



Nordic Hydrographic Commission



Minutes from the NHC 61st Meeting Helsingør 7-8 March 2017

A.1 Opening of the Meeting

The NHC Chair Pia Dahl Højgaard (DK) opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. She explained that she would not be able to attend the whole meeting and stated that the Vice chair, Elizabeth Hagemann would take over the chairs responsibilities after lunch on the first day. Since there were some new participants it was decided to have a round of presentation.

A.2 Practical information from the host.

Denmark outlined the program for the meeting and gave practical details on the social arrangement.

A.3 Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair suggested moving item D6 and D9 to the first day. The agenda was approved by the commission.

A.4 Minutes and Actions from NHC 60

The NHC60 Minutes have been commented and approved by correspondence. The Action Items were reviewed and amended accordingly.

B.1 Report from the IHB

Docs:

- NHC61_B1_IHB_Report to NHC

Secretary-General Robert Ward gave a presentation on the implications of the revised IHO Convention, with emphasis on the changed voting systems. He gave an update on the IHO Secretariat activities currently in development. He emphasized the value of communicating the idea that hydrography is much more than just nautical charts. MS were encouraged to take note of their national representation to the UN GGIM, since this group is likely to form a marine geospatial information WG, dealing with MSDI. Denmark and Iceland was invited to consider giving GEBCO access to extract depth information from national ENC's for inclusion in the GEBCO data base.

B.2 National report of Denmark

Docs:

- NHC61_B2_DK_National Report Denmark

DK gave a presentation on the changes in the Danish HO, as a consequence of moving the office from Copenhagen to Aalborg. The commission briefly discussed alternatives to official ENC's and ECDIS in remote areas such as Greenland.

B.3 National Report of Finland

Docs:

- NHC61_B3_FI_National Report Finland

Finland reported on their survey results in the scope of the HELCOM re survey plan. Re survey of Cat 1 and cat 2 areas and routes are finalized.

B.4 National Report of Iceland

Docs:

- NHC61_B4_IC_National Report Iceland

Iceland highlighted the decision of the Icelandic Government to re survey all areas of Iceland's EEZ starting in 2017.

B.5 National Report of Norway

Docs:

- NHC61_B5_NO_National Report Norway

Norway gave a presentation on cost benefit analysis of increased production and improved availability of marine geospatial data, followed by a brief discussion on the subject.

B.6 National Report of Sweden

Docs:

- NHC61_B6_SE_National Report Sweden

Sweden reported on minor organizational changes and cooperation with the Swedish Navy surveying archipelagic areas to S-44 standards.

B.7 Contribution to the preparation of the IHO Assembly

Docs: - NHC61-B7

The NHC chair has prepared a brief status report to be presented by Sweden at the first meeting of the IHO assembly. The report was approved by the commission.

There was a short discussion on the topic of preferred candidates for the election of the Secretary-General and Directors of the IHO. Some of the strategic proposals for the Assembly were briefly discussed.

Action:

NHC chair to decide if an extraordinary meeting is needed at the IHO Assembly, prior to the election process.

B.8 NHC representation in the Council.

NHC has decided that Sweden takes up the seat in the council for NHC.

Action:

Sweden to brief and if deemed necessary seek advice from NHC MS on relevant issues arising in the Council.

C.1 Report status and plans of nautical publications

Docs: NHC61_C.1_Finland Status and plans for nautical publications.pdf

Finland gave a presentation on their plans for on-line NtM.

There was a discussion on the subject of publishing ENC symbology catalogue. It was decided to task the NHC charting expert WG to investigate the need and possibilities of publishing an ENC symbology catalogue and present their findings at the next NHC meeting.

Denmark gave a presentation of the range of on-line and printed nautical publications published by the Danish HO.

All NHC MS are invited to give status and plans for their nautical publications.

Action:

NHC charting expert WG to investigate the need and possibilities of publishing an ENC symbology catalogue and present their findings at the next NHC meeting.

Action:

NO to present the status of their work on a Pilot app.

C.2 Validation of Multibeamdata

NHC MS are invited to evaluate the last Multibeam workshop and to agree on the next workshop. The group's name has changed to Nordic hydrographic technical WG. Norway will host the next meeting in the autumn of 2017.

Action:

NO to invite NHC technical experts to a workshop in the autumn of 2017

C.3 Nordic Chart Production Expert Group

There was a brief discussion on the future of printed charts and in this context on the "ENC first principle".

The next NCPEG meeting will be held in Norway in the autumn of 2017.

Action:

NO to invite NCPEG for a meeting in the autumn of 2017

C.4 Print on Demand solutions

DK gave a presentation on their plans for future production of paper charts followed by a brief discussion on the future of paper charts.

Action:

DK and NO prepare a paper to the IHO NCWG-chair proposing to investigate on the possibilities and challenges towards a simplified paper chart process.

C.5 IHO S-44 PT work within BSHC and NHC

Docs:NHC61_C.5_IHO S44 PT work within BSHC and NHC.pdf

FI informed that the HELCOM MWG will meet on 8 March and discuss the possibility to form a combined NHC-BSHC regional discussion group on the topic of S-44. This group should contribute to the work of the IHO S-44 PG.

NHC endorsed this initiative.

C.6 Outcome of WENDWG7

Docs: NHC61-C6 Report on the 7th WEND Working Group.

NO gave a short presentation on the outcome of the latest WEND WG, with special emphasis on ENC overlap issues and on the topic of Marine Information Overlays MIO's. There was a short discussion on bilateral agreements allowing MIO's for the individual MS's ENC's.

D.6 Arranging common training courses.

DK gave a presentation, highlighting the challenges faced by the Danish HO, since many experienced employees have left the office. DK asked if NHC MS could offer some common training for the many inexperienced employees.

SE informed that Swedish Maritime Administration together with University of Gothenburg is planning to set up a Hydrographic survey Category B course.

Action:

MS to consider inviting employees from other HO's to national hydrographic and cartographic courses when appropriate.

Action:

NHC chair to evaluate the value of joint training of HO employees at NHC 62.

D.1 Outcome of HSSC8 meeting and IRCC8 meeting

Docs: HSSC8 Final Minutes, version dated 24 Jan. 2017

IRCC8 Report

DK presented the action list from the latest HSSC and IRCC meetings. NHC adopted relevant action items. SE asked for input to the next IRCC 9 meeting before end of April 2017.

Action:

Chair to take up E-navigation as a permanent agenda item on the next NHC meeting.

Action:

MS to provide information on national MSDI/MSP development in their national reports.

Action:

MS to provide input if needed to NHC chair for inclusion in the IRCC9 report before the end of April 2017.

D.2 Status of IHO-EUNetwork

Docs:

- NHC61_D2_NO Report of IHO-EUNetwork

Norway gave a briefing on the latest developments in the cooperation within the EU.

DK expressed concerns about the intention of the EMOD-net to store high resolution data centrally, as it is difficult for the data owners to update the data. NO fully supported the concept that data should be stored closest to the source.

D.3 Reports of RENC cooperation

Docs:

- NHC61_D3_NO PRIMAR Report

- NHC61_D3_DK IC-ENC Report

NO presented a report on PRIMAR

DK presented a report on IC-ENC

D.4 ENCs to leisure market

Denmark and Finland presented the latest development on non SOLAS navigation products for the leisure market.

DK invited NHC MS to a workshop 20. April 2017, on Non SOLAS products from Ho's.

NO informed that the Norwegian government has decided, that non SOLAS products should be left to the commercial market.

Action:

DK to invite the MS of NHC to a meeting for discussing the way forward for digital navigational products for the leisure or non-SOLAS market (Lync as an option) before the end of May 2017.

D.5 MSDI

Docs:

-NHC61 D5 MSDI report Denmark.docx

DK presented the development in MSDI and Marine Spatial Planning on regional and IHO levels.

D.7 Saimaa Canal survey-project

Finland presented the Saimaa Canal survey project.

D.8 Capacity building

The subject was briefly discussed. NHC is currently not actively involved in capacity building projects.

D.9. Use of Nautical paper chart data in web map services of each other's national government agencies

NO informed that they have made raster data from charts freely available on a WMS service for Norwegian government agencies. NO asked if other NHC MS could make their data available for the NO WMS service. FI informed that raster images of Finnish printed charts are available as Open Data (WMTS service) for non-navigational use. DK and SE answered that, for the moment it is not possible to make national WMS services available for free for other nations. The MS agreed to consider the subject and report their individual findings at the next NHC meeting.

Action:

DK and SE to consider the possibilities of providing national raster chart data available for governmental NHC MS WMS service and report their findings at the NHC 62.

D.10 Chart Production System at the Swedish Hydrographic Office

Docs:

-NHC61 D10

SE presented their work on implementing a new chart production system. A short discussion on the challenges followed.

E. Any other business

Denmark presented their work on semi-automated depth curve generation. The SCALGO project. NO raised the problem of spamming of members of international groups. The problem was identified as the public access to lists of participants containing members email addresses. President ward answered that IHO secretariat is aware of the problem. The secretariat has taken the decision so far as to not further protect the IHO website for the time being. If the problem increases, measures may be considered.

FI reminded, that it is recommended to use IHO and NHC logo in all NHC documents.

F. Election of new Chair and Vice-Chair

Patrik Viberg SE was elected as Chair of NHC for the period until the end of NHC 62 meeting.

G. Place and date of next Meeting

NHC 62 will be held in Sweden 10-12 April 2018.

H. Review of NHC61 List of actions

Docs:

- NHC61_List of Actions

The list of actions was approved.

I. Closing the Meeting

The chair closed the meeting and thanked MS for good and productive meeting.