

**9th MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IHO-IRCC9
Paramaribo, Suriname, 12-14 June 2017**

NORTH SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

NSHC report to IRCC9

1. Chair

Chair: Marc Van der Donck, (NL) from September 2014
Declan Black, (IE) from June 2016

Vice-Chair: Declan Black, (IE) from June 2014
Virginie Debuck, (BE) from June 2016

2. Membership

Members: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom.

3. Meetings:

Following NSHC meetings have taken place:

32nd Meeting NSHC – Dublin, (IE), (21st – 23rd June 2016)

Next meeting: 33rd NSHC will take place March 2018 in Oostende, Belgium

4. Current NSHC Working Groups:

- a) North Sea ENC Harmonization Working Group (NSEHWG, chaired by UK)
- b) Region D International Chart Coordination Working Group (ICCWG, chaired by UK)
- c) Baltic Sea and North Sea MSDI Working Group (BSNSMSDIWG, chaired by DK)
- d) Resurvey Working Group (RWG, chaired by NL)
- e) Tidal Working Group (TWG, rotating chair, currently NL)

5. Status of IRCC8 actions (relevant for the NSHC):

Nr.	Action (Agenda item)	Responsible	Deadline	Status
6	encourage the attendance of Member States and Observers at WNWNS-SC meetings	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Ongoing participation from a number of members
7	Raise awareness of the impact of e-navigation on the provision of MSI in the respective regions and to highlight the use of the joint manual on MSI to ensure correct terminology and formats are used in MSI messages	RHC Chairs	Permanent	MS actively involved in this area
8	encourage closer engagement of the National MSI Coordinators of Member	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Permanent

	States with the relevant NAVAREA Coordinator			
9	encourage closer coordination between NAVAREA and Capacity Building Coordinators in planning and student selection for the CB MSI training courses	RHC Chairs	Permanent	All MS encouraged
13	work to reduce overlaps by applying the WEND Principles in defining approve ENC schemes	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Continuing as new surveys carried out
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	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Member states to be invited to continue providing
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	RHC Chairs	31 Aug 2016	Ongoing
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	RHC Chairs	Permanent	Permanent
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	RHC Chairs	31 July 2016	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	RHC Chairs	23 Jan 2017	Done

6. Agenda Items:

Agenda items from NSHC 32

WP 1 Corporate affairs-

NSHC member states have continued to actively participate in IHO-EU network working group and support EU marine data and mapping projects and demonstrating the value of the data held by HO's to the wider stakeholder community. Attendance by MS at IMO meetings in relation to e-nav.

Continued to make data as widely available as possible through NSHC website a North Sea Bathymetry Database and contributing to EU EMODNET and coastal mapping projects.

WP2 Hydrographic services and standards-

Tides- The tidal working group has been working to combine existing national models to develop a common reference frame and eliminate differences at national boundaries. Research on an international reference frame is continuing through France's TOSCA-SURFREF project.

Satellite derived bathymetry- member states have shared experience at last meeting and a paper was presented by France on their experiences.

Shallow water surveying- member states continue to share experiences in this area.

WP3 Inter Regional coordination and support-

MSDI- Our Marine spatial data working group has now been merged with the MSDI working group from the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission, the MSDIWG is supporting the IHO to adopt a more proactive stance in the way data is collected, managed, and disseminated by HO/HS thereby providing a leading role in developing the “blue economy. It’s aim is to share information and best practice between member states.

WEND- Member states have supported with the United Kingdom chairing the WEND working group.

Capacity Building – Member states have participated in technical and advisory visits and offered courses and workshops.

7. NSHC cooperation with stakeholders (organizations, industry, etc.):

NSHC continues to encourage the active participation of industry and academia in our meetings.

8. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed :

Reduced resources have restricted members surveying capability and their ability to participate as fully as they would wish in some meetings.

9. Achievements and lessons learned Conclusions:

There has been continuing cooperation on shared projects and efforts to raise the profile of Hydrographic Offices and the value of the data sets held to the wider community.

Members have actively support the IHO and its committees and working groups.

10. Actions required of IRCC:

The IRCC is invited to note the report of the NSHC.

Declan Black

NSHC Chair