

## North Sea Hydrographic Commission 38 VTC 8-9 April 2025

### Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2025

Task 3.2.1.9 NSHC - North Sea Hydrographic Commission

#### High level summary (can be used for posting on social media. Please provide concise lists in bullet point format):

- The IHO Secretariat presented updates on S-100, UNOC, the IHO Infrastructure Centre, the Strategic Plan, and other topics
- S-100 progress and experiences were shared with possible progress toward an S-100 corridor across the North Sea region possibly connecting the Baltic Sea and the North Atlantic

#### Details:

The meeting was held by VTC between 8 and 9 April 2025. It was chaired by Admiral Angus Essenhigh and attended by all its Member States. Dr Nyberg represented the IHO and presented an extensive update on opportunities, initiatives, and achievements around the IHO. Magnus Wallhagen (Sweden) presented updates from HSSC, and Thomas Dehling (Germany) presented updates from Council and IRCC. Ms Magdalena Andreea (EU DG Mare) presented an update on the Ocean Observation Initiative which served as an excellent leadoff for a discussion around sharing oceanographic information.

Seabed Mapping was highlighted as a collaborative effort in the region. The UK presented the Centre for Seabed Mapping to increase the coverage and quality of seabed mapping in the UK. The initiative was implemented to share information with the public through a planning and information portal, a decentralized system to track survey work.

An update on the NSHC resurvey working group was delivered, starting with an overview/history of the WG and the status of survey in the region. Following the 2024 decision to keep the WG dormant, members of the group attended a European Commission meeting on ocean observations which focused on reducing costs, accelerating innovation, and increasing the competitiveness of EU companies. The EC has a current plan to provide a modern platform for sharing oceanographic data. Future considerations for the WG will be considered moving forward.

Denmark provided an update on satellite-derived bathymetry (SDB), emphasizing work done in Ghana's Lake Volta and updates to QGIS tools that are being developed. Denmark has also conducted significant work in Greenland to update coastlines and intertidal areas using SDB and visual inspection.

Regular updates from the EU Network, North Sea MSI WG, WENDWG, and INT Chart Coordination WG were also provided to the Commission. An EMODNet contractor provided an update on increasing data holdings and their contributions to GEBCO.

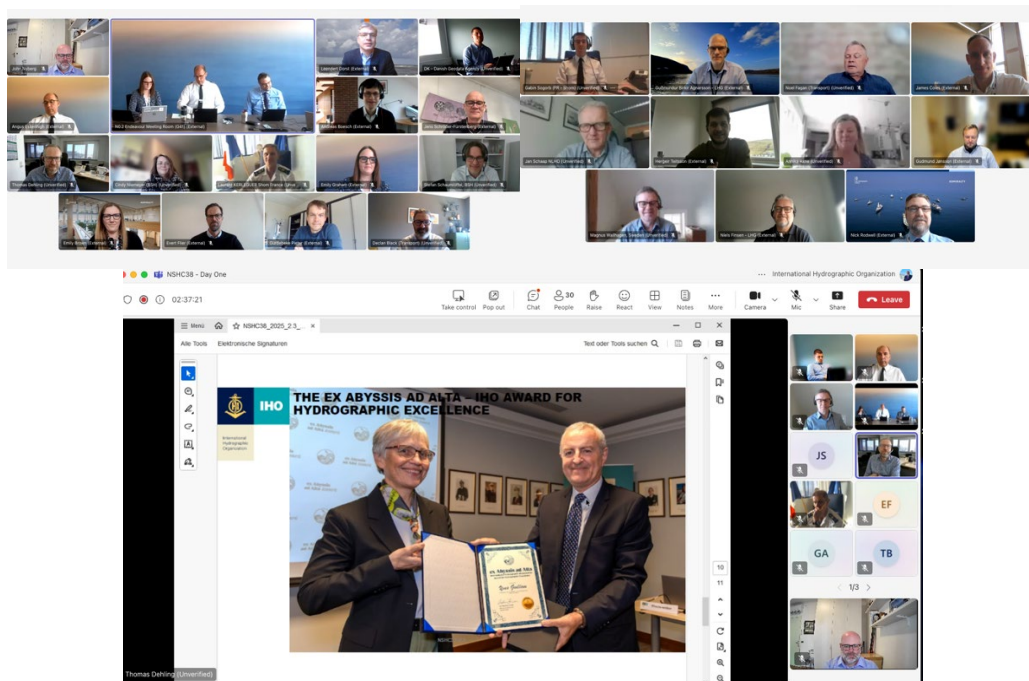
There was a discussion around the bespoke NSHC website, which was slated to be discontinued after the 2024 discussion. There were no comments, and it was agreed that the website will be retired and will not be revisited in coming meetings.

An update on the Baltic Sea e-Nav Project was delivered, showing extensive progress on the implementation of S-100 products and services. Though not discussed, the work being done in the Baltic Sea, serves as an example of how a regional commission might contribute to a future S-100 corridor that may extend through the NSHC, NHC, and USHC areas.

An informative session was held on S-100 sea trials between France and the UK and in Germany. Both highlighted great progress but also indicated that there are also a variety of ways to move forward in the production phase of S-100. Some may build a full stack of S-100 data, while others may decide to focus on specific, relevant, datasets. The importance of the inclusion of OEM input was also highlighted.

The Commission considered a potential NSHC/Seabed 2030 MOU which will be circulated for MS comments.

## Photo



## Upcoming meetings:

The next meeting will be held in Aberdeen, UK in April 2026