

NW European Charting Group – approval of ToRs and Work plan

TERMS OF REFERENCE and WORK PLAN for the NORTH-WEST EUROPEAN CHARTING GROUP

1. Background

- (i) The North Sea Hydrographic Commission (NSHC), in the 1980s, recognized the need to study the problems connected with international charting in the North Sea.
- (ii) The North-West European Charting Group was therefore established with the task to study the problems connected with international charting and to prepare an integrated scheme for International Charts in the North Sea. This has operated very harmoniously and successfully but without any Terms of Reference.
- (iii) At the NSHC Conference in 2004 an action was placed on the Chairman of the North-West European Charting Group ‘to review the Terms of Reference and devise a work plan for the Group, and circulate these for approval to NSHC MS Group’

2. Terms of Reference

- (i) The North-West European Charting Group is tasked to study the problems connected with international charting and to prepare and maintain an integrated scheme for International Charts in the North Sea
- (ii) The North-West European Charting Group is chaired by one of the member states elected at a NSHC Conference
- (iii) The North-West European Charting Group is open to participation by all members and associate members of the NSHC. It will offer advice based on its experience to individual Member States, on chart schemes, in order to encourage adherence to IHO charting standards
- (iv) The work shall be done in accordance with ‘Guidance for Regional Coordinators of INT Schemes’ (IHO Publication M-11 Part 2, formerly S-48). Also the guidance in M-4 Part B, which provides an internationally-agreed product specification for both national and international (INT) charts at medium- and large-scale, will be used.
- (v) The work shall be carried out in co-operation with the Baltic Sea International Chart Committee (BSICC) under the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC) to ensure co-ordination of overlapping charts between the two charting areas.
- (vi) The work of the North-West European Charting Group will be carried out primarily by correspondence. The members are strongly encouraged to give their opinions to the correspondence without unnecessary delay and preferably not beyond the stated deadline.
- (vii) All NSHC members and associate members shall notify the chairman of any information of interest for the North West European Charting Group without unnecessary delay e.g. change in points of contact, status of chart production, proposed changes in chart limits, proposed large scale charts etc.

(viii) The North-West European Charting Group will provide a report and an updated NSHC - INTCHART catalogue to the NSHC Conference, when required by the Conference.

3. Work Plan

- (i) The work of the Group will be carried out primarily by correspondence.
- (ii) The Group will continue to maintain an integrated scheme for International Charts in the North Sea
- (iii) Members will submit proposals for new International Charts, or amendments to existing International Charts, in the North Sea to the Group.
- (iv) Members will obtain a new International Chart number from the Chairman for any new chart planned.
- (v) The Group will continue to work in co-operation with the Baltic Sea International Chart. Committee (BSICC) under the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC) to ensure co-ordination of overlapping charts between the two charting areas.
- (vi) The Group will offer advice based on its experience to individual Member States on chart schemes in order to encourage adherence to IHO charting standards.
- (vii) The Group will provide a report and an updated NSHC - INTCHART catalogue to the NSHC Conference, when required by the Conference.