

Nordic Hydrographic Commission 67

Malmö, Sweden, 11-12 April

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2024	
Tasks 3.2.1.7	NHC – Nordic Hydrographic Commission

Attendees included: Denmark, Finland, Norway Iceland, and Sweden.

The meeting was hosted by Sjöfartsverket (Swedish Maritime Administration) and chaired by Mr. Magnus Wallhagen, National Hydrographer of Sweden, who opened the meeting by recognizing the long history of the Commission and presenting some of the topics discussed throughout the Commission’s history.

Regular commission business was managed by Mr. Wallhagen throughout the meeting. Dr. Nyberg presented the Secretariat’s report with special attention on the outcomes of the recent WEND WG meeting and the road toward S-100 implementation. This led to further strategic discussions around the importance of progressing S-100, Empowering Women in Hydrography, IHO’s relationship to the IMO, the IHO Strategic Plan, and equal access to IHO meetings were some of the themes discussed during the presentations.

Comprehensive national reports were delivered by the Member States. Topics reflected those common in the IHO, including charting and survey work in the region. Additionally, there were discussions regarding office reorganization, volcanic activity in Iceland, and survey to ENC process improvements.

An engaging Commission roundtable was conducted to share regional approaches toward the implementation of S-100. The region in general appears to be well on track to meet the goals presented in the S-100 Implementation Strategy. The presentations hosted on the Commission website are excellent resources for those looking to implement the Universal Hydrographic Data Model.



Nordic Hydrographic Commission

The evolving thinking on Electronic Chart Systems and regulation versus education was discussed from national, regional, and international points of view. The Commission agreed that this was an important topic to keep in mind and plans to keep it on the regional agenda for future meetings.

A Commission wide Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by all members of the Commission. The MoU represents a significant collaborative effort between the NHC and Seabed 2030. The MoU builds on established practices by Commission Member States who all provide their data through EMODNet bathymetry.

The Commission conducted an in-depth discussion on the future of the IHO Strategic Plan which resulted in a proactive set of suggestions for the NHC to present to the IRCC in June.

This Commission meeting was held during a critical juncture for the IHO and its MS activities regarding future production of S-100, including production system experience. Strong

collaboration was reconfirmed and the NHC appears to be well positioned to successfully implement S-100 products and services in accordance with IHO timelines. Strategic areas of interest included production, distribution, and security.



NHC Signing the Seabed 2030 MOU

The Nordic Hydrographic Commission, during its 67th meeting, signed a joint Memorandum of Understanding to participate as a region in GEBCO Seabed 2030. The NHC is the oldest continually operating hydrographic commission in the world, established in 1929.

Proposed Tweet from IHO

Outcomes

- The Commission agreed on several inputs to update the IHO Strategic Plan.
- The Commission signed a joint MOU with GEBCO Seabed 2030.
- The IHO Secretariat presented the importance of the current issues that will impact the future of the IHO, including the future of S-100, IHO infrastructure, the Strategic Plan, leaving no country behind, and gender inclusivity among others.
- The IHO Secretariat presented the importance of the S-100 agenda leading up to 2030 with an emphasis on the results from the latest WEND WG meeting – the commission agreed to move forward with the buildout of S-100 products and services beyond S-101.
- The Commission agreed that Denmark will be the MSDI Ambassador for the NHC
- Significant progress was made in understanding regional plans for implementing S-100 based products and services
- Finland was elected to serve as both Chair and Vice Chair as is the tradition of the Commission.
- Next meeting will be in Helsinki, Finland 1-3 April 2025.