

Editorial

This edition comprises **four Articles** and **two Notes**.

The **first Article** outlines how Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) in Australia is using state of the art CARIS software to assist in the management of their waterways. The paper uses test results from surveys to identify improvements to volume calculations, survey conformance analysis, shoal detection and survey reference models.

The **second Article** describes the field work, processing and reporting for a new project in Greece to assist with mapping, visualisation and synthesis of underwater archaeological data. The author describes the fieldwork procedures and the GIS capabilities used to prepare the collected data in order to provide a potential model for the sustainable management of Greek maritime archaeology. *Ed. Note - as this model is developed, it is hoped that S-100 may provide a suitable geodatabase model for managing such data and information as discussed by Masetti, Calder and Alexander in the IHR November 2012 edition.*

Our **third Article** discusses the development of a low cost, non-contact sea wave monitoring system based on radar sensors. The results to date are promising in terms of estimating wave heights and direction.

The **final Article** is a summary of issues relating to anomalies in ECDIS equipment in terms of displaying recent changes to ENC data encoding and display standards including complex symbology. These ongoing issues are not new, however the IHB has been proactive in identifying the issues and raising awareness through several recent Circular Letters. Using the IHB's test data, the author runs the data through a couple of ENC visualisation tools to determine the ability for them to display the symbols correctly. Given that ECDIS has been operational for 20 years it is disappointing that interpretation issues with S-52 display still exist. Hopefully, the work of the IHB in conjunction with the IMO will soon rectify the issues. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the type approval agencies to ensure that ECDIS equipment conforms and perhaps there are more deep seated issues regarding training and competencies in these areas. The maintenance of software should not even be an issue today and manufacturers have the responsibility to conform whilst users have the responsibility to understand the capability. "Buyer beware" and "minimum performance specifications" are simply not acceptable with mandatory carriage requirements now in effect.

This Edition also includes **two Notes** :

- The first Note describes the findings of an IHO Correspondence Group attempting to harmonise the way in which IHO Member States define and measure the length of their national coastlines.
- The second Note provides a brief technical description of a new hydrographic survey vessel for the King Abdulaziz University in Saudi Arabia.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I hope that this edition is of interest to you. Thank you to all the authors for your contributions and to my colleagues who provided peer reviews for the Articles in this edition. My thanks also go to the IHB staff who finalise the publication and provide translations.

Ian W. Halls
Editor

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