# 2025-10-14 – Meeting Minutes

NIPWG12 Action Item 11: VTC to be held to consider ENDS Tree Diagram changes  
  
Participants:  
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Background:  
During NIPWG12 (16–19 September, Aalborg), ownership of the ENDS tree diagram was confirmed to reside within the working group. Consequently, proposals for updates to the diagram should be addressed to NIPWG. Two proposals for amendments were received, and the outstanding action from NIPWG12 was to convene a VTC meeting to decide whether changes to the diagram should be made in accordance with the proposals related to S-421 and S-129.

S-421  
Paper for consideration submitted by The Norwegian Coastal Administration.  
Proposes inclusion of “Reference Routes” in S-421 format under MS12 (Nautical Publications).  
  
The group considers S-421 Reference Routes to be appropriately placed under MS12, and that this is a good first step toward defining this data set in the ENDS tree diagram, as the product is intended for ECDIS use. At present, reference routes are not included as information within Sailing Directions or mentioned in MS12. However, the Purpose and Development section of MS12 states: “Integration of appropriate new sources of nautical publications information into the supply and production chain for NP3 data products.” (Is “sources” equivalent to “types of information”?)  
  
The group anticipates that a revision of the MS12 description may be required. As development increasingly moves toward real-time standards, it is important that standards, products, and services are described within their respective forums — while also making their interrelations clear — in order to identify shared needs for technical platforms and means of distribution. A tool for achieving such an overview is the ENDS tree diagram.  
  
Participants in today’s meeting are expected to prepare for NIPWG VTC3-25 by thoroughly reviewing IMO MS12 (Nautical Publications) in MSC.1/Circ.1610/Rev.1, to provide informed input on how to move the topic forward, and to identify any further amendments that may be needed in the service description.  
  
Proposed items to be included in the agenda for NIPWG VTC3-25:

- Report on the decision to include S-421 Reference Routes under MS12 in the ENDS Tree Diagram.  
- Present the discussion regarding MS12 and propose a suitable plan to take the discussion forward, potentially resulting in a revision proposal for MS12.

S-129  
Paper for consideration submitted by OMC International.  
Proposes moving S-129 from MS12 (Nautical Publications) to either MS15 (Real-time Hydrographic and Environmental Information Services) or MS4 (Port Support Service).  
  
The group considers S-129 to be appropriately placed under MS15, where UKC (Under Keel Clearance) sailing is already mentioned in the introduction as depending on the currently listed types of information in the service: water level. Together with currents and S-129, these standards constitute the real-time aspects of UKC navigation.  
  
The same type of work proposed for MS12 needs to be done for MS15, possibly in cooperation with S-129PT. The group also questioned whether the definition of MS15 falls under NIPWG’s responsibility. Based on NIPWG Work Plan, Section G (approved by HSSC17), this can be assumed: “Develop high-level specifications for a maritime service as defined by IMO in the context of e-navigation covering the provision of hydrographic services to mariners in accordance with the IMO e-navigation strategy implementation plan.”  
  
MS2 (Aids to Navigation Service) was also mentioned as a potential future home for S-129. At present, the group supports moving S-129 to MS15, but it was also noted that it is possible to propose entirely new Maritime Services if no suitable existing one fits. However, the group agreed that such proposals should be made cautiously and with solid justification, to avoid inflation in the number of Maritime Services. It must be acknowledged that the relationships between Maritime Services and S-100 product specifications are not one-to-one; a single standard may relate to multiple MSs, and vice versa.  
  
Proposed items to be included in the agenda for NIPWG VTC3-25:  
- Report on the decision to move S-129 from MS12 to MS15 in the ENDS Tree Diagram.  
- Present the discussion on MS15 and propose a suitable plan to continue the work, potentially leading to an amendment proposal for MS15.  
- Report on the discussion regarding a potential future placement of S-129 under MS2.

Other matters:  
S-100WG agenda item 6.8b: “Guidance for understanding the term ENDS” (authored by WENDWG) and related Action Item:  
  
WG10 noted the paper and recommended ENCWG to consider the revision of S-66 or development of a new publication (for example S-166) for stakeholder guidance.  
WG10 noted that the primary audience for C-165 is data producers.  
[Action 10/23] DK/US/CN to develop the structure and scope of C-165 and report it to the next S-100WG meeting.  
  
Should the authors of the Guidance be contacted to determine whether amendments are required following the updates to the ENDS Tree Diagram?