

**MINUTES**  
**28<sup>th</sup> North Sea Hydrographic Commission (NSHC) Conference**  
**Elsinore, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

**A. OPENING FORMALITIES**

**A1 Opening Remarks**

Professor Dr Peter Ehlers gave a cordial welcome to the delegates of the 28<sup>th</sup> NSHC Conference, especially to those who are participating for the first time. He welcomed the President of the Directing Committee of the IHB. He expressed his gratitude to Denmark as the hosts of this meeting and thanked them for the excellent start the evening before at Kronborg Castle.

He underlined that the conference should not spend too much time on technical aspects and pure information matters but should concentrate on the strategic matters and important issues, where decisions are required. Those important issues are a.o. ENC, EU, ISPWG and MSDI.

**A2 Administrative Arrangements**

Thomas Ravn gave details of the practical arrangements for the conference.

**A3 Adoption of Agenda**

The Agenda was adopted. Due to Admiral Maratos' other commitments scheduled on the second day, it was decided to put forward some agenda items on which the IHB had a major contribution.

**A4 NSHC Conference Conclusions**

HOs were invited to report to UK on the status of the NSHC conclusions which are currently defined as active. Recommendations should state whether the conclusion should be considered effected or obsolete. UK announced that it was delayed to provide the updated list of conclusions. UK is currently close to the completion of the review and will report back to MS.

**A5 NSHC outstanding/ongoing agenda items**

All actions from 27<sup>th</sup> NSHC meeting were considered completed, superseded, or covered by later agenda items.

**A6 Review of Statutes, when considered necessary**

The commission saw no need in reviewing the Statutes.

**A7 Report of the IHB activities**

Vice Admiral Maratos, President of the Directing Committee of the IHB, reviewed the main IHO activities since the previous meeting:

- 17<sup>th</sup> International Hydrographic Conference,
- status of approval of the amendments to the IHO Convention,
- New working groups on inland waterways and spatial data infrastructure were installed,
- Consultations with IMO,
- World Hydrography Day: in 2009 a common celebration with IMO is planned,
- New Edition of Special Publication S-44.

## **B. STRATEGIC ASPECTS OF THE WORK OF HOs – TECHNICAL ISSUES**

### **B1. Review of Status of Hydrographic Surveying & Nautical Charting in the NSHC Area (IHO Special Publication S-55)**

#### **B1.1 Hydrographic National Report of Denmark**

The Commission took note of the information presented by DK (see EN B1.1).

### **B2 ENC Production**

#### **B2.1 Status “Enhanced ENC Production”**

The Commission took note of the information presented by NO (see EN B2.1). NO stressed the complete coverage with ENC from June 2008.

### **B3 Chart Production**

#### **B3.1 New charts for the Faroe Islands**

The Commission took note of the information presented by DK (see „NSHC28\_Pres\_B3-1\_DK\_Faroe\_islands“)

#### **B3.2 Integration of Editorial and Pre-print Stages for the Production of Nautical Books**

The Commission took note of the information presented by DE (see EN B3.2). MS are invited to contact BSH when interested in further details.

#### **B3.3 Digital production of German paper charts for foreign waters**

The Commission took note of the information presented by DE (see EN B3.3). MS are invited to contact BSH when interested in further details.

#### **B3.4 Icelandic INT-chart Production**

The Commission took note of the information presented by IS (see EN B3.4).

### **B4 Hydrographic Databases**

#### **B4.1 Report on progress by UK in implementing CARIS HPD, feedback from user group meeting April 2008**

The Commission took note of the information presented by UK (see EN B4.1). The positive result from the HPD user group meeting was underlined by several MS.

#### **B4.2 Status of the Nautical Hydrographic Information System (NAUTHIS) for the Integrated Production of Nautical Publications from a Common Database at the BSH**

The Commission took note of the information presented by DE (see EN B4.2). DE offered to share its experiences in establishing the HPD-based processes with NSHC members.

In this conjunction the matter of BSH cooperation with Jeppesen concerning the use of S-100 for the compilation of ECDIS-optimised sailing directions was brought up. DE also offered to share its experiences. Due to the various experimentations launched by different countries, the commission noted that the level of co-ordination should be improved with the directions provided by the relevant existing CHRIS WG (SNPWG), and that NSHC members are invited to cooperate within this WG.

#### **B4.3 New Norwegian Bathymetric Database**

The Commission took note of the information presented by NO (see EN B4.3).

## **B5 Reference Datum and Positioning Systems**

### **B5.1 Vertical Offshore Reference Framework – Update and potential usefulness to NSHC colleagues**

The Commission took note of the information presented by UK (see EN B5.1). It was followed by a discussion about a common vertical reference framework within the NSHC area. The Commission decided to task the Tidal Working Group to look into that, bearing in mind that the WG discussed this matter in the 1990s (See also E.2).

### **B5.2 Experience of using Ellipsoid as vertical reference for Seabed Mapping**

The Commission took note of the information presented by NO (see EN B5.2).

### **B5.3 Experience of using TerraPos positioning system**

The Commission took note of the information presented by NO (see EN B5.3).

## **B6 Survey Capability**

### **B6.1 New charts for Greenland and trial use of laser scanning**

The Commission took note of the information presented by DK (see “NSHC28\_Pres\_B6-1\_DK\_Greenland”). DK illustrated the difficulties and demands for surveys and nautical charts for Greenland.

### **B6.2 Installation of EM710 on R/V Hydrograf**

The Commission took note of the information presented by NO (see EN B6.2).

### **B6.3 Updated information on its Litto3D project (seamless survey of the French coasts, combining Lidar, MBES and hydrodynamic modelling)**

The Commission took note of the information presented by FR (see EN B6.3). FR gave an update of their Litto3D project.

### **B6.4 Hydrographic surveying using high resolution satellite images**

The Commission took note of the information presented by SE (see EN B6.4).

### **B6.5 New Multipurpose Coast Guard Vessel**

The Commission took note of the information presented by IS (see EN B6.5).

## **B7 Limit of areas of responsibility for surveying in the southern North Sea and Dover Straits**

The Commission took note of the information presented by UK (see EN B7) and recognised that there have been difficulties in the exchange of information by e-mail between the four member states involved, BE, FR, NL and UK will progress this issue bilaterally; the matter is closed from the NSHC perspective.

## **C. STRATEGIC ASPECTS OF THE WORK OF HOs – ADMINISTRATIVE AND MARKETING ISSUES**

### **C1 European Initiatives**

#### **NSHC EU Marine and Maritime Policies WG**

##### **This topic also includes agenda item E4**

The Commission took note of the information presented by FR (see EN E4 and presentation “BSHC28 Pres\_E4\_FR\_EUM2PWG”). The WG proposed:

NSHC28 E4.1: to support NSHC EUM2PWG activities,

NSHC28 E4.2: to consider the request made to IHO for a non-ambiguous “coastline” definition and length calculation methodology,

NSHC28 E4.3: to identify the ways and means to optimise the links with the EC under the auspices of the proposed MoU, in liaison with the other IHO EU MS and RHCs,

NSHC28 (E2): formal signature of the MoU (when: European Maritime Day, WHD at EMSA, etc.).

The Commission agreed that it is necessary to give some input to EU when Hydrography is concerned. It sees the MoU as a basis. IHB may delegate the point of contact to one MS. It was also agreed that FR starts, that the WG should continue its valuable work and that an incorporation of other MS outside NSHC is necessary. The WG should present some proposals on the kind of cooperation bearing in mind that as soon as political decisions are being made, this is in the responsibility of the national governments and has to be brought up to the NSHC.

The Commission decided to reserve half a day for that topic during the next IHConf, including a discussion on the cooperation.

The Commission accepted the proposal E4.3.

The Commission recommended that CHRIS should deal with item E4.2 through a specific correspondence group

Concerning proposal E2 the Commission stated that the WHD would be a good frame for the signature of the MoU, depending on the progress of finalising the MoU.

### **C2 Information on its new statute and organisational chart**

The Commission took note of the information presented by FR (see EN C2).

### **C3 RHCs and the Hydrographic Industrial Sector – Chairmen to consider participation of hydrographic industrial sector reps in RHC meetings (IHO WP Task 1.1.20)**

The Commission decided that in principle the NSHC conferences should not be opened for the industrial sector, but that on a case by case basis a participation may be appropriate.

### **C4 Norway Digital**

Gerry Larsson-Fedde, the new Hydrographer from Norway introduced himself. Then he introduced the EN on the subject. the information in Norway Digital is free of charge for governmental and non-profit users.

The Commission took note of the information presented by NO (see EN C4).

The Commission’ Chair welcomed the new Hydrographer of Norway in the NSHC.

### **C5 Status ‘Integrated Maritime Services’**

The Commission took note of the information presented by NO (see EN C5). NO stated that this service is exclusively for governmental use.

### **C6 Information on its ongoing bilateral agreements**

The Commission took note of the information presented by FR (see EN C6).

## **D. CO-OPERATIVE NSHC/IHO PROJECTS**

### **D1 IHO Strategic Issues, including work of ISPWG**

#### **D1.1 Ongoing work of the IHO Capacity Building Committee: Review feedback from CB initiatives which have been conducted with NSHC MS support in EAHC, MACHC, NIOHC and SAIHC**

IHB explained that there have been visits to several countries and that this is an ongoing action.

#### **D1.2 Comment the CBC Chairman letter of 23 January 2008, and a note on the need, for NSHC, to coordinate in view of providing support to other RHCs**

The Commission took note of the information presented by France (see EN D1.2). The CBC Letter and the proposed AR were discussed.

There was no response from NSHC to the CBC Letter yet. It was agreed that the letter was relevant only to few expressly named RHCs, and that it was not applicable to NSHC. The Commission agreed that there is neither a need for a coordinating body within NSHC, nor for a general IHO Administrative Resolution.

#### **D1.3 Status of Ratification of amended Convention and Pending Member States (CL 1/2008)**

The Commission took note of the information presented by the Chairman (see EN D1.3) and invited the NSHC Member States to use their contacts with IHO Member States to encourage them to approve the Protocol to the Convention as soon as possible. It was also noted that the IHB was invited at the 17<sup>th</sup> IHC to raise the importance of this ratification again, through diplomatic channels with the support of the government of Monaco.

#### **D1.4 Procedure for selection of NSHC Members to Council (IHB Letter 31 Aug 2005)**

The matter was discussed on the basis of EN D1.4. The Commission expressed its strong interest in an active participation in the Council, but thinks it is premature to come to certain decisions.

The Commission agreed that it will be necessary for the commission to get a fair weight in the Council proportional to the influence the members may have in IHO activities. In order to get 2 seats at the Council, and for the time being, it seems that 7 members should be declared for an application within this commission. Then, it was noted that DE, FR, NL and UK (all NSHC members) are potentially interested in getting a seat in the Council.

#### **D1.5 Issues related to ISPWG work**

The Commission expressed its appreciation for the lead work done by the NL and appreciated if inputs to ISPWG issues were put forward via the NL also in the future.

#### **D1.6 NAV 54, carriage of ECDIS, e-navigation**

MS are in principle in favour of a mandatory carriage requirement. The Commission saw no need for a specific conclusion in this meeting. MS will inform the organisation representing their country in the NAV meeting.

### **D2 ENC consistency and quality issues**

#### **D2.1 Brief status on the work done in the BSEHWG (Baltic Sea ENC Harmonisation Work group)**

The Commission took note of the information presented by DK (see “NSHC28\_Pres\_D2-1\_DK\_BSEHWG”). DK was asked to provide the final results also to the CHRIS-Committee, the NSHC and the RENCs’ JTEWG.

#### **D2.2 Inconsistent Allocation of Navigation Purpose codes to small-scale ENCs. Paper CHRIS19-06.1.E “Present status of small-scale ENC coverage with respect to the allocation of cells to usage bands 1 (Overview) and 2 (General)” (IHB letter 21 November 2007 refers).**

The Commission took note of the information presented by UK (see EN D2.2).

### **D2.3 Note on the improvement of ENC consistency and provide information on the application of SCAMIN**

The Commission took note of the information presented by FR (see “NSHC28\_Pres\_D2-3\_FR\_ENC\_SCAMIN”). Some MS expressed that they disagree and stress the necessity in having SCAMIN. The Commission decided that the detailed technical discussion should be dealt with in TSMAD. NSHC should in this issue wait for the outcome of TSMAD and invite NSHC MS to be involved.

### **D2.4 Consistency and quality issues identified during service integration**

The Commission took note of an accompanying note provided by UK during the meeting (see “NSHC28\_AccNote\_D2-4\_UK\_ENCissues2204”). The MS are invited to consider the issue when they work with the different bodies (such as WEND and CBC).

## **D3 ENC Progress in meeting the 2010 deadline**

### **D3.1 RHCs to work to complete ENC coverage for HSC by 1 Jul 2008 (IHO WP Task 1.1.17)**

### **D3.2 RHCs to work to complete adequate ENC coverage schemes by 31 Dec 2008 (IHO WP Task 1.1.19)**

### **D3.3 RHCs to work to complete adequate ENC coverage for all other types of vessels by 31 Dec 2010 (IHO WP Task 1.1.18)**

The Commission took note of the information presented by the Chairman (see EN 3.1, 3.2, 3.3). The MS are asked to provide the referred reports in due course, if they have not done it already. The Commission has considered that the requirements are met in its area of responsibility.

### **D3.4 Update on UK’s ENC services in support of IHO and NAV54 proposals**

The Commission took note of the information presented by UK (see “NSHC28\_Proposal\_D3-4\_UK\_ECDIS\_NAV54”). The UK stressed that the AVCS project aims at both completing ENC coverage and improving data quality in response to complaints raised at NAV53 and in support of proposals for the mandatory carriage of ECDIS. UK confirmed that some/new ENCs produced as part of AVCS project were available exclusively within the AVCS service. This prompted concerns from several NSHC members as that would not meet relevant WEND Principles.

The Commission appreciated the endeavours by UK to support the IHO position in NAV54. However, concern was expressed as to exclusivity which would not be in line with WEND Principles and might be open to challenge within EU competition law. It would be up to the NSHC members which consequences their governments would draw.

UKHO agreed to further examine the issue “exclusivity”, and to inform NSHC members accordingly.

Post Meeting note: A letter from UKHO CEO and National Hydrographer was sent to NSHC members on 19th May explaining the use of the term 'exclusive'

## **D4 WEND Issues**

### **D4.1 PRIMAR Report**

The Commission took note of the information presented by NO (see EN D4.1) including the change in the name to “PRIMAR” and the announced new director Kjell Olsen.

### **D4.2 IC-ENC Report**

The Commission took note of the information presented by UK (see EN D4.2).

## **D5 Spatial Data Infrastructure**

### **D5.1 Orientation about the work undertaken by the newly formed IHO/CHRIS MSDIWG (Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group)**

The Commission took note of an EN provided by UK during the meeting (see EN D5.1).

### **D5.2 Information on its new geospatial infrastructure INFRAGEOS-H**

The Commission took note of the information presented by FR (see EN D5.2) and underlines, that not many countries are progressing in that field.

### **D5.3 Interreg IVb project proposal “Bringing Land and The North Sea Together”**

The Commission took note of the proposal presented by DK (see EN D5.3 and “NSHC28\_Pres\_D5-3\_DK\_BLAST. It was agreed that all MS are very much interested in this project. Although the project may include nationally also other institutions, initially DK takes HO as contact points. HO will inform DK in case another institution should act as national POC. DK invites HO to a start-up meeting soon. In this phase HO do not have to express already a commitment to the project. After the startup meeting MS consider whether and who will participate. Germany expressed already its will to participate.

### **D5.4 Progress on Marine SDI Development and Land-Sea Data Integration (CL 24/2007)**

This has been covered with the conclusion under agenda item D5.3.

## **D6 MSI/CPRNW**

### **D6.1 CL 31/2000 and IHO WP Element 3.4**

The Commission saw no need to discuss the matter.

## **E. NSHC WORKING GROUPS**

### **E1 Report of NW European Charting Group**

#### **E1.1 Update of its publications since the last meeting and a note listing the errors noted in the M-11 catalogue**

The Commission took note of an updated version of an EN presented by UK during the meeting (see EN E1.1). FR stated that the proposed TORs are not conform with the minutes of the last NSHC Conference. Post meeting note: UK provided a new version, already coordinated with FR (see ENrev\_E1\_UK\_TOR\_NW\_European\_Charting\_Group\_09May.pdf). The amendment completes the action arising from comments made by France at NSHC28.

### **E2 Report of Tidal Working Group**

The Commission took note of the report presented by DK (see EN E2) and stated that the tasks formulated in the TOR are too vague. It was made clear that the TWG is not a permanent body but has certain tasks. FR: The relation between NSHC TWG and IHO Tidal Committee should be clarified. DE was tasked to make a proposal of more concrete tasks and send them through the minutes.

### **E3 Report of Resurvey Working Group**

The Commission took note of the report presented by DE (see EN E3). Some MS stressed that we should not only concentrate on the main shipping routes and should investigate in some kind of risk analysis. The Chairman emphasised the importance of a coordinated re-survey scheme in the North Sea and invited all MS to contribute actively to the work.

#### **E3.1 Survey Plan for Iceland 2008 to 2015**

The Commission took note of the information presented by IS (see EN E3.1).

#### **E4 Report of EU Marine and Maritime Policies WG**

This issue has been dealt with under C1.

#### **F. MISCELLANEOUS**

##### **F1 The Mareano project**

The Commission took note of the information presented by NO (see EN F1).

##### **F2 Status report on the celebration of the World Hydrography Day**

The Commission took note of the information presented by FR (see EN F2) and thanked FR for their initiative and stated, that hopefully this will increase the awareness of Hydrography.

It was agreed that the President of the Directing Committee of the IHB shall be mandated to invite at the joint IHO-EMSA WHD celebration on behalf of the NSHC Chairman. The new vice chairman (FR) will make a presentation on behalf of the NSHC's new chair who will not be available to make it.

The Commission showed appreciation for the work of the Portuguese Hydrographic Institute in preparing the WHD.

NL and BE informed about a common celebration in Nieuwpoort on the weekend before the WHD.

NO announced a CL with an invitation for the Norwegian WHD event.

#### **G UNSCHEDULED ITEMS**

UK (MCA) suggested to build up a list of suitable contractors for each MS.

MS are invited to provide information to the list run by UK. UK will send a letter to all MS with further information.

#### **H. CONCLUDING FORMALITIES**

##### **H1 Approval of Conference Conclusions and Recommendations**

No conclusions or formal recommendations were formulated during the 28 NSHC Conference.

##### **H2 Place and Time of next Conference**

A special extraordinary NSHC meeting will be held during the next IH Conference in Monaco.

France will host the next regularly meeting probable in 2010. Proposed date and place to follow.

##### **H3 Election of new Chairman**

The Vice-Chairman, Lars Hansen, thanked the Chairman Prof. Dr. Ehlers.

Svend Eskildsen (DK) was elected as new Chairman and Gilles Bessero (FR) was elected as Vice-Chairman.

##### **H4 Closing Remarks**

The Chairman expressed his thanks for the hosts for an outstanding conference, their hospitality. He also thanked all for their active participation.

He noted the increasing importance of Hydrography not just for safety of navigation but also for wide range of activities. To keep pace with existing and new requirements HO's will need to be able to change quickly; if not others will take their place.