

Conclusions from North Sea Ministerial Conference: Implementation by member HO's

In pursuance of action Item G1 of the last NSHC Conference, UK as NSHC Chair has prepared an input to the 2006 North Sea Ministerial Conference on measures to improve hydrographic services in the North Sea area. Based on this input, the Ministerial Conference has adopted the wording shown in Annex.

This wording follows the same objective as a decision of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) taken in 2002 which is currently being implemented by the BSHC. One of the results of implementing the HELCOM decisions is the establishment of a HELCOM Monitoring WG. As a member of BSHC, Germany would briefly report on the work of this Working Group.

The NSHC Conference is invited to:

- *Discuss the measures agreed by the North Sea Ministerial Meeting to be implemented by NSHC members,*
- *consider the establishment of a Working Group to monitor the implementation progress.*

Extract from the Declaration of the:

North Sea Ministerial Meeting on the Environmental Impact of Shipping and Fisheries,
Stockholm, 4-5 May 2006.

Hydrographic surveys and charts

In order to ensure that the safety of navigation is not endangered by inadequate source information, additional measures to improve hydrographic services is needed.

67. Ministers endorse the additional measures to ensure improved hydrographic services recommended by the North Sea Hydrographic Commission. These include systematic re-surveying of major shipping routes and ports, and promotion of the use of official Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC).

68. The Ministers agree to develop a scheme for systematic resurveying of major shipping routes and ports according to IHO standard S-44¹¹³.

69. The Ministers agree that their administrations will notify IMO of their acceptance of type approved Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) as meeting the carriage requirements of SOLAS regulation V/19. The Ministers undertake to conduct national campaigns to inform ship owners of such acceptance, availability and advantages of use.

¹¹³ IHO Publication S-44: IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys. Published by the International Hydrographic Organization, Monaco (<http://www.iho.shom.fr>).