



62nd NHC Conference
10-12 April 2018
Arkö, Sweden

Agenda Item D.6
Response to Disaster
Sweden

NHC MS Response to Disaster and Crisis - Possible need for a co-operation within the NHC.

Considering the lessons learned from the Tsunamis in the Indian Ocean 2004 and Japan 2011 regarding the:

- need for immediate assessments of the damage on harbours and fairways and its effects on safety of navigation
- importance of sea transport to get emergency supplies into affected areas
- need to re-establish the basic key maritime infrastructures when most of the equipment may be destroyed or immobilised
- need to ensure that charts and other hydrographic information continuously can be kept updated and MSI immediately is sent out to mariners and other relevant bodies

Considering the guidance that are given in the IHO Resolution "Response to Disasters 1/2005" declaring that *"The International Hydrographic Organization, its Member States and the Regional Hydrographic Commissions should ensure that appropriate procedures and guidelines are in place so as to enable an immediate and appropriate response to any future disaster affecting coastal areas of the world."*

Considering that the Nordic countries land mapping organisations since 2011 has an agreement for exchanging (land) data in the neighbouring areas in case of crisis (Blå Lys).

https://geodata.se/globalassets/dokumentarkiv/samverkan/internationellt/nordiskt-avtal-om-gransoverskridande-data-507_2011_1440.pdf

The Member States

The IHO Resolution declares the importance that Member States develop contingency plans in order to be prepared in case a disaster occurs in their areas of responsibility. In case of a disaster affecting the safety of navigation the resolution points out not only the importance of ordinary promulgation of MSI and chart updates but also the need to inform the Chair of relevant RHC's as well as IHO Secretariat on what support is needed if any.

For the Nordic nations we most likely have contingency plans in place involving also the scope of hydrographic services. However, even if we in the Nordic area so far is spared from the disasters of the scale as in Indian Ocean and Japan (except for some volcanos), the NHC MS's should reflect on the recommendations pointed out in the IHO Resolution and consider if any steps should be taken within their contingency plans.



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The RHC

The IHO Resolution gives the RHC and especially the RHC-Chair a central role as responsible for co-ordinating all actions needed within the Region in case of a disaster. In order to achieve this, the RHC should develop a disaster action plan, aimed at supporting States in the area to assess the hydrographic damage, provide support and co-ordinate actions and efforts. The IHO Resolution also gives guidance on concrete operational focus areas to be included in their action plans that the RHC under the command of the Chair may act on in case of a disaster:

- i) Communicating, by the quickest means available, with the focal points of the States in the Region, in order to make an initial evaluation of the extent of the damage.
- ii) Deciding whether a Regional technical task team needs to visit States in the area to support the evaluation of the damage and support needed.
- iii) Deciding, based on the information collected, whether an Extraordinary Meeting of the RHC is needed, in order to discuss in detail the problems, evaluate the damage and respond to requests for support.
- iv) Deciding if the Chair needs to take a co-ordinating role in assessing damage, providing support and broadcasting information to mariners.
- v) Informing the IHO Secretariat on the situation, the actions taken and the need, if any, for external support.
- vi) Monitoring the progress of the actions agreed in the area, keeping Member States in the Region and IHO Secretariat informed accordingly.
- viii) Including this issue as a permanent Agenda item on RHC meetings in order to monitor the readiness of the Commission to respond to disasters and conducting regular table-to

Actions required of NHC62

The NHC62 invited to:

- a) discuss the need for a formalized NHC MS co-operation including an action plan on how to proceed if a crisis should occur affecting any of the Nordic countries ability to operate any part of its hydrographic services
- b) consider if and how to proceed with relevant parts of the guidance given in the IHO Resolution 1/2005 IHO Response to Disasters
- c) take any actions and decisions as may be considered necessary