

65TH MEETING OF THE NORDIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (NHC65)

Handelsstedet Ramsvik, Norway, 26 & 27 April

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2022

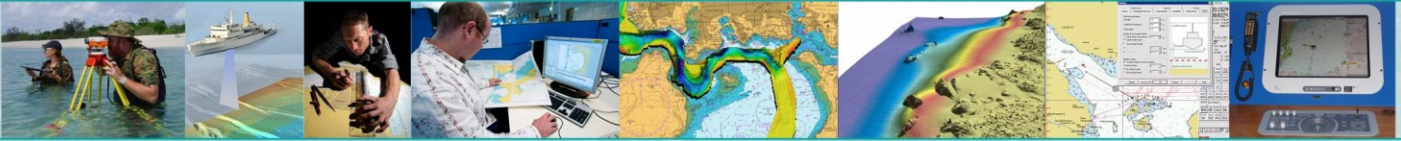
Task 3.2.1.7	Prepare for and report meetings of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions: NHC
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The 65th Meeting of the Northern Hydrographic Commission (NHC65), was held from 26 to 27 April 2022 in Handelsstedet Ramsvik, Sjernarøy, Norway.

The meeting was chaired by Evert Flier (Norway), Vice-Chair of NHC, on behalf of the Chair, Birte Noer Borrevik (Norway). Nine 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.



Group photo of the participants at the NHC65 Meeting



The meeting commenced with welcome words from the Chair, Birte Noer Borrevik, Director Norwegian Hydrographic service. On completion she handed over the chairing duty to the Vice-Chair. The meeting proceeded with the approval of the agenda and the matters arising from the previous NHC64 Meeting and the respective list of actions.

Secretary-General Dr Jonas reported on the general arrangements of the IHO and decisions made by 5th IHO Council affecting the work of the Commission. He reminded on the main goals of the IHO Strategic Plan and S-100 Roadmap and the task to the Member States to proceed with their implementation. The Secretary-General also invited the NHC to examine its respective instruments to ensure compliance with the recommendations of the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended by A-2.

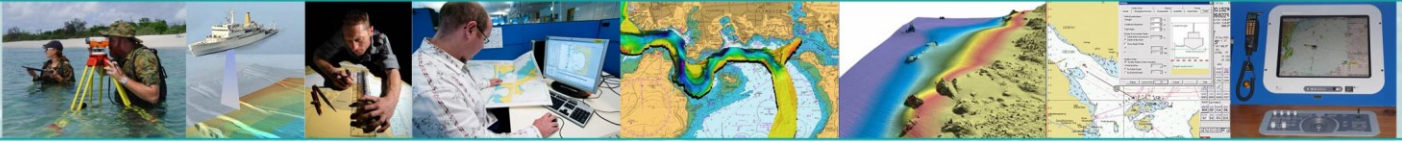
The Commission reflected on the need to select one of its members to become a Council member in the inter-Assembly period 2023 – 2026. It was decided that Norway will be selected.

A longer discussion arose about the provision of free hydrographic data. It was confirmed that “free” should be interpreted as accessible for everyone but not necessarily free of charge. In this context Denmark informed that the agency is working on the release of a 50 m grid for waters under national jurisdiction. Norway echoed this announcement with similar resolution of 50 m for deep waters and 30 m for shallow waters. Sweden confirmed that it remains with restrictions on the data for territorial waters and only providing a 300 m resolution for public use. Bathymetric data of the Swedish EEZ are free and unlimited also in resolution. Finland has responded to the public request with a grid derived from nautical charts. Finally, Iceland stated all processed bathymetric data as freely available and not limited in resolution, but not free of charge.

On reflection of a recent workshop hosted by the Canadian Hydrographic Office about the human resources to be recruited by HO's in the future, the Commission members expressed their views on the subject based on their respective national perspective. There was commonality that IT/GIS skills have priority over the traditional qualifications as surveyor or cartographer. New stakeholder groups' interactions also call for lawyers, economists, data scientists and project managers. Joint consideration was made on the question; How to attract new personnel?

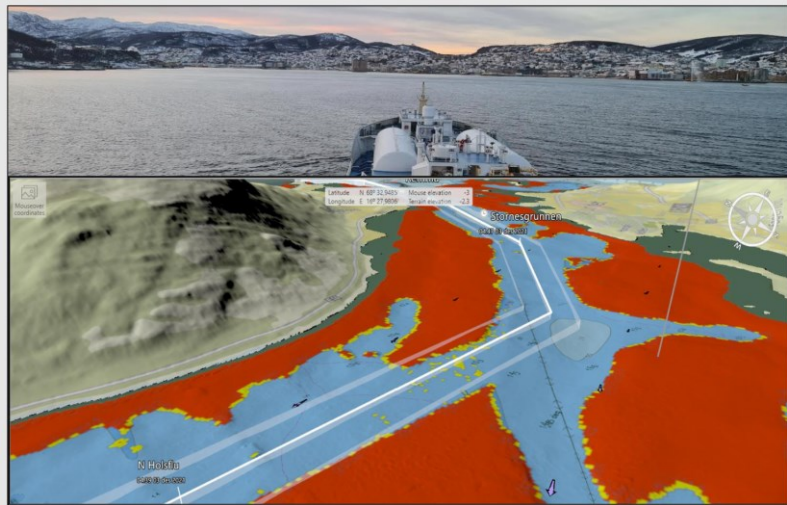
As part of the respective national reports, the Commission members informed about their recent relevant achievements. Norway presented a collaborative approach with the port of Stavanger aiming at improving efficiency of harbour operations through the enhanced use of dense bathymetric data for incoming and outgoing pilotage.

Sweden and Finland jointly reported about a project to set up S-104 and S-111 services for the Baltic region. Norway presented the promising results of its S-100 Demonstrator Project for S-129 Underkeel Clearance Management in Norwegian waters. The Commission discussed how such show cases could be better communicated to promote the expanding



production and use of S-100 complaint data products. The Commission decided to suggest that the envisioned IHO GIS Portal should become an active element of this promotion.

Finland reported on the start of the regular production of HD ENC's for the major merchant fairways and ports in large scale ENC's, i.e. Berthing, Harbour and Approach products. MSDIWG Chair Jens-Peter Hartmann (Denmark) presented the S-122 (Marine Protected Areas) showcase which results in a data set covering the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. The Commission agreed to promote this approach to be adopted by other regions, aiming to compose a global dataset to be provided via the future IHO MSDI Portal.



S-129 Under Keel Clearance Management Operational Test - Tjeldsundet

The Commission received reports on recent activities of the relevant IHO subordinate bodies such as WEND and GEBCO Guiding Committee.

At the end of the meeting Pia Dahl Højgaard (Denmark) took over the role of Chair from Birte Noer Borrevik (Norway).

The next NHC meeting will be hosted by Denmark and is scheduled from 21 to 22 March 2023.