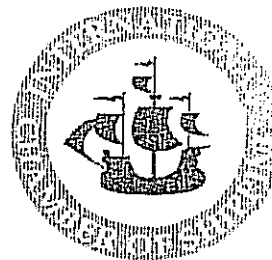


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31 January 2012

TO: RADIO AND NAUTICAL SUB-COMMITTEE
Copy to: Marine Committee
All Full and Associate Members (for information)

RN(12)01**TEST RESULTS - ECDIS OPERATING ANOMALIES**

Action required: Members are invited to note the outcome of work (RN(11)13) regarding the dataset to check whether ECDIS equipment is conforming to the latest IHO ECDIS standards for handling and displaying chart data. An IHO workshop (25 and 26 January) called following completion of the survey, was advised that of some 350 completed tests received by IHO all responses had indicated that at least some 'anomalies' were present on all systems tested.

RN(11)13 advised that the IHO had produced a simple dataset (two fictitious ENC's) that allows mariners to check whether their ECDIS is conforming to the latest IHO ECDIS standards for handling and displaying chart data. ICS subsequently participated in a workshop convened by the IHO on 24 and 25 January to discuss the outcome of this survey and to consider what further action may be required.

Disappointingly, despite significant efforts to publicise the importance of using and reporting the outcome of the test dataset only some 350 reports have been received by the IHO to date. Despite this it is clear from reports received that of the 18 reported anomalies some are present on all installed ship systems tested and no system was entirely clear of all anomalies. The anomalies range in their importance but include the possibility of significant charted features not displaying on an ECDIS with the potential for collision with or grounding on a known wreck. During the workshop ICS expressed its very serious concern regarding the reported anomalies and furthermore that even the latest versions of ECDIS software had not resolved all of the known anomalies. Manufacturers advised that a 'work around' for the known anomalies had been proposed and was included in the test data set, sent to ships. ICS again expressed serious concern that in at least one case the 'work around' involved reverting to the use of paper charts. For many ships this option was not available and was in any case considered by the industry to be a totally unacceptable proposal.

It is understood that the IHO will submit a report on the outcome of the test data set survey, to MSC 90 in May. Once the draft IHO submission is available, ICS will consider a separate submission advising of serious concern that technical aspects of ECDIS have been identified as lacking the robustness and reliability required of a mandatory safety critical navigational system.

Although the planned period for the survey using the ECDIS test set has ended the IHO have advised that they would welcome additional reports and for this reason members are urged to further encourage use of the test data set and forwarding of results to IHO, so that when the MSC Committee considers this matter more representative results can be reported.

John Murray
Secretary to the Sub-Committee