

**Report to the 31st General Assembly
FIG Working Week in Stockholm, Sweden, June 2008**

FIG Commission 4 – Hydrography

Report of Activities 2007-2008

1. General

The Commission chair and all four vice chairs were on the move throughout the year. Given that most were involved in consulting or offshore survey operations at various times throughout the report period they still managed to work toward fulfilling the commission's work plan objectives and actively participate in various FIG and other hydrographic meetings and symposia.

2. Working Groups

WG 4.1 – Hydrographic Surveying in Practice

Chair: John McCarthy (Australia)

A session on hydrographic surveying in practice was held at FIG Working Week 2007 in Hong Kong. Presentations covered topics ranging from remote sensing, GIS applications, GPS technology and the development of professional practice in hydrography. A similar session will be held at FIG Working Week 2008 where the session will focus on the development and application of various hydrographic survey technologies.

The chair of this working group is a sole proprietor, engaged in private practice and reports that he has been very involved in hydrographic practice since the previous working week. The commission is fortunate to leverage this sort of grass roots knowledge and experience and will continue to engage private industry to contribute to FIG activities.

WG 4.2 – Standards and Guidelines

Chair: Andrew Leyzack (Canada)

The working group continues to monitor the progress of emerging standards with relevance to hydrography. Notably, IHO S-57 and the introduction of its successor S-100 will be of interest to hydrographers and the working group continues to focus on the processes and technology for capturing data as hydrographic (S-57) objects in the field. The application of international and national metadata standards is also being followed as well as the work of ISO Technical Committee 211 as it continues to further develop 19130 Geographic information – Imagery sensor models for geopositioning.

WG 4.3 – Administering Marine Spaces

Chair: Dr. Michael Sutherland (Canada)

The working group actively participated in the FIG Regional Conference in Costa Rica, November 2007, continuing the pursuit of one of its objectives: to encourage academic and professional sharing and discussions on the topic of the administration of marine spaces. Two presentations were made at this regional conference: one plenary presentation and one technical paper presentation. A peer reviewed journal article, attributable to the working group, entitled Estimating Marine Cumulative Effects Using Spatial Data: An Aquaculture Cast Study was published in *Geomatica*. Another journal article has been submitted for publication, and one other is in the process of being reviewed for publication. WG 4.3 has contributed to the proposed joint-commission (3, 4, 7 and 8) FIG publication entitled The FIG Costa Rica Declaration.

WG 4.4 – The Economic Benefits of Hydrography

Chair: Gordon Johnston (United Kingdom)

The Regional Week in Costa Rica provided a colourful and very well attended meeting with several papers covering the benefits and positive contribution Hydrographic survey can make at several levels including regional benefits as well as contributing to local coastal zone management planning and administration. The meeting benefited from the attendance of Capt. Hugo Gorziglia from the International Hydrographic Bureau, representing the IHO. This collaboration is seen as vital for the promotion of Hydrography across as many sectors and into as many levels as possible.

Out side of the formal meetings the work of identifying the economic benefits of Hydrographic surveying is continuing with the preparation of additional papers for presentation at future FIG events and the compilation of relevant material to act as a formal reference.

Support to the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO), Capacity Building Committee (CBC) continues and will be a feature of the work over the next 3 years.

It is becoming clear that the subject is not simply a matter of promoting surveying and introducing some programme of work to cover port approaches, national waters or economic zones where it has been lacking. It is more about the coordination of efforts to focus professional development, where required, and to ensure a sustained level of training, supply and retention is created to supply the ongoing needs.

The task of investigating relatively affordable alternatives for the delivery of Hydrographic services and training fits well with the work of the FIG/IHO/ICA International Advisory Board on the Standards of Competence of Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers.

3. Cooperation

3.1 Cooperation with Other Commissions

- Joint-Commission (3, 4, 7 and 8) workshop on Pro-Poor Coastal Zone Management and the development of the FIG Costa Rica Declaration
- Cooperation with Commission 7 on Administering Marine Spaces.

3.2 Cooperation with the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO)

The commission provides support and membership on the IHO Capacity Building Committee and the joint FIG/IHO/ICA International Advisory Board (IAB). Commission 4 participated as an observer at the IHO Conference in Monaco, May 2007. The conference provided an excellent opportunity for the Commission Chair to meet with other members of the IAB to discuss training, competency and certification issues. It was also an opportunity to promote the work of the Commission and drum up interest in participation at future FIG meetings. The IHB on behalf of IHO have in turn participated in FIG activities focusing on Capacity Building and the Economic Benefits of Hydrography. The FIG Regional Conference in Costa Rica provided an opportunity for the IHO to network and promote the need to develop hydrographic capacity in the region.

4. Events

2007

- IHO Conference, Monaco, May.
- FIG Working Week 2007, Hong Kong, SAR, May.
- SEASC, Christchurch, New Zealand, October.
- 6th FIG Regional Conference, San José, Costa Rica, November.

2008

- Workshop on Administering Marine Spaces, Canadian Hydrographic Conference and National Surveyors Conference 2008, Victoria, BC, Canada, 5-8 May 2008.
- FIG Working Week 2008, Stockholm Sweden, 14-19 June 2008.

5. Communication and Publications

A quarterly newsletter is published by Reed Publishing in Hydro International and is distributed free of charge to Commission 4 delegates.

The Hydrographic Journal and *Lighthouse* have, also publish news from the commission. With the permission of FIG, a paper entitled Hydrographic Education (Category A) at the Newly Founded Hafen City University, Hamburg (HCU) was republished in *Lighthouse*. WG 4.3 continues to promote FIG Publication 36 – Administering Marine Spaces – International Issues.

Andrew Leyzack

Chair of FIG Commission 4

March 2008

Commission web site: www.fig.net/commission4