



66TH MEETING OF THE NORDIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (NHC66)

Aalborg, Denmark, 21 & 22 March

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2023

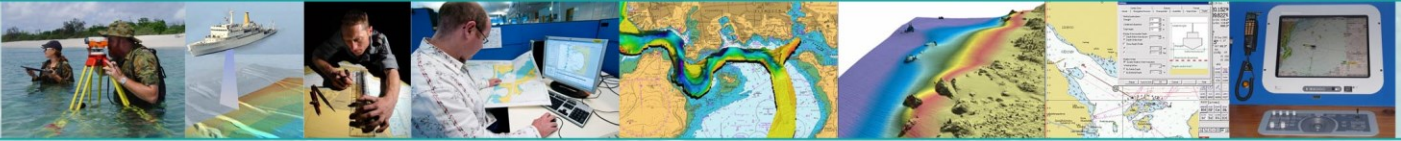
Task 3.2.1.7	Prepare for and report meetings of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions: NHC - Nordic Hydrographic Commission
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The 66th Meeting of the Northern Hydrographic Commission (NHC66), was held from 21 to 22 March 2023 in Aalborg, Denmark.

The meeting was chaired by Ms Pia Dahl Højgaard, National Hydrographer of Denmark. Twelve 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 NHC66 Meeting



The meeting commenced with welcome words by Pia Dahl Højgaard, National Hydrographer of Denmark. The meeting proceeded with the approval of the agenda and the matters arising from the previous NHC65 Meeting and the respective list of actions.

Secretary-General Dr Jonas reported on the general arrangements of the IHO and the preparations of the forthcoming 3rd IHO Assembly affecting the work of the Commission. He reminded on the main goals of the IHO Strategic Plan and S-100 Roadmap, the task to the Member States to proceed with their implementation and the coordinating role of the respective Regional Hydrographic Commission.

Member States provided their detailed national reports. All countries reported on the notable increase in ENC sales. A lively discussion arose about the share of the world fleet of ships on international voyages carrying ECDIS. According to the figures received from RENCs this number accounts for approximately 35000 vessels in comparison to a total number of approximately 120000 vessels from the smallest (< 500 GT) to largest size forming the global fleet. This insight triggered considerations about the ongoing need for provision of paper charts and effective ways to produce them.

All members reported on their respective activities in view of the implementation of the S-100 road map and approved this issue as a future standing NHC Agenda item. Norway highlighted that it has already started with S-102 production, focusing on selected ports and harbours, narrow passages, etc. The production of S-102 has been achieved by utilizing existing production steps, with an additional product output. Production processes for some of the other S-100 products, e.g. S-101, S-104 and S-131, must be solved utilizing existing production line and toolsets, and possibly optimized, upgraded and improved, but still managed as one production line. This will better utilize and maintain needs, competence, optimize production resource demands and automate the parallel product outputs from the same process. Some S-100 products are new products and will as such require a new process to be established. This includes an efficient and secure data flow from miscellaneous data owners outside the hydrographic domain to products.

In order to coordinate these transition processes regionally, it was agreed to continue with the support of the Nautical Chart Production Experts Group (NCPEG) under revised Terms of Reference that supports the engagement with new standards and the future of paper charts for instance, or matters on compilation of hydrographic and other chart data (bathymetric, terrain, fairways, AtoNs, etc.). The working group is formed by technical experts with marine data and cartographic background. The Commission also confirmed the ongoing existence of the Nautical Survey Experts Group (NSEG) under the Terms of Reference in place with a focus on the automation of post-processing of survey data, mainly data cleaning.

The Commission received reports on recent activities of the relevant IHO subordinate bodies such as WENDWG and GEBCO Guiding Committee. In the GEBCO context, Denmark reported about its national project aiming to establish a Trusted Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry Framework, named GAVIAN.

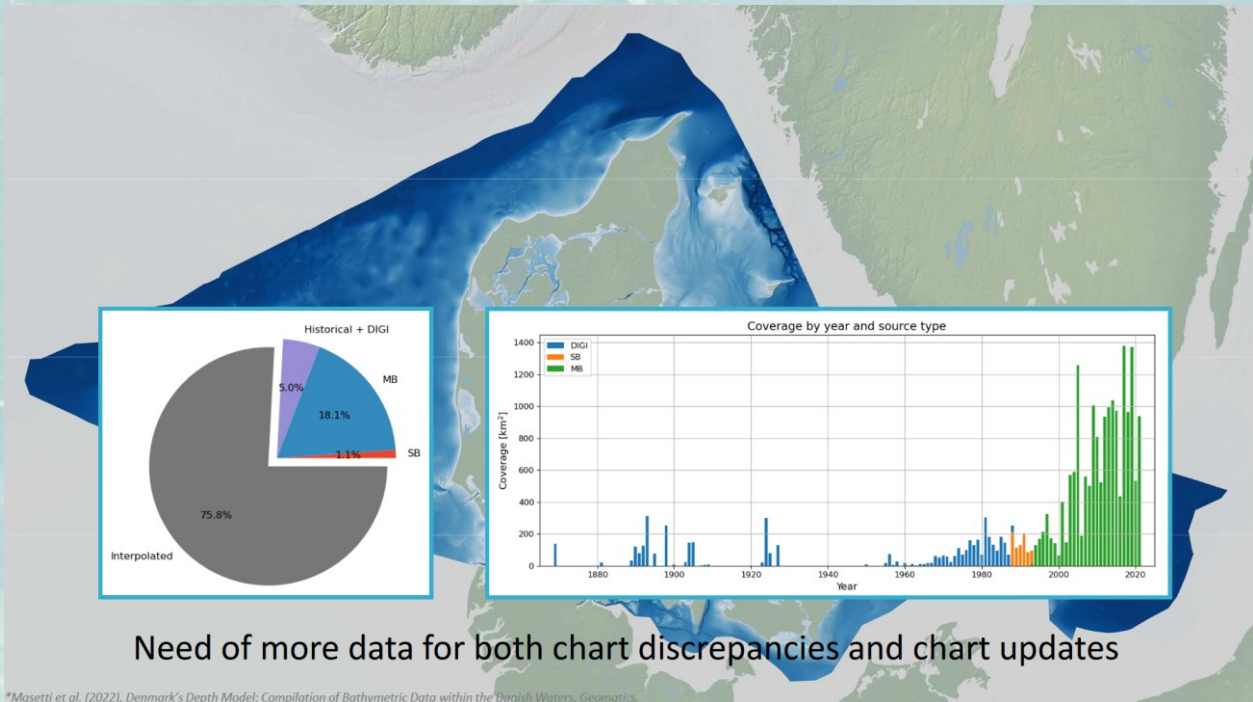


Illustration on the coverage of Danish national waters with single beam, multi beam and interpolated depth information.

At the end of the meeting Magnus Wallhagen (Sweden) took over the role of Chair from Pia Dahl Højgaard (Denmark).

The next NHC meeting will be hosted by Sweden and is scheduled for 11-12 April 2024.