

Paper for Consideration by BSHC

Discussions around IRCC17 Recommendation 042

Submitted by:	Denmark (Danish Geodata Agency)
Executive Summary:	This INF paper seeks clarification and discussion on IRCC Recommendation IRCC17/042 regarding water level adjustment products, specifically the interpretation of "mandatory".
Related Documents:	IRCC17 - 07D (WENDWG Report to IRCC17) S-100 Universal Hydrographic Data Model S-104 Water Level Information
Related Information:	IRCC17 Meeting, June 2025 BSICCWG Report to BSHC WENDWG

Introduction

1. IRCC17 discussed the WENDWG Report (IRCC17-07D) that requested IRCC to consider "the legal status of products affecting Water Level Adjustment." Following this discussion, IRCC17 issued Recommendation IRCC17/042, which recommends that Regional Hydrographic Commissions encourage Member States to approach their respective authorities and request they consider products affecting water level adjustments be declared mandatory.
2. This recommendation addresses the provision of water level adjustment products, but raises several interpretative questions.

Background on S-100 and S-104

1. The S-100 Universal Hydrographic Data Model provides the framework for next-generation hydrographic products. S-104 Water Level Information for Surface Navigation delivers real-time and predicted water level data for integration with ECDIS, enabling accurate depth calculations by accounting for tidal variations and water level fluctuations.
2. S-104 complements S-101 (Electronic Navigational Charts) and S-102 (Bathymetric Surface) by providing temporal water level information for safe navigation.

Questions for Discussion

3. IRCC17/042 raises several key questions:

- Scope of "Mandatory"

Does this refer to mandatory ECDIS carriage requirements under SOLAS?

Or mandatory obligations for Member States to produce and provide S-104 products?

- Implementation Parameters

If mandatory provision is intended, should this apply to all areas where Member States provide S-101 coverage?

What resolution and update frequency standards would fulfill mandatory requirements?

How would coverage areas be determined and coordinated between Member States?

4. This paper does not intend to answer all questions or necessarily invite BSHC to come to answers to all of these questions, but to make the RHC formally aware of potential interpretations and general discussions of relevance

Action Required of BSHC

The BSHC is invited to:

- a) Note the questions raised regarding IRCC Recommendation IRCC17/042
- b) Discuss the interpretation of "mandatory" requirements for water level adjustment products
- c) If relevant, consider a joint paper submission to WENDWG