Issue: Arctic Nautical Charting Requirements and Prioritization

Assigned To: Emerging Arctic Priorities Working Group

Tasks:

1) The Emerging Arctic Priorities (EAP) WG is asked to note and consider the announcement by the Coast Guard on a proposed rule entitled “Port Access Route Study: In the Chukchi Sea, Bering Strait and Bering Sea” by Federal Register Notice (12-05-2014). Comments must be received on or before June 3, 2015.

   a. The EAP WG, through the HSRP, may wish to respond to the Coast Guard with the panel’s views on this proposed rule.

   b. HSRP members may also respond to the Coast Guard as private individuals without reference to the HSRP.

2) The Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for the Arctic Region (January 2014) includes an objective to “Chart the Arctic Region”. NOAA requests the panel’s views on:

   a. What criteria should NOAA consider to prioritize its national mission for hydrography and charting between the U.S. Arctic and the rest of the Nation?

   b. What criteria should NOAA consider to prioritize hydrography and charting requirements within the U.S. Arctic?

   c. What criteria should NOAA consider to prioritize tides/currents and positioning requirements within the U.S. Arctic?

   d. What criteria should NOAA use to prioritize hydrography and charting requirements among potential U.S. Arctic deep draft ports and harbors of refuge?

   e. Given the realities of shorter survey seasons and mobilization costs, what are realistic annual targets in percentage surveyed and charted over the next five years in:

      i. the Bering Strait?

      ii. potential U.S. Arctic deep draft ports and harbors of refuge?

3) Should NOAA look at alternative strategies to Arctic coverage other than our current approach of full bottom coverage?
a. What might be some recommended new/creative approaches to partnerships and funding strategies that NOAA might employ to increase gravity data acquisition, develop Alaska geoid models, install tide gauges and survey for nautical charting?

b. How might NOAA think about this region differently?

Other References:

1) NOAA Press Release “NOAA Plans Increased 2015 Arctic Nautical Charting Operations” (March 17, 2015)

2) NOAA Arctic Nautical Charting Plan (February 15, 2013)

3) U.S. Committee on Marine Transportation System U.S. Arctic MTS: Overview and Priorities for Action (2013)

4) NOAA Hydrographic Survey Priorities, (2012)