# The Prospect for an FIG/IHO/ICA Program for Recognition of Individual Hydrographers

## Andrew ARMSTRONG, USA and Gordon JOHNSTON, United Kingdom

**Keywords:** Cartography, Education, Hydrography, Standards;

## SUMMARY

The FIG/IHO/ICA International Advisory Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers has been studying the feasibility and desirability of drafting standards for national, regional, or industrial schemes of individual recognition of hydrographers (and cartographers).

Up to now, the charter of the International Advisory Board (IAB) has been limited to the recognition of training and educational programs for hydrographers and nautical cartographers. The Category A and Category B recognition programs currently in place are not intended to, and do not, certify individuals as competent hydrographers.

While hydrographers who have completed a Category A or B program are often referred to as "Cat A or Cat B hydrographers," that nomenclature does not accurately reflect the nature of the IAB recognition program. Given the international nature of our profession, and the potential consequences of poor quality hydrography, there has developed considerable demand for a mechanism to certify individual competence. This paper will report on the progress of the IAB in its consideration of individual schemes, the likely nature of an IAB program for recognition of individual schemes, and the opinion of the authors on the essential elements of an individual recognition program.

## CONTACT

Andrew Armstrong
Co-Director
NOAA/UNH Joint Hydrographic Center
Chase Ocean Engineering Bldg
24 Colovos Road
Durham, NH 03824-3525
USA
Tel. + 1 603 862 4559
Fax + 1 603 862 0839
Email: Andy.Armstrong@noaa.gov

Gordon Johnston
Email: gorden.johnston1@orange.net

TS 1 – Commission 4 Hydrography Reports                                                                1/1
Andrew Armstrong and Gordon Johnston
The Prospect for an FIG/IHO/ICA Program for Recognition of Individual Hydrographers

Shaping the Change
XXIII FIG Congress
Munich, Germany, October 8-13, 2006