

64TH MEETING OF THE NORDIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (NHC64)

Video-teleconference (VTC), 20 & 21 April

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2021	
Task 3.2.1.	Prepare for and report meetings of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions: NHC

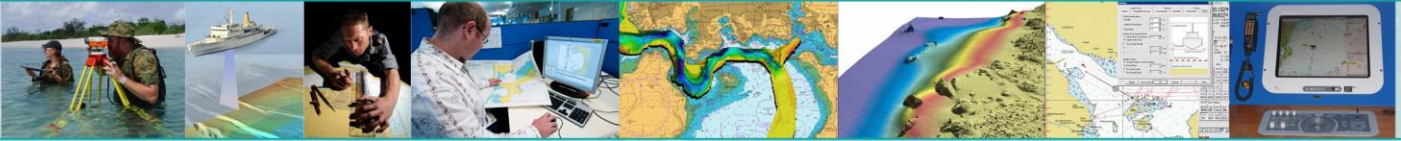
The 64th Meeting of the Nordic Hydrographic Commission (NHC64), initially planned to be held in Reykjavik, Iceland in 2020, was held in a VTC format due to the COVID-19 pandemic on 20 and 21 April 2021.

The meeting was chaired by the Vice-Chair, Mr Árni Þór Vésteinsson (IS). Eighteen delegates from five Member States (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) participated in the meeting. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Secretary-General Dr Mathias Jonas.



Some participants at the NHC64 Meeting

Mr Georg Kr. Lárusson, Director General of the Icelandic Coast Guard, opened NHC64 and welcomed all participants to the meeting. He encouraged cooperation such as the NHC and emphasized the importance of such cooperation and discussed the changes in meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the general familiarity of online meetings and the benefits of those to foster cooperation. He then handed control of the meeting to Vice Chair Árni Þór Vésteinsson, Head of the ICG Hydrographic and Maritime Safety Department.



The meeting proceeded with the approval of the agenda and the matters arising from the previous NHC63 Meeting and the respective list of actions.

Secretary-General Jonas reported about the outcome of the 2nd Assembly (A-2) and the resulting actions of the 4th Council (C-4) with an impact on Regional Hydrographic Commissions. He specified the approval by the A-2 of the new IHO Strategic Plan and S-100 Roadmap and the tasking to the Council to proceed with their implementation. The Secretary-General also invited NHC to examine their respective instruments to ensure compliance with the recommendations of the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended by A-2.

The Meeting proceeded with the presentation of the respective National Reports. Norway presented a new way of collaboration with national port authorities aiming to set up a collaborative database which may form a basis of the future provision of data sets complying with IHO's S-131 standard.

The Chair of the GEBCO Guiding Committee, Evert Flier (Norway) gave a presentation on GEBCO and the Seabed 2030 project. He highlighted the need to make existing data available. According to his explanations, a big challenge exists to get access to intelligence data or even polygons of where intelligence data is available. He concluded that in view of the demands of the UN Ocean Decade, access to bathymetric data is essential.

The Chair of HSSC, Magnus Wallhagen reported on the outcome of the WENDWG 10th and 11th meetings. The participants discussed possible implications for the region. Denmark reported on the concept of nominations of indigenous chart ambassadors for Greenland and the planned accelerated production of ENCs for those waters with reduced content on land based features but full chart information for the sea areas.

Based on the example of the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission, the NHC discussed how the new strategic goals of the IHO can be reflected better in the agenda of future Commission meetings. No final decision was made.

At the end of the meeting, Ms Birte Noer Borrevik (Norway) was nominated as Chair and Evert Flier (Norway) as Vice Chair.

The next meeting will take place in Stavanger, Norway on 26 to 27 April 2022.