

FIG Commission 4 – Hydrography Work Plan 2007-2010

1. Title

Hydrography

2. Terms of reference

- Hydrographic surveying
- Hydrographic education, training and Continued Professional Development (CPD)
- Marine environment & Coastal Zone Management (CZM)
- Data processing and management
- Nautical charting and bathymetric maps – analogue and digital, including ENC's (Electronic Navigational Charts)

3. Mission Statement

- Promote the aims and objectives of FIG to hydrographers through the active involvement of national delegates from member associations and other interested parties in the activities of the commission.
- Foster closer links with all sister organisations currently active within the global Hydrographic community.
- Develop guidelines and standards that will assist hydrographers in the provision of their services.
- Disseminate information relevant to the profession through participation in international meetings, conferences and committees.

4. General

Commission 4 is committed to achieving both the long term and immediate aims and objectives of the FIG organisation. The commission strategy over the next four years is aligned with that of the incoming Council and will include:

- Co-operation with other FIG Commissions, including joint working groups;
- The development of best practice guides in Hydrography;
- Active support and participation in FIG regional events;
- Contributing to the work of the FIG Task Force on Institutional Development;
- Cooperation with National surveying and mapping agencies where common applications exist; and
- Respond to directions from FIG Council to address emerging issues on an ad-hoc basis.
- Support the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO), Capacity Building Committee (CBC).

5. Working Groups

Working Group 4.1 – Hydrographic Surveying in Practice

Policy issues

- Monitor and report on new directions in Hydrographic surveying.
- Good practice recommendations for project management and the delivery of Hydrographic products and services.
- Respond to opportunities to offer CPD at regional meetings.
- Promotion of Pathways to Professionalism (seeking common terminology with International Advisory Board (IAB).
- Cooperation with FIG Commission 2 on matters pertaining to Professional Education.

Chair

John McCarthy (Australia), e-mail: john@mhshydro.com

Specific project(s)

- Develop guidelines for planning and managing Hydrographic projects.
- Provide a review of IFHS Special Publication-3 *Hydrographic Surveying as a Career*.
- Assist Commission 4 Working Group 4.4 on Capacity Building in the delivery of CPD at regional venues.

Workshop(s)

- Participation in FIG Working Weeks, Regional Meetings and other major Commission events (see Calendar of Events) with dedicated Technical Sessions and/or Workshops as appropriate.

Publication(s)

- Handbook on Hydrographic project planning and management.
- FIG Working Weeks will include Technical Papers on specific issues and presented by Working Group Members and other invited experts.

Timetable

- Draft publication will be presented at FIG Working Weeks during the term of this plan and according to a timetable to be developed by the Working Group Chair.
- Working group will present a final report at the FIG Congress, 2010.

Beneficiaries

- FIG member associations, managers in surveying businesses, national surveying and mapping agencies, academia and as well as individual surveyors.

Working Group 4.2 – Standards and Guidelines

Policy issues

- Development and recognition of standards of competency.
- Review of technical standards and guidelines .
- Cooperation with sister organizations and other appropriate bodies.

- Promotion of the use of standards and guidelines to the surveying community.
- Cooperation with FIG Standards Network.

Chair

Andrew Leyzack (Canada), e-mail: leyzacka@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Specific project(s)

- Review Standards coming from ISO TC211 for relevance to Hydrography.
- Assess the impact of international standards on current industry practice.
- Represent Commission 4 on the FIG Standards Network.
- Provide a review of the IHO New Manual of Hydrography.

Workshop(s)

- Participation in FIG Standards Network Meetings and other major Commission events (see events section below).

Publication(s)

- FIG Working Weeks will include Technical Papers and/or reports to the FIG Standards Network on emerging standards, guidelines and specific issues.
- Ongoing contribution to the maintenance of the FIG Guide on Standardisation.

Timetable

- Ongoing work will be reported FIG Working Weeks during the term of this plan and according to a timetable to be developed by the Working Group Chair
- Review IHO New Manual of Hydrography by May 2008
- Working group to present a final report at FIG Congress, 2010.

Beneficiaries

- FIG Standards Network
- Sister organizations, national surveying and mapping agencies
- FIG member associations, surveyors in industry and government, academia
- Instrumentation and software producers.

Working Group 4.3 – Administering Marine Spaces

Policy Issues

- Focus on land management within the near-shore, land/sea interface of a Coastal Zone.
- To promote and develop the work of FIG Publication 36, Administering Marine Spaces.

Chair

Michael Sutherland, (Canada) e-mail: michael.d.sutherland@unb.ca

Specific project(s)

Climate Change Impact upon Coastal Communities (In cooperation with other planned activities of Commissions 7 and 8 relevant to Coastal Communities)

Workshop(s)

Participation in FIG Working Weeks, Regional Meetings and other major Commission events (see events section below) with dedicated Technical Sessions and/or Workshops as appropriate.

Publication(s)

- Technical papers with regard to FIG Working Weeks, Regional Meetings and other major Commission events;
- Possible joint publication(s) with Commission 8 with regard to climate change impacts upon coastal communities.

Beneficiaries

FIG member associations, governments, industry and academia.

Working Group 4.4 – The Economic Benefits of Hydrography

Policy issues

- Clearly identify the cost/benefits associated with Hydrographic products and services
- Promote Hydrographic Surveying as an investment.
- Market the Profession and the development of qualified personnel.
- Support FIG Task Force on Institutional Development.
- Coordinate efforts to focus professional development where required.
- Investigate cost effective alternatives for the delivery of Hydrographic services and training.

Chair

Gordon Johnston (United Kingdom), e-mail: gordon.johnston1@orange.net

Specific project(s)

- Work closely with the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and sister associations to present and promote the benefits realised from Hydrographic information.
- Engage and encourage users of Hydrographic information to help demonstrate the benefits of using quality Hydrographic information.
- Support the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO), Capacity Building Committee (CBC).

Workshop(s)

Participation in FIG Working Weeks, Regional Meetings and other major Commission events (see events section below) with dedicated Technical Sessions and/or Workshops as appropriate.

Publication(s)

- Pamphlet on Economic Benefits of Hydrography to market the profession and services.
- Internal and external reports will be prepared from participation at IHO, CBC meetings.
- FIG Working Weeks will include Technical Papers on specific issues and presented by Working Group Members and other invited experts.

Beneficiaries

- FIG member associations, surveyors in government, industry, academia and the IHO.

6. Co-operation with Sister Organisations

6.1 FIG/IHO Committees

Commission 4 currently represents FIG on the International Advisory Board (IAB) on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers (jointly with IHO and ICA). The commission will also support the IHO in its Capacity Building Initiatives with representation on the IHO Capacity Building Committee (CBC).

6.2 FIG and the International Federation of Hydrographic Societies (IFHS)

Commission 4 has begun to cooperate with the IFHS whereby the Federation has provided input into the 2006-2010 work plan and the commission will continue to lend its support towards sponsoring IFHS conferences and other initiatives. For example, the commission has provided financial support and resources for updating the IFHS special publication (SP-3) entitled „*Hydrographic Surveying as a Career*”. It is important for Commission 4 to maintain contact with all national Hydrographic Associations (whether members of the IFHS or not) to foster communication and cooperation for the betterment of the profession.

Notes:

1. FIG and IHO cooperate under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which was signed in Athens, May 2004. Our liaison is IHB Director, Mr. Hugo Gorziglia.
2. The role of the International Advisory Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers is to develop and up-date international standards of competence and to review the academic programmes of educational institutions that are seeking IHO accreditation of their Hydrographic training courses. Our liaisons with the IAB is past Commission 4 Chair, Mr. Andrew Armstrong (USA). FIG is represented by Adam Greenland (NZ), Gordon Johnston (UK), Mohammed Razali Mahmud (Malaysia) and Ms. Tiina Turnala (Finland).
3. FIG and the International Federation of Hydrographic Societies (IFHS) cooperate under a MoU which was signed in Cairo, April 2005. Our liaison with the IFHS is their President, Mr. Paul Hornsby.

7. Co-operation with the United Nations agencies

On the guidance of FIG Council, Commission 4 will participate in co-operation with the United Nations agencies on topics that are related to commission expertise (e.g. marine cadastre).

8. Cooperation with other FIG Commissions

Commission 4 will collaborate with:

- Commission 1 on standards issues (Standards Network)
- Commission 2 on matters pertaining to Professional Education.
- Commission 3 on matters pertaining to Hydrographic information management;

- Commission 5 to review and revise (where required) FIG Publication 37, Vertical Reference Surface for Hydrography;
- Commission 7 on Administering Marine Spaces; and with
- Commission 8 on Urban Planning in Coastal Regions.

9. Other Activities

Maintain and develop the commission web page, with links to other relevant home pages and new pages or other networks for special projects, to keep commission delegates, the Hydrographic community and the public involved in and informed about the work of the commission. Contribute editorials, reports and articles to Hydrographic publications including but not restricted to the Hydrographic Journal, Hydro International, The International Hydrographic Review, Sea Technology and Lighthouse. Produce a bi-annual Commission 4 CD ROM for distribution to commission delegates, our sister organizations and national Hydrographic societies.

10. Calendar of Events

2006

- IFHS Hydro 2006, Antwerp, Belgium, 6-9 November

2007

- IHO Conference, Monaco, 7-11 May
- U.S. Hydro 2007, Norfolk, 14-17 May
- FIG Working Week, May- Hong Kong, 13-17 May
- 9th South East Asia Surveyor's Congress, Christchurch, New Zealand, 29 October – 1 November
- FIG Regional Meeting, San José, Costa Rica, 12-15 November

2008

- CHC2008, Victoria, Canada, 5-8 May
- FIG Working Week, Stockholm, Sweden, 14-19 June

2009

- FIG Working Week, April-May, Eilat, Israel, 3-8 May
- FIG Regional Meeting

2010

- FIG XXIV Congress, Sydney, Australia, 9 – 16 April

11. Commission Officers

Commission Chair and Chair of WG 4.2

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Working Group 4.4 – Capacity Building and the Economic Benefits of Hydrography

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