey Priorities

Previous HSRP recommendations addressing the NOAA Hydrographic Survey Priorities were adopted by NOAA and included in the current document. Hard copies of the publication were made available to the Panel and Captain Parsons mentioned that it was also available through NOAA's Office of Coast Survey web site at http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/NHSP.html.

Presentation on U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy Report – Rear Admiral West

RADM West provided a PowerPoint presentation on the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy Report. Admiral West stated the report had cross-cutting themes and called for strengthened education programs, improved science for decision making, more effective governance, double U.S. investment in ocean research, strengthened NOAA and federal agency structure, NOAA budget issues, ocean exploration and IOOS, Ocean Policy Trust Fund, and the Organic Act. Admiral West's presentation can be viewed at http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ocs/hsrp/archive/documents.htm.

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Shipping Facts Website

Mr. Gray provided a link for the HSRP for international shipping industry facts and important information (http://www.marisec.org/shippingfacts/)

July 2004 HSRP PORTS Recommendation

The Panel registered its concerns and displeasure that its statement of support for the Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS), drafted during the July 2004 HSRP meeting in New York, had not been forwarded to the NOAA Administrator. Captain Parsons will discuss the Panel's concerns with the National Ocean Service Assistant Administrator, Dr. Richard Spinrad.

Tracking System Recommendation

Mr. Rainey discussed the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) database (http://www.fido.gov/facadatabase/), some of its components and the benefits of a tracking recommendation status system. He provided an example of a U.S. Coast Guard FACA panel tracking system and proposed that the HSRP should consider developing such a system and linking its website to recommendations and status reports.

Solicitation of Members for HSRP

A Federal Register Announcement will be published soon to solicit five new members for the HSRP. Initial 2-year appointments expire in December 2005 for Jonathan Dasler, Sherri Hickman, Minas Myrtidis, and Tom Skinner, and in April 2006 for Larry Whiting. Panel members will be notified when the Federal Register is published.

FACA Reporting and Funding Issues

The HSRP reviewed specific questions from the FACA database—recommendations, costs and subcommittee or working group policies. The Panel's charter expires on September 30, 2005, and timing is good to revisit HSRP compensation. Members can sign a legal compensation waiver for subcommittee or workgroup tasks.

Subcommittees and Workgroups

Mr. Rainey distributed a draft proposal for three workgroups.

Workgroup 1 - *Modeling and Observing Systems*, would focus on NOAA's hydrographic modeling and observing systems (National Water Level Observing Network, Physical Oceanographic Real Time System, Water Level and Current Observation programs, and Coastal Modeling program)--their role or interaction with the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), and regional associations; their implementation and operation; and the effectiveness of existing NOAA navigational products and services.

Initial assignments to Workgroup 1 include: Larry Whiting, Tom Skinner, Helen Brohl, John Oswald, Mike Szabados and Andrew McGovern.

Workgroup 2 - *NOAA's Hydrographic Services: Roles and Missions,* would focus on NOAA's core mapping and charting capabilities and capacities to develop and deliver hydrographic products and services. The Workgroup would study NOAA's mission, evaluate user requirements and analyze NOAA's capacity to meet future challenges/requirements. This evaluation would include internal and external capabilities and emerging technologies.

Initial assignments to Workgroup 2 include: Andy Armstrong, Dr. Lewis Lapine, John Dasler, Admiral Richard West, Admiral Richard Larrabee, Bill Gray, Elaine Dickinson and Larry Whiting.

Workgroup 3 - *Outreach and Education,* would determine ways to measure the value of NOAA's navigation products and services and provide advice on existing outreach, education and marketing efforts. However, the panel voted to initially focus on standing up Workgroups 1 and 2 only, pending final approval from the NOAA Administration.

When formally approved by Vice Admiral Lautenbacher , the Workgroups will commence work on the aforementioned topics and bring recommendations to the HSRP for further discussions and approvals.

Critical Area Surveys

Mr. Oswald distributed a set of chartlets depicting areas in the U.S. that are not surveyed or, although not in the critical survey area, require surveys to support safe navigation and commercial interests. Mr. Oswald expressed concern that more hydrographic surveys need to be done in Alaska and he suggested a substantially increased survey capacity to reduce the critical backlog, through the addition of survey ships, increased contracts and chart production.

Coast Guard Electronic Chart Carriage Issues

The Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004, Public Law 108-293 – August 9, 2004, was distributed to the HSRP for review and comments. Section 410 of this Act required the USCG to promulgate electronic chart carriage requirements by January 2007. The HSRP discussed the pros and cons of NOAA Electronic Navigational Charts and will withhold comment on the prospective regulations until USCG develops and publishes proposed rules for public comment.

Operating Principles

Captain Parsons presented 12 operating principles - drafted by NOAA - for NOAA's Navigation Services Programs for the Panel's consideration. Discussion included minor prioritization and word changes.

1. Supporting the Nation's maritime commerce with information for safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation shall be the goal of NOAA's Navigation Services Programs. This shall be achieved by ensuring accurate, timely and cost-effective hydrographic services.

2. NOAA will maintain a core capability - to include personnel, platforms, facilities and equipment - for providing hydrographic services. Hydrographic services include the acquisition, management, maintenance, analysis, certification, and dissemination of bathymetric, hydrographic, geodetic, geospatial, geomagnetic, and tide and current information, and related activities, including the production of nautical charts, Coast Pilots, models, nautical information databases, and other marine navigation and non-navigation products derived from hydrographic data; and the development and implementation of assessment and prediction techniques, products and services (e.g., nowcasts and forecasts) required to support the marine navigation and non-navigation communities.

3. NOAA will establish, validate and maintain up to date requirements that set

priorities for the collection of hydrographic data. Hydrographic data include information acquired through hydrographic or bathymetric surveying, photogrammetry and other remote sensing means, geodetic, geospatial, or geomagnetic measurements, tide and current observations, and other methods, that are used in providing hydrographic services.

4. NOAA, in partnership with the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO) and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, will represent the United States of America in the establishment, development, and maintenance of international standards for hydrographic data and hydrographic services. Standards will include but are not limited to those necessary for data acquisition, data management, product development, and product/information dissemination.

5. NOAA will ensure that its core capability to provide hydrographic services is supported by adequate and continually updated training and education.

6. NOAA will promote and support - through intramural and extramural investments - the research, development, test and evaluation of new technologies, methods and products necessary for providing timely and accurate hydrographic services.

7. NOAA will maintain a safe, efficient, cost-effective and technologically-advanced fleet of ships, aircraft, and autonomous vehicles sufficient in quantity and capabilities to ensure that its core capability to provide hydrographic services is maintained.

8. NOAA will provide hydrographic services through contracts and other agreements with private-sector entities. NOAA will support the open competition for these activities.

9. NOAA will maintain close liaison with its marine navigation and non-navigation constituency in order to ensure that the navigation products and services that it delivers are those required by its customers.

10. NOAA will develop and maintain real-time observing systems, such as the National Spatial Reference System, the National Water Level Observations Network, and the Physical Oceanographic Real-Time Systems, necessary to support the provision of timely and accurate hydrographic services.

11. NOAA will enhance the public's understanding of the science and technology required for the provision of hydrographic services through outreach, education and private-sector collaboration.

12. NOAA will ensure that all data derived from its survey activities will be consistent with the standards of, and incorporated into the Integrated Ocean Observing System.

Formal endorsement of these principles was not undertaken by the Panel at this time and will be reserved for a future meeting.

Next HSRP Meeting

Captain Parsons suggested March 31 – April 1 in conjunction with the 2005 U.S. Hydrographic Conference at the Grand Hyatt Hotel on San Diego Bay in San Diego, California, or during the National Harbor Safety Committee Meetings in Long Beach, California, on/about April 21 and 22. No decision was made at this time on location or date.

Public Comment

Written transcripts of Public Comments may be requested through hydroservices.panel@noaa.gov.

Mr. David White, Hampton Roads Maritime Association

PORTS could be the appropriate backbone for IOOS but the original purposes and services of PORTS could be diluted; we do not want that to happen. User groups in the area depend on updated nautical charts and suggest that NOAA doesn't overlook regional needs.

B. Sachau

"I cannot attend the meeting on Nov l5 but do have comments for the record of the meeting.

I make the conclusions of Greenpeace on trawling and its environmental destruction part and parcel of my comment. Such conclusions are on the Greenpeace website.

I do know that any hydrographic services should not be allowed to kill any marine mammals or marine life in any way.

I would appreciate a copy of the minutes of the meeting being sent to me."

Appendix I

Attendees

Voting HSRP Members

Helen Brohl, HSRP Vice Chair	Executive Director, Great Lakes Shipping Association and Vice Chair, HSRP
Jon Dasler	Director of Hydrographic Services, David Evans and Associates, Inc.
Elaine L. Dickinson	Boat Owners Association of the United States (Boat U.S.)
William Gray	President, Gray Maritime Company, Maritime Advisor to INTERTANKO
Captain Sherri Hickman	Houston Pilots Association
Dr. Lewis Lapine	Chief, South Carolina Geodetic Survey
Rear Admiral Richard Larrabee, USCG (ret.)	Director, Port Commerce Department, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Adam McBride	Port Director, Lake Charles and Terminal District
Captain Andrew McGovern	Sandy Hook Pilots Association
Captain Minas Myrtidis	Norwegian Cruise Line
John Oswald	President, John Oswald and Associates, LLC
Scott Rainey, HSRP Chair	Deputy Director, American Pilots' Association
Tom Skinner	Director, Office of Coastal Zone Management, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Rear Admiral Richard West, USN (ret.)	President and CEO, Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE)
Larry Whiting	Hydrographer, Terra Surveys LLC

Non-voting Members

Captain Andrew Armstrong, NOAA (ret.)	Co-Director, NOAA/UNH Joint Hydrographic Center
Michael Szabados	Director, Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services

Designated Federal Official

Captain Roger L. Parsons, NOAA	Director, Office of Coast Survey

Presenter/Speaker

Dave Enabnit	Technical Director, Office of Coast Survey

Staff

Monica Cisternelli	Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services
Barbara Hess	Office of Coast Survey
Steve Vogel	National Geodetic Survey

Others/Public

Karl Wm. Kieninger	MAPONY/N.J.
Ed Levine	NOAA, Office of Response and Restoration
Jack Wallace	Hydrographic Society of America
Jim Dixon	NOAA Navigation Manager
Ian Stock	United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
David White	Hampton Roads Maritime Association