



## NORDIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (NHC)

### NHC report to IRCC9

Paramaribo, Suriname 12-14 June 2017

1. **Chair:** Mr Patrik Wiberg  
**Vice-Chair:** Mrs Annika Kindeberg
2. **Membership**  
**Members:** Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden  
**Associate member(s):** None  
**Observers:** IHO Secretariat representative Gilles Bessero

3. **Meetings:**  
Since last IRCC8 meeting there has been one NHC meeting:  
NHC61 in Elsinore, Denmark 6-8 March 2017

Next meeting will be in Sweden, 10-12 April 2018.

4. **Current NHC Working Groups:**
  - a) Hydrographic Survey Technologies WG
  - b) Nordic Chart Production Expert Group

5. **Status of IRCC8 actions (relevant for the NHC)**

No	Action (Agenda item)	Responsible	Deadline	Status
4	present updates to the IHO WP for those that have not done so (5)	RHC Chairs	1 Jul 2016	Done
5	provide a status report for the use of official data for the production of leisure charts and report back to the IRCC the findings and best practices (6)	NHC Chair	IRCC9	Done In the NHC report
6	encourage the attendance of Member States and Observers at WNWWS-SC meetings (7b)	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Done
7	raise awareness of the impact of e-navigation on the provision of MSI in the respective	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Done

	regions and to highlight the use of the Joint Manual on MSI to ensure correct terminology and formats are used in MSI messages (7b)			
8	encourage closer engagement of the National MSI Coordinators of Member States with the relevant NAVAREA Coordinator (7b)	RHC Chairs	RHC Chairs	Addressed via BSHC and NSHC
9	encourage closer coordination between NAVAREA and Capacity Building Coordinators in planning and student selection for the CB MSI training courses (7b)	RHC Chairs	RHC Chairs	Addressed via BSHC and NSHC
13	work to reduce overlaps by applying the WEND Principles in defining approve ENC schemes (7d)	RHC Chair	Permanent	Done
21	invite Member States to provide following information in the National Reports to RHC meetings: the status of MSDI; plans for involvement in MSDI; and challenges facing the HO (7e)	RHC Chair	Permanent	Done
30	invite Member States to provide scanned version of any of the missing sheets, that that they may have in their archives, to the IHB for inclusion in the online digital archive (7i)	RHC Chair	31 Aug 2016	Done
31	in coordination with Member States, to be attentive to opportunities to raise awareness on the role of hydrography and the importance of improving mankind's knowledge of the seas and oceans in support of the sustainable development goals, disaster risk reduction and the integrity of the oceans (8)	RHC Chair	Permanent	Yet to be addressed
32	invite Member States to send updated information to the Secretariat with respect to the IHO Publications C-55 and P-5 on an annual basis (10)	RHC Chair	Permanent	Done
37	send to the IHB a copy of their regulations regarding the designation of Member States to occupy the seats on the IHO Council allocated to their Commission (12)	RHC Chair	23 Jan 2017	Done

## 6. Agenda items

The main subjects dealt with during the reporting period were the following:

- Report status and plans of nautical publication
- Multibeam workshops in order to exchange knowledge and share experience
- Workshop regarding Chart Production
- Official S57-data to the leisure craft market
- Marine Information Overlays (MIO)
- RENC operations
- Finland-Sweden Pilot project on harmonisation of depth presentation in ENCs and paper charts
- Revision of NHC Statutes.

### 6.1 Report on official data to leisure craft charts, Action No 5 IRCC8

At the NHC61 meeting that took place in Denmark in 2017 the NHC MS discussed the topic about providing official ENC data to the leisure craft market from a regional and international approach.

For many years Hydrographic offices have focused on providing the best navigational paper charts and ENC for the SOLAS market in order to enhance safety at sea and protection of the environment. As stated at the 1st IHO assembly there is an increasing demand for Hydrographic data for other purposes than safe navigation, a demand that puts a pressure on Hydrographic Offices to deliver these data for other purposes. Studying the leisure craft market, it generally does not use official ENCs for their navigation. Instead they use other digital chart products, most of them with derived cartographic expressions without frequent updating. Seen from a leisure craft user's approach it is very difficult to get relevant information if any about requirements especially for electronic charts for the leisure craft market. If leisure boat users want to use official electronic charts for their navigation, they have to use the already existing ENCs in an ECDIS.

The question is therefore if there is a need to establish special rules or recommendations for the use of electronic charts and products for the leisure craft market and if there is a need for HOs to establish ENC services.

The new ENC service should be seen as an offer/possibility for the leisure craft market to use official electronic charts for their navigation and not as a requirement.

The service should also be seen as an official alternative to official paper charts for the leisure craft market. The use of ECS system could possibly fulfil the requirement and, therefore the use of ECDIS would not be required for the leisure market.

Minimum criteria for national ENC service for leisure craft that should be taken into consideration:

- The requirements for regular updates
- Data standards (S-52 cartographic display, S-57 data transfer, S-63 encryption or equivalent)
- Software/hardware standards
- Quality management system and the need for audits.
- National and international legislation
- The need for new data e.g. harbour plans
- The need for additional information such as weather, AIS, etc.
- The need for cooperation between different chart producers.

#### Proposal regarding ENC services for the leisure market

It is proposed that IRCC9 discuss how IHO/IRCC/HO MS should approach the topic about official electronic charts for the leisure craft market e.g. the need for establishing rules or recommendation for ENC services for this market and if there is a need to establish an IHO/IRCC WG to investigate the topic more detailed in order to provide recommendations to IRCC on how to proceed.

## **7. Proposals**

### **7.1 Proposal regarding MIO/AIO**

**It is proposed that the MIO service is to be put as an item in the IRCC and/or the WENDWG agenda**

At IRCC8 decision 14 the following was recommended based on the input from the WENDWG:

“...to endorse the recommended actions from WENDWG concerning Marine Information Overlays (MIOs) as follows:

Taking into account the report of WENDWG6 concerning the situation where a Marine Information Overlay (MIO) is used to assist in drawing attention to any differences between a published paper chart and the corresponding ENC or to assist in displaying T&P notices for an ENC recommends:

- a) All parties concerned with producing the respective MIO, paper chart and ENC should agree on the promulgation of the MIO for the relevant sea area concerned.
- b) In such circumstances, and mindful of serving the best interests of the mariner, those producers of the MIO and related paper chart and/or ENC should work together bilaterally.
- c) Production of the MIO should be carried out in close cooperation of producers of both the paper chart and the ENC”

We would like to raise special attention to point a. above; that is that “all” or “both” parties concerned should agree. As such, it cannot be allowed that one actor can issue a MIO, which provides information on the quality of the ENC’s in the waters of another charting authority, unilaterally. It is only after agreement between “all” or “both” parties is in place that “all” or “both” parties are to solve the details bilaterally (point b.). The wording “bilaterally” must be read in the context of point a. being in place, hence point b. starts with the wording: “In such circumstances...”.

Since all attempts to stop the relevant producer of such MIO’s have failed (several official letters on behalf of some of the members of the NHC addressing this matter have been sent since 2009), the first precondition for such an MIO to be promulgated, is not in place.

Therefore MIO needs to be put back on the agenda of the IRCC and WENDWG.

## **8. NHC cooperation with other organizations:**

NHC is represented in the IHO-EU Network Working Group. The IHO-EU Network Working Group (IENWG) has been established by the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) to monitor and deal with the activities and processes related to hydrographic aspects under the aegis of the European Union (EU). Both Norway and Sweden are partners in the Coastal Mapping project related to a possible future Joint European Coastal Mapping Program.

**9. NHC Conclusions:**

- Make E-navigation a permanent agenda item on the next NHC meetings.
- NHC MS to consider inviting employees from other Nordic HO's to national hydrographic and cartographic courses when appropriate.
- NHC MS to provide information on national MSDI/MSP development in their national reports.

**10. Actions required from the IRCC9:**

- The IRCC9 is invited to take note of the NHC report
- It is proposed that IRCC9 discuss;
  - a) how IHO/IRCC/HO MS should approach the topic about official electronic charts for the leisure craft market e.g. the need for establishing rules or recommendation for this service and
  - b) if there is a need to establish an IHO/IRCC WG to investigate the topic more detailed in order to provide recommendations to IRCC on how to proceed.
- Take into consideration to put the MIO issue back on the IRCC and WEND-WG agenda.