

North Sea Hydrographic Commission 37

Malmö, Sweden, 9-10 April

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2024	
Tasks 3.2.1.9	NSHC – North Sea Hydrographic Commission

Attendees included representatives from: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom

The meeting was hosted by Sjöfartsverket (Swedish Maritime Administration) and chaired by Magnus Wallhagen, National Hydrographer of Sweden, who opened the meeting by recognizing the exciting challenges facing the IHO in 2024, notably the implementation of the S-100 hydrographic data model and the refresh of the IHO Strategic Plan.

Regular Commission business was managed by Mr. Wallhagen throughout the meeting. Dr. Nyberg presented the Secretariat's report, Thomas Dehling, National Hydrographer of Germany, present the Council/IRCC report and Mr. Wallhagen presented the HSSC report. The importance of progressing S-100, Empowering Women in Hydrography, IHO's relationship to the IMO, the IHO Strategic Plan, and equal access to IHO meetings were some of the themes discussed during the presentations.



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During the meeting the Commission considered the future of paper charts, hydrographic surveying in the region, crowd source bathymetry, the IHO Strategic Plan, the future of implementation of S-100 and the needed associated IHO infrastructure, and marine safety information, among many other things.

The Commission visited the World Maritime University and conducted a workshop for the students and faculty. The workshop introduced the IHO, presented the basic future capabilities of the S-100 Universal Hydrographic Data Model, the regulatory framework around S-100 and allowed time for questions from the students. It was apparent that more communication regarding S-100 is needed in the near-term to help future maritime sector employees understand how S-100 will benefit them in the future.

The Commission conducted an in-depth discussion on the future of the IHO Strategic Plan which resulted in a proactive set of suggestions for the NSHC to present to the IRCC in June.

This particular meeting was of strategic importance for the region which aims to lead the global implementation of S-100 in partnership with neighbouring commissions. It not only considered the production of new product specifications but also the policies and data needed to support them.



NSHC visit to WMU



NSHC Signing new ToRs

Outcomes

- The Commission agreed on several inputs to update the IHO Strategic Plan.
- A workshop was conducted at the World Maritime University to increase the understanding of the future of S-100.
- Increased contribution toward Gender Balance were offered and recognized.
- The IHO Secretariat presented the importance of the current issues that will impact the future of the IHO, including the future of S-100, IHO infrastructure, the Strategic Plan, leaving no country behind, and gender inclusivity among others.
- The commission agreed to move forward with the buildout of S-100 products and services beyond S-101.
- Commission agreed on revised statutes that reflect the applicable IHO Resolution on RHCs, gender neutral language and changes in rules of procedures (physical meetings every second year and VTCs the year in between).
- The Commission decided to close the operation of its sub-MSDI WG and to appoint an MSDI ambassador (Germany) for the IHO MSDIWG.
- It was strongly noted that there is an increased need for IHO communications to include the impacts of S-100 on mariners of the future, the IMO, and others who will be implementors of the Universal Hydrographic Data Model.
- IHO to consider a strategy on IMO interaction – produce a bulletin on the IMO-IHO tree diagram.
- UK and Germany were elected as chair and vice chair respectively.
- The next meeting will be held by VTC on 8-9 April 2025.