

33rd North Sea Hydrographic Commission Meeting (NSHC)

Ostende, Belgium, 27 to 28 March 2018

Report of North Sea International Charting Co-ordination Working Group (NSICCWG)

Submitted by: Andrew Hinton - NSICCWG Chairman: March 2018.

Related Documents: Minutes of NSHC32 June 2016

Background

1. At the NSHC 29th Conference in September 2010 (Conclusion 85), the NSHC Members agreed to change the name of the NW European Charting WG to the North Sea International Charting Co-ordination Working Group (NSICCWG) The NSHC 29th Conference also established the North Sea ENC Harmonization Working Group (NSEHWG) which reported for the first time at the 30th Conference.

2. The NSEHWG was disbanded at the NSHC 32nd Conference in June 2016 (NSHC decision 11/2016) because the ENC scheme in the region had reached maturity with few if any issues. The decision was taken to incorporate the remaining relevant tasks of the NSEHWG, as well as ENC coordination in the region, into the ToR for the NSICCWG to align it with the ToRs of other regional ICCWGs.

Overview

New Terms of Reference (ToR) for NSICCWG

3. Ahead of this 33rd Meeting, the ToR for NSICCWG have been revised to reflect NSHC32 decision 11/2016. In doing this the ToR for Area F ICCWG have also been consulted to ensure alignment with other ICCWGs.

4. These new ToR have been circulated amongst NSICCWG members and after debate agreed. The wording of 2.6 reflects the fact that NSICCWG members believe they do not have the resources to participate in all developments to large scale ENCs in the Region. The involvement of the NSICCWG is therefore restricted to the development/maintenance and consistency or coverage issues regarding medium and small scale ENCs, particularly those which adjoin another member state's waters.

The draft ToR are given in Annex A of this report and are submitted for approval by NSHC.

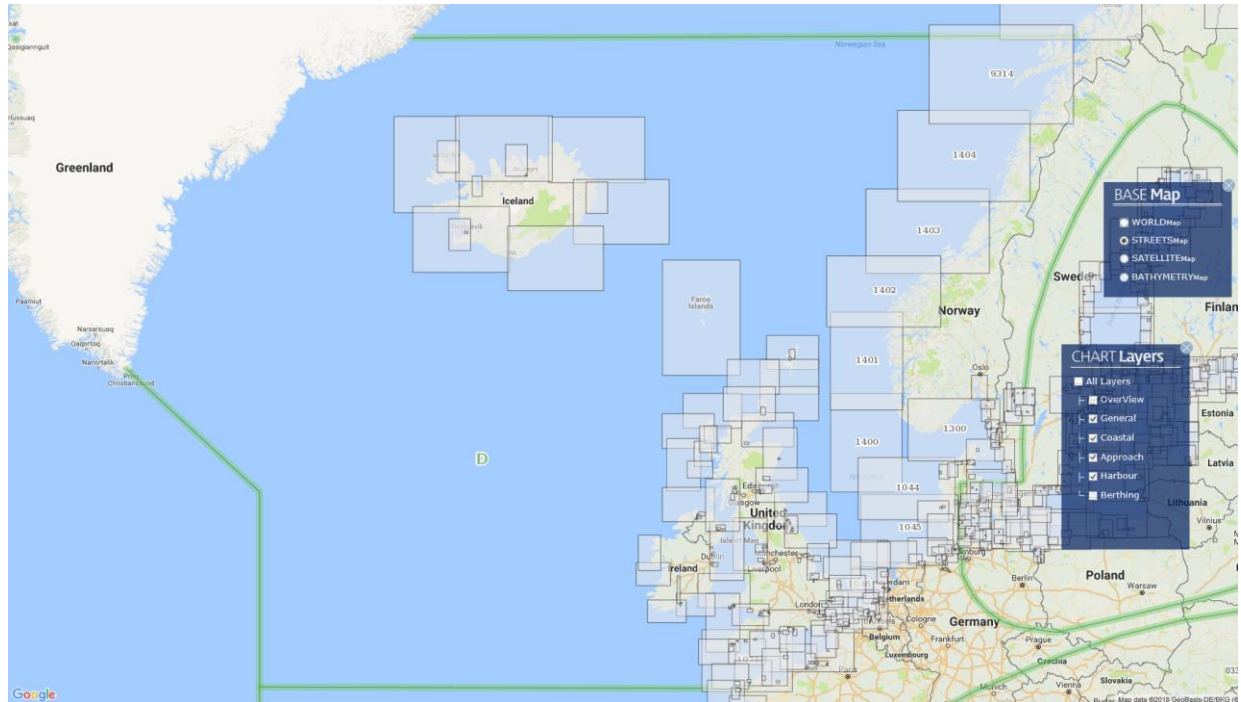
Revised management review and monitoring of INT charts (IHO CL64\15 and 89/15 refer)

5. In 2015, IHO CLs 64/15 and 89/15 detailed the new procedures for the management review and monitoring of INT charts. The main elements of the new process are as follows:

- All new INT Charts to be submitted to Regional INT Chart Coordinator (ICCWG) for review.
- INT Chart Coordinator (ICCWG) to verify chart's compliance with IHO standards and to provide feedback to the Producer Nation.
- Modernisation of IHO Publication S-11 Part B by implementation of the new INT Chart web catalogue (INToGIS). Responsibility for updating the INToGIS system for chart updates now lies with member states rather than the INT Chart Coordinator.

6. All of the above have been implemented in Area D. There are, however, a few member states who have yet to update the web catalogue for changes to their INT charts despite reminders. We urge members to ensure the web catalogue is updated so that it remains authoritative.

INT CHARTING



INT CHARTS IN REGION

Overview	18	Harbour	112
General	13	Berthing	36
Coastal	60	Total	288
Approach	49		

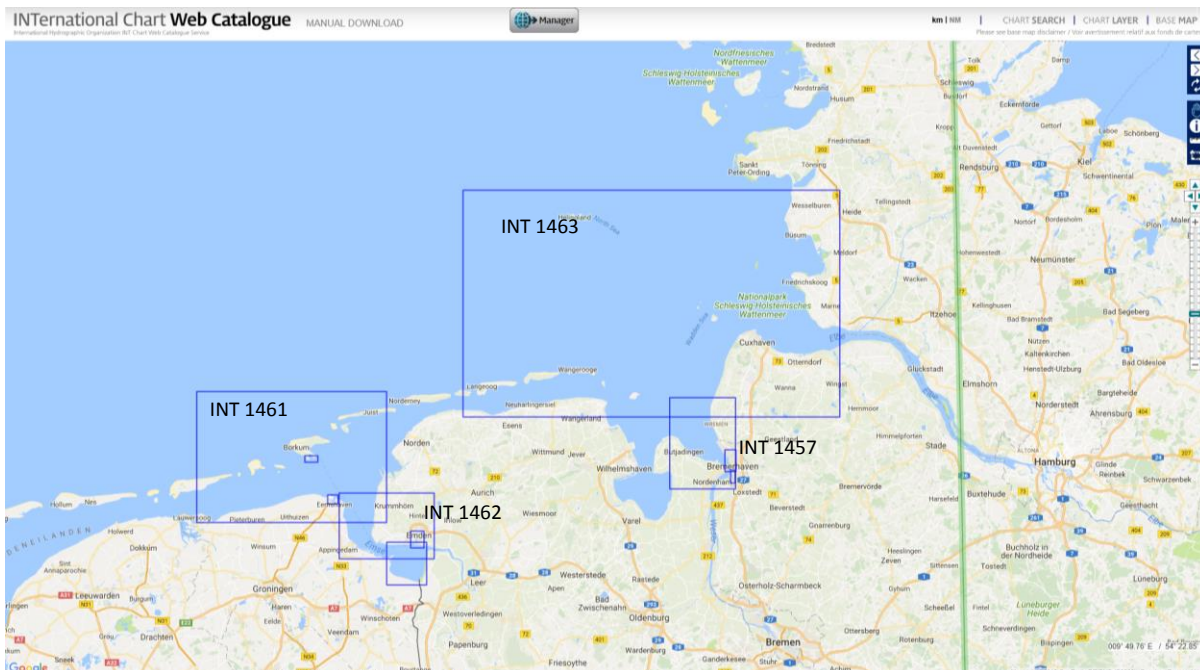
7. There are 288 full INT charts in the region, all have been produced and published. Region D has a mature INT chart scheme compared to other INT Regions and changes are relatively few in number. As such there has been no requirement for Members to meet for many years. All matters are dealt with by correspondence.

Nevertheless there have been some significant changes and developments to the INT charting scheme since NSHC 32 in 2016. Details are given below.

Germany:

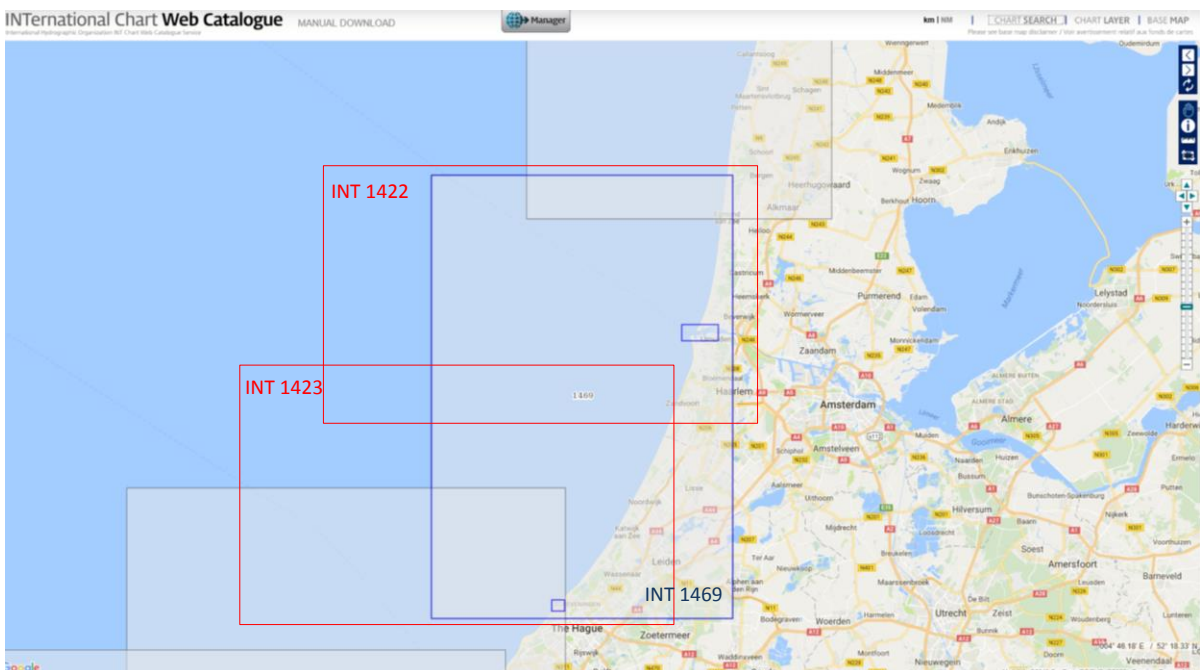
8. Various changes have been proposed and agreed affecting charting in the mouth of the Rivers Elbe, Ems and Weser. INT charts affected are 1457, 1461 and 1462. These have all been extended to A0 size and transferred onto a common scale of 1:30,000. Several plans on these charts have also been removed from INT chart coverage and transferred to national coverage.

INT 1463 is being withdrawn in the Mouth of the River Elbe to be replaced by INT1412 and 1413.



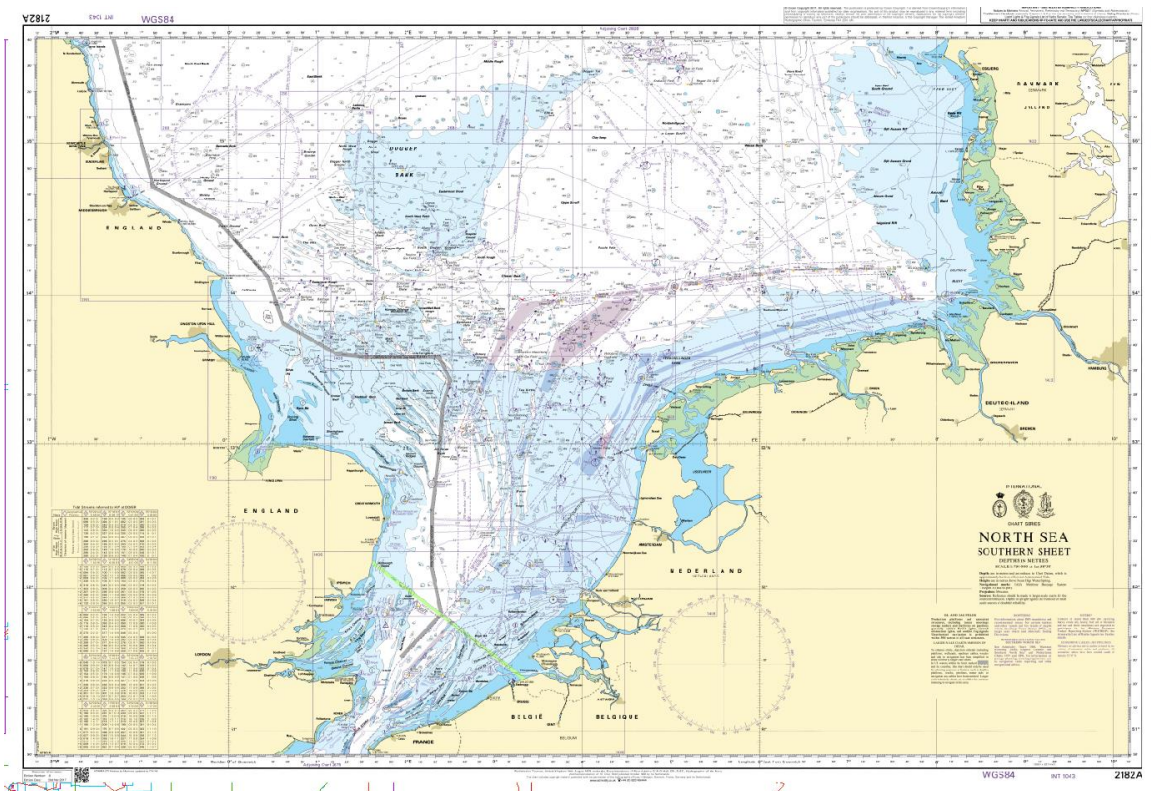
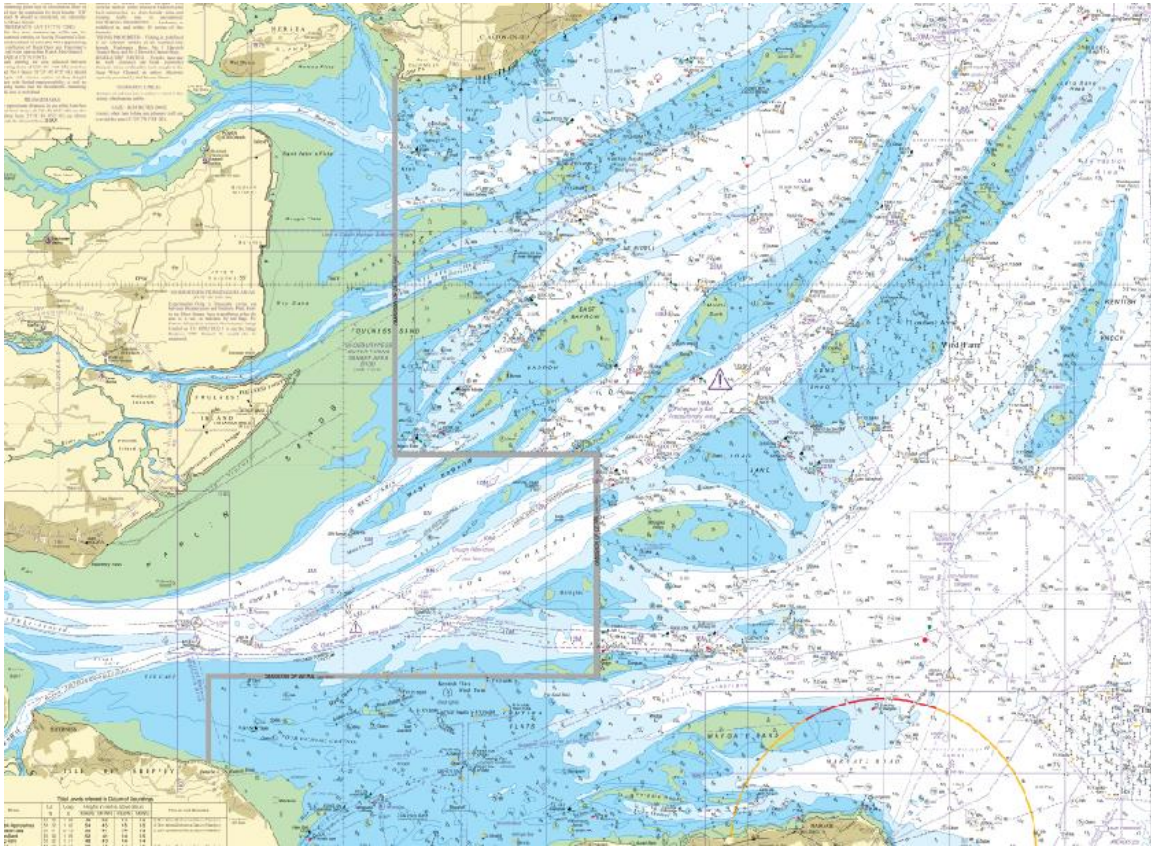
Netherlands:

9. Various changes have been proposed in the approaches to Ijmuiden affecting INT chart 1469. This chart is being replaced by two new INT charts which will be landscape charts at the same scale. The new INT numbers will be INT1422 and 1423.



UK: Generalisation on smaller scale INT Charts.

10. UK has started to implement its new generalisation policy for small scale charts in UK waters. This was described at NSHC 32 and involves the display of an Omission of Detail line where that chart becomes third scale coverage. Information shown is then heavily filtered out behind the line with clear instructions on what features have been removed. INT 1561 and 1043 below shows how it looks after the new policy has been applied.



11. As well as 'encouraging' chart users onto a more appropriate scale navigational chart, the new policy has resulted in a significant reduction in NM maintenance costs. in the case of INT 1561 only half the number of NMs are being issued since the policy was applied. It has also been commented that the presence of a physical line on the chart has removed any ambiguity on where generalisation has been applied by the cartographer therefore improving clarity and understanding for the chart user.

ENC SCHEME

12. As the new NSICCWG ToR have yet to be agreed to incorporate the monitoring and development of small and medium ENC schemes in the Region, the process will not become operational until after NSHC 33. The first full ENC report will therefore be given at NSHC 34.

13. In the meantime, the NSHC representative to WEND has submitted a report to WENDWG8 which gives a full description of the status of ENC scheme in our region with details of certain minor overlap issues that are present. Details of the 19 minor overlaps have been sent to members for comment. The relevant information contained in the WENDWG8 Report is shown as a series of slides in Annex B.

The NSHC is invited to:

- a. **Approve** the draft Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the North Sea International Charting Coordination Working Group shown at Annex A.
- b. **Commend** MS work towards reducing overlaps by applying the WEND Principles in defining approved ENC schemes.
- c. **Note** the status of the INT Chart schemes via IHO INToGIS and ENC Chart Catalogue links, and urge members to ensure the web catalogue is updated so that it remains authoritative.

Annex:

- A. Draft Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the North Sea International Charting Coordination Working Group (NSICCWG)
- B. Relevant Graphics from the WENDWG8 Report for NSICCWG

Andrew Hinton

NSICCWG Chairman.
March 2018

ANNEX A.

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE NORTH SEA INTERNATIONAL CHARTING COORDINATION WORKING GROUP (NSICCWG),**Document control.**

Version 1: Andrew Hinton dated 25/10/2017

Version 2: Andrew Hinton dated 26/01/2018

1. Background

1.1 The North Sea Hydrographic Commission recognizes the need to actively develop and maintain official nautical charts, in both paper and digital formats, to support ships engaged on international voyages in its region. Accordingly, it appoints and directs a working group to undertake this task. The working group shall be named the North Sea International Charting Coordination Working Group (NSICCWG),

1.2 The NSICCWG, is a subsidiary body of the North Sea Hydrographic Commission. It shall conduct its work in accordance with these Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure. The North Sea Hydrographic Commission may clarify or amend these generic Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the NSICCWG in order for these to be made specifically relevant and applicable to its region. Its work is subject to the Hydrographic Commission's approval.

2. Terms of Reference

2.1 To study issues related to nautical charting of the region, in particular to coordinate the allocation of production responsibilities for paper and electronic charts (INT charts and ENC), that support ships engaged on international voyages.

2.2 To develop and maintain an integrated international chart scheme and ENC scheme for the region.

2.3 To reach decisions on the maintenance and updating of the documents for which it is responsible.

2.4 To provide advice on chart and schemes to individual Member States, in order to encourage adherence to IHO charting regulations, specifications and standards, and to promote and coordinate the production of INT charts and ENCs.

2.5 To develop proposals for new or amended INT chart schemes to meet evolving user needs (for example, the introduction of new or amended routing measures, the confirmed developments of international ports).

2.6 To coordinate the development and maintenance of small and medium scale ENC schemes and, if required, resolve any outstanding ENC consistency or coverage issues with or between members, by regional agreement, to ensure consistent parameters are used in the compilation and scheming of ENCs.

2.7 To act as the custodian and maintainer of official, version-controlled catalogues, depicting the status of published and planned charts, subject to formal review and approval by Member States of the North Sea Hydrographic Commission. However, the ENC catalogues may be maintained by RENCs subject to North Sea Hydrographic Commissions approval.

2.8 To provide advice to IHO Secretariat on any amendments required to maintain S-11 Part B: International Charts Web Catalogue INTOGIS with for example, scale, limits, numbering.

2.9 To provide advice to the Chair NCWG and IHO Secretariat on any amendments required to maintain S-11

2.10 To undertake professional consideration of new information of interest to the NSICCWG that may impact its business and responsibilities.

2.11 To manage the review of new editions or publications of INT charts, to check their compliance with IHO standards and to report at every forthcoming North Sea Hydrographic Commission Conference.

3. Rules of Procedure

3.1 Membership is open to all members and associate members (Member States) of the North Sea Hydrographic Commission wishing to be represented. Each Member State shall be represented through a single point of contact. Noting the technical nature of the Group's work, participation should be limited to representatives of Hydrographic Offices concerned with nautical charting.

3.2 The Coordinator will monitor membership to encourage active participation by all chart-producing Member States within the Region.

3.3 Non-Governmental International Organizations recognized by the IHO may participate as observers in NSICCWG activities, where matters of special interest to the NGIO concerned are being considered (IHO Resolution 5/1957 as amended, rule 6.c refers).

3.4 The Coordinator role shall be held by a Member State participating in the NSICCWG. The election of the Coordinator, or the reconfirmation of the existing Coordinator, shall be decided by the North Sea Hydrographic Commission at an ordinary meeting or, where a meeting is not convened, by correspondence. Election shall be determined by a simple majority of Member States present and voting (or responding, where determined by correspondence).

3.5 Normally, a Vice-Coordinator is not required to be appointed. However, if a Vice-Coordinator is appointed by the North Sea Hydrographic Commission:

- Election to the post will be by the same method as for the Coordinator;
- The Vice-Coordinator shall act as the Coordinator, with the same powers and duties, in the event that the Coordinator is unable to carry out the duties;
- The Coordinator and Vice-Coordinator will decide between them the organization of the work entailed in these posts, or these may be defined by the North Sea Hydrographic Commission.

3.6 Conduct of business will be primarily by email correspondence. If meetings are required, these should be planned with due regard to efficiency and obtaining the fullest membership support (for example, by holding meetings in association with meetings of the North Sea Hydrographic Commission). All members shall inform the Coordinator in advance of their intention to attend meetings of the NSICCWG. The working language shall be English.

3.7 New INT chart and/ or ENC proposals, subject to NSICCWG approval, shall be submitted to the Coordinator by email correspondence or during NSICCWG meetings.

- Proposals should include details of the changes, the impact on the INT chart/ ENC scheme, the reasons why the changes are being made and any issues that may result. They should be accompanied by relevant graphics.

- The Coordinator, in agreement with the proposer, will decide whether the proposal is significant enough for circulation for review and comment by NSICCWG Members.
- A reasonable stated deadline for NSICCWG members to reply will be set by the Coordinator for all circulated proposals.
- Comments, if any, must be provided before the deadline specified by the Coordinator.
- If one NSICCWG Member wishes to reject a proposal, it needs to provide the Coordinator with a comment on why it is to be rejected.
- If a NSICCWG Member does not respond to the Coordinator it will be deemed as an acceptance of the proposal.
- The Coordinator will circulate the outcome of each proposal to NSICCWG Members.

Draft proposals will be circulated for review and comment to:

- All members of the NSICCWG and, where appropriate, all members of the North Sea Hydrographic Commission;
- Coordinators of adjoining regional NSICCWG, if the scheme impacts on those regions (for example, to ensure consistency and coherence of coverage across regional boundaries, for the allocation of chart numbers);
- Hydrographic Offices producing or printing charts of the Region if required.
- The Chair NSCWG if independent advice is required.

3.8 Consensus is required prior to implementation of any decision. Every decision can be reconsidered providing valid technical arguments are presented. All decisions made at any NSICCWG meetings will be disseminated to NSHC Member States afterwards

3.9 Where required, a Work Plan should be developed and maintained. This should include task priorities and the expected time frames for progressing tasks. The North Sea Hydrographic Commission may delegate tasks to the NSICCWG as it sees fit; it is also available to provide guidance on request (for example, in respect of priorities).

3.10 The Coordinator will report progress to meetings of the North Sea Hydrographic Commission and at other reasonable times, on request. Reports shall include but are not limited to:

- An updated Regional INT Chart Catalogue;
- An update of the ENC Catalogue relevant to the Region (if not undertaken by RENCs);
- Changes made to the scheme of INT Charts for the Region, approved by the NSICCWG since the last report, together with a summary of reasons;
- Changes made to the ENC scheme for the Region, approved by the NSICCWG since the last report, together with a summary of reasons;
- An updated Work Plan (if used).

3.12 All participants, including North Sea Hydrographic Commission members and associate members where not directly represented in the NSICCWG, shall keep the Coordinator informed of any information relevant to the NSICCWG. This may include:

- Submitting proposals for new INT Charts, or amendments (for example, to limits, scale of portrayal) to existing INT Charts, in the Region;
- Requesting new INT Chart numbers for new charts that are planned;
- Reporting the status of production of international charts (INT Charts and ENC).
- Provision of new editions or publications of INT charts three months prior to every North Sea Hydrographic Commission Conference.

3.13 NSICCWG members shall respond in a timely manner to all reasonable requests for advice from the Coordinator (for example, requests for updating the Catalogue of the INT Charts of the Region, change in points of contact, NSICCWG emails), abiding by all reasonable stated deadlines.

3.14 The work shall be done in accordance with:

IHO Resolution 1/1997 as amended: Principles of the Worldwide Electronic Navigational Chart Database (WEND), to ensure a world-wide consistent level of high-quality, updated ENCs;

- S-57: IHO Transfer Standard for Digital Hydrographic Data;
- S-11 Part A: 'Guidance for the Preparation and Maintenance of International (INT) Chart and ENC Schemes';
- S-4: Chart Specifications of the IHO and Regulations for International (INT) Charts, which provides the internationally-agreed product specification for both national and international (INT) charts;
- S-65: Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) ' Production, Maintenance and Distribution ~~ENC~~ ~~Production~~ Guidance.

Reference: HSSC1 Meeting (Singapore, 22-24 October 2009)

IRCC7 Conference (Mexico, June 2015)

S-11 Part A Edition 3.0.0 (April 2017)

NSHC 32 Conference (21–23 June 2016)_

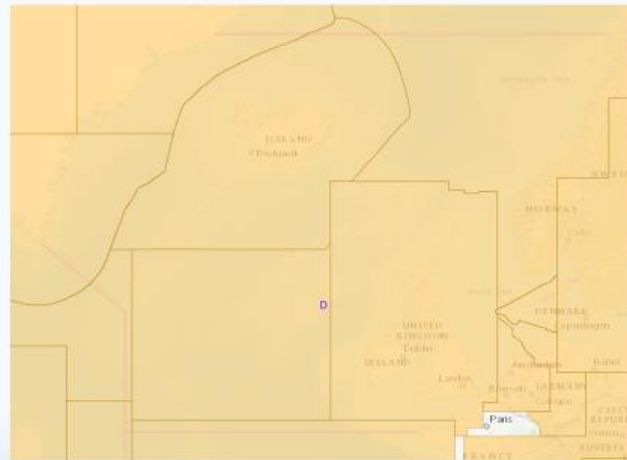
Andrew Hinton

26/01/2018

ANNEX B: RELEVANT GRAPHICS FROM THE WENDWG8 REPORT FOR NSICCWG.

Status of the ENC Scheme UB1 in the Region

- 15 ENCs
- Complete

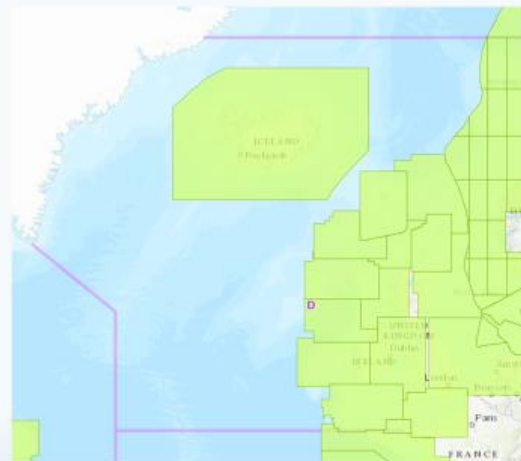


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WENDWG-8, Buenos Aires, Argentina 20 – 22 March 2018

Status of the ENC Scheme UB2 in the Region

- 97 ENCs
- Complete for Europe
- Greenland scheme under consideration

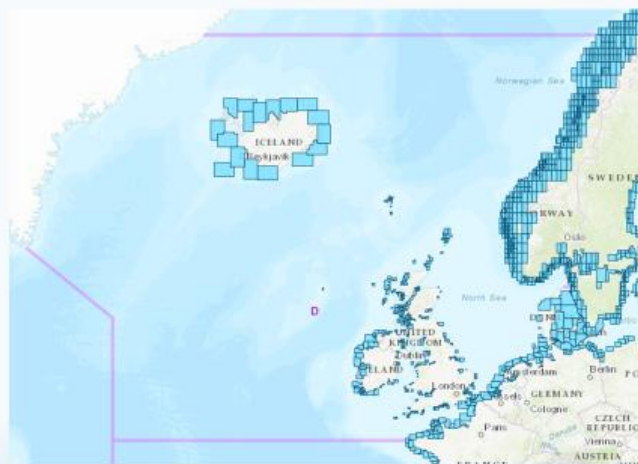


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Status of the ENC Scheme UB4 in the Region

- 1,110 ENCs
- Complete for Europe
- Greenland scheme under consideration

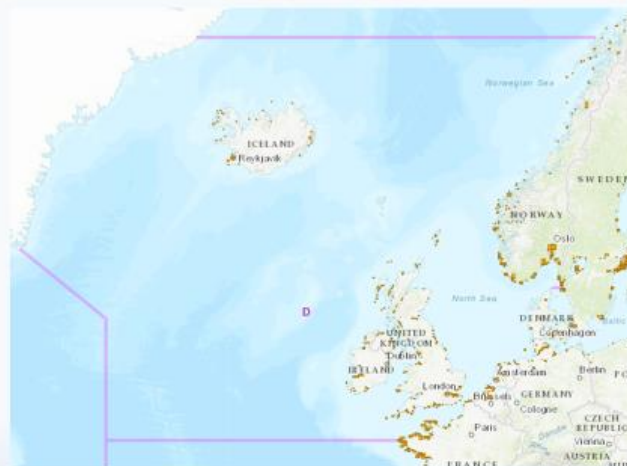


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Status of the ENC Scheme UB5 in the Region

- 834 ENCs
- Complete for Europe
- Greenland scheme under consideration



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Note the UB6 slide below is given for completeness only: UB6 does not fall into the small or medium scale UB category which NSHC is interested in.

Status of UB6 ENC Coverage in the Region

- 165 ENCs



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Existence of overlapping ENCs that may have a possible impact on safe navigation

- Using WEND overlap criteria
 - only minor overlaps identified in the region
- No ENCs that may have an impact on safe navigation
- 19 minor overlaps – all carried over from 2016
- 4 x UB1, 5 x UB2, 9 x UB3 & 1 x UB4



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