

**12<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE ARCTIC REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (ARHC)**

**St. John's NL, Canada, 13 – 16 September**

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2022	
Task 3.2.1.1	Prepare for and report meetings of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) / ARHC

The 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC) was held in St. John's NL, Canada, from 13 to 16 September 2022.

Twenty four participants representing four ARHC Members (Canada, Denmark, Norway, and the USA and four Associate Members (Finland, Iceland, Italy and United Kingdom) participated in the Conference.

The ARHC Conference was chaired by Dr Geneviève Bechard, Canadian Hydrographer. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Secretary-General Dr Mathias Jonas.

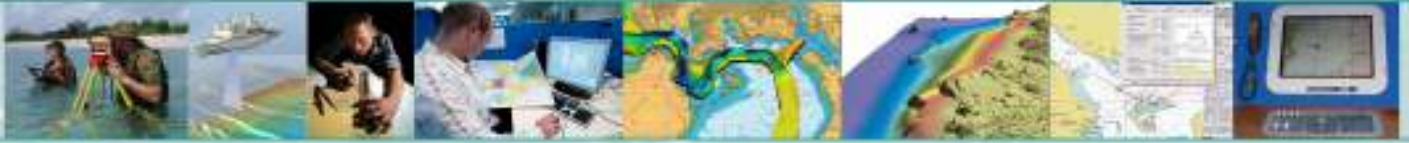
The ARHC Members were informed by the Secretary-General of the strategic issues that will be on the agenda of the upcoming 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council and the ongoing preparations of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly in May 2023. By means of his presentation, he put special emphasis on the parallel activities of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica in view of a coordinated approach for the implementation of future regional S-100 based data services. Dr Jonas



highlighted the overarching importance of IMO's expected adoption of the revised ECDIS Performance Standards which will enable the development of S-100 ECDIS and the consequences for hydrographic services which will result from this decision - expected in November 2023. He also elaborated on the recent activities of the Secretariat to engage with various UN bodies in support of the UN Ocean Decade.

A series of slides to illustrate the calculated approach to measure the strategic performance indicator 1.2.2: *Percentage of navigationally significant areas (e.g. charted traffic*

Sources:  
IC-ENC & PRIMAR files  
August 2022



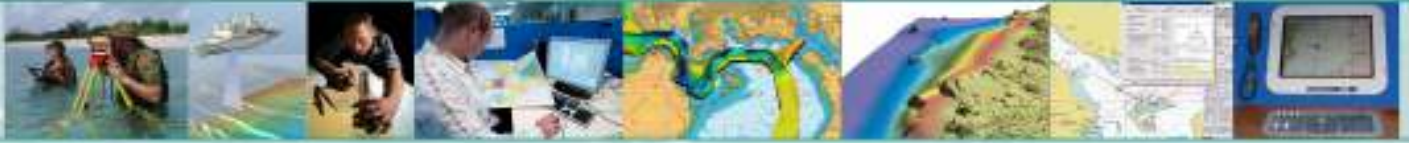
*separation schemes, anchorages and channels) for which the adequacy of the hydrographic knowledge is assessed through the use of appropriate quality indicators through colour coded CATZOC values for ENC of usage bands 3, 4 and 5 concluded the report.*

All participants reported on their national activities in the Arctic region since the last Conference. The Conference took note of items such as uncrewed survey technology, national survey programs, ENC provision, and the implementation of national SDI solutions and other themes of relevance for all Hydrographic Offices of the region. Special focus was given to the collaboration of ARMSDIWG with ARCTIC-SDI for the purpose of the adoption of full authority for dissemination of all marine datasets covering the arctic region. This discussion will continue with the chair and the relevant bodies of the Arctic Council. A lively discussion arose about the technical and legal implications on the production of paper charts from ENCs, which coincides with UK's announcement to withdraw its global paper chart services by 2026. The Commission noted the newest proposal for the application of a regular ENC grid for the high North and agreed on a concerted approach with the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica. As a result of an intense discussion about the future coverage of the region with S-100 data products, the Commission endorsed Norway as regional S-100 Implementation Coordinator. One of the first activities will be a regional survey on the preparedness of the ARHC members for the future S-100 based data services for the region. This survey will be conducted on the basis of the WEND IGIF-H matrix which was presented by the WENDWG Chair Dr John Nyberg, USA.

Embedded into the conference agenda was an open forum organized by Paul Brett, associate vice-president (research and strategic partnerships) of St. John's Memorial University's Fisheries and Marine Institute and Member of the GEBSCO Steering Committee to interface the participants with local academia, industry and campaigners engaged with hydrographic issues. Under the title "Challenges, Engagement, Innovation, and beyond Navigation" numerous guests presented their approaches in citizen science on hydrographic aspects of the North to address the specifics of ice conditions and indigenous knowledge. On the first day the group of participants paid a visit to the simulation branch of the Institute.

*Dr John Nyberg, USA practices underwater cable movement by means of remotely controlled robotic tools.*





Attendees were invited to simulation exercises with remotely controlled manipulators as nowadays common for remotely operated underwater vehicles.

A second day was devoted to innovation science and technology demonstrations. The major partner was Kraken Robotics which presented their cutting edge technology in hydroacoustic for object detection and survey. The local office of Fugro provided insight on the practices of data handling after acquisition. Both days were regarded as of great value by all participants in helping to understand the potential this region holds for innovation in hydrography.



*The Product Manager explains the payload options of the Kraken's ROV Katfish-180*

At the end of the meeting, Ms Pia Dahl Højgaard, National Hydrographer of Denmark, was elected as the new Chair of the ARHC. It was agreed that the next meeting of the ARHC will be hosted by Denmark probably in Greenland in September 2023.

All available documents of the meeting are posted on the ARHC page of the IHO website.