

## **Report of the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NSHC Tidal Working Group**

### 1. Meetings and attendance

Since the 26th Conference of the NSHC, the TWG met on one occasion, in October 2005. The meeting was held in Oostende (Belgium) and has been attended by representatives from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway and United Kingdom.

### 2. Current actions

There are a number of ongoing actions within the NSHC Tidal Working Group. These include:

- monitoring new developments in modern tide gauges
- exchanging experiences concerning tidal modelling
- online tidal predictions
- advances in digital tide tables
- development of offshore vertical reference frames.

Especially in this last field of work a lot of effort is taking place at several HO's at this moment. The meeting was considered extremely useful as a forum for the exchange of ideas and working methods.

### 3. List of deliverables and timing

- Create a seamless LAT datum reference by 2010:

This will be based on modelling activities going on in UK, DE, FR and NL. The coverage of the area will be between 4°W to 14°E and 49°N to 62°N. The choice of the geodetic reference will be ETRS89/ETRF89. The intention is to declare it valid for an epoch.

- New edition of co-tidal chart 5059 by 2008:

For this DE & UK will act as the main players. Data from the DE LAT-project will be used.

- Work towards a unified tidal prediction system by 2010:

FR & UK will be the main players. Important input will come from model solutions.

### 4. Terms of Reference for the group

These are mentioned in the annex of this report. There was consensus within the group to ask the NSHC Conference to approve a change from Tidal Working Group to Tidal Committee.

### 5. The 27th NSHC Conference is invited to

- approve this report, after having made amendments, if any
- approve and amend, if necessary, the proposed Terms of Reference
- make a decision on the further continuation of the Tidal Working Group as a Tidal Committee.

### 6. Next meeting of the group

Under rotating chairmanship the 15th NSHC TWG is to be held in Hamburg, under the chairmanship of Germany.

## Annex

### **Terms of reference for the North Sea Hydrographic Commission Tidal Committee**

#### Objective:

To provide technical advice and promote coordination on tidal issues within the NSHC.

#### Terms of Reference:

1. To make recommendations concerning any tidal and related matters requiring discussion, development and coordination within the NSHC.
2. To exchange views and experiences related to vertical datums.
3. To exchange views and experiences concerning the exchange and distribution of tidal and related data.
4. To exchange views and experiences related to tidal observations, analysis and predictions.

#### Rules of procedure:

1. The group is composed of representatives of the Member States.
2. Invited external experts are not entitled to vote.
3. The group will conduct its business mainly by correspondence. Meetings will usually be held at intervals of about 18 months.
4. The chairperson and the vice chairperson will be from the member state hosting the meeting.
5. The chairperson is to submit a report for inclusion in the NSHC conference.