

**15<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
IHO-IRCC15  
Tokyo, Japan  
12 – 14 June 2023**

**NORTH SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

**NSHC report to IRCC15**

**1. Chair**

**Chair:** Mr. Koen Vanstaen, (Belgium) from October 2019  
Mr. Georg Lárusson, (Iceland) from April 2021  
Mr. Magnus Wallhagen (Sweden), from April 2022

**Vice-Chair:** Mr. Árni Þór Vésteinsson, (Iceland) from October 2019  
Mr. Magnus Wallhagen (Sweden), from April 2021  
RAAdm Rhett Hatcher (United Kingdom) from April 2022

**2. Membership**

Members: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom. Associate member(s): None. Observers: None.

**3. Meetings:**

Following NSHC meetings have taken place:

36<sup>th</sup> NSHC 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 (VTC meeting hosted by Sweden)

Next meeting: 37<sup>th</sup> NSHC 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Malmö, Sweden.

**4. Current NSHC Working Groups:**

- a) North Sea International Chart Coordination WG (NSICCWG)
- b) Baltic Sea and North Sea MSDI WG (BSNSMSDIWG)
- c) Resurvey WG (RWG)
- d) Tidal Working Group WG (TWG)
- e) North Sea Maritime Safety Information WG (NSMSIWG)

**5. Status of IRCC actions and recommendations to RHCs**

**a) Status of Actions, relevant for the NSHC:**

#	Action	Status
13/6	<i>RHCs and WGs to include the measurement of the SPI attributed by IRCC in their annual Work Plans.</i>	Discussed at NSHC 36 and closed.

**b) Status of Recommendations, relevant for the NSHC:**

#	Recommendation	Status
14/2	<i>RHC to discuss how HO's can assume a geo-coordinating role to help ensure provision of data on a</i>	Closed. Provision of data on a regional level is coordinated through

	<i>regional level.</i>	national and EU-related initiatives.
14/4	<i>RHC to start or proceed with the debate on how the climate change related activities can be further investigated and what can be the role of the IHO.</i>	Discussed at NSHC 36 and closed.
14/5	<i>RHC to encourage relevant Member States to report to the IMO Secretariat and the Chair of the EGC Coordinating Panel on the progress and status of implementation of newly recognized mobile satellite services by MSI providers.</i>	Coordinated through the NSMSIWG and was reported by the WG at NSHC 36 that it is finalised for Iridium. Closed.
14/6	<i>RHCs to establish an S-100 Coordinator role</i>	NSHC 36 decided to appoint the NSICCWG to have a S-100 coordination role. Closed.
14/7	<i>RHCs to apply Action WENDWG12/33 (WEND-100 Product Matrix will be made available on the WENDWG Repository webpage when finalized).</i>	Coordinated by the NSHC WENDWG representative with assistance of the NSICCWG Chair and an S-100 questionnaire prepared by Belgium. The WENDWG rep will keep the WEND-100 Product Matrix updated.
14/8	<i>RHC to encourage Member States and submitting institutions to engage with the IHO Secretariat early in the process of them preparing submissions for programme recognition.</i>	Discussed at NSHC 36 and was considered to be in order in the region. Closed.
14/9	<i>RHC encourage Member States and submitting institutions to consult the Guidelines, the FAQs and the White Paper (IHR-Nov-2017 – Article: Maintaining the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers) early in the process of preparing submissions for programme recognition.</i>	Discussed at NSHC 36 and was considered to be in order in the region. Closed.
14/11	<i>RHC Chairs to bring the IRCC CL 1/2020 to the attention of all coastal states within their respective RHC, encouraging them to offer a positive response, even if qualified, to enable provision of CSB data into the public domain collected from ships within waters subject to their national jurisdiction.</i>	Completed.
14/13	<i>RHC to encourage Member States to support the CSB initiative with positive actions, such as requiring all research vessels to collect bathymetric data for late uploading, when on passage or when it does not interfere with other research activities.</i>	Discussed at NSHC 36 and is ongoing where applicable.
14/15	<i>Encourage RHCs to discuss how nations can share existing data.</i>	Discussed at NSHC 36 and is considered to be well functioning in the region. Bathymetry data is shared through the EU EMODNet Bathymetry portal, which subsequently is reused by GEBCO. Closed.
14/16	<i>RHCs to encourage Member State and stakeholder bathymetric data contributions to the DCDB, regardless of origin.</i>	No action needed, see status for 14/15 above.

## 6. Agenda Items:

### B. IHO Work Program 1 – Corporate Affairs

- B1, Information about the activities of the IHO (IHO Sec)
- B2, Information about IHO Council 6, (Germany)

- B3, Information about upcoming IHO Assembly-3, (NSHC Chair)

### C. IHO work program 2 – Hydrographic Services and Standards

- C1, HSSC-report: Items relevant to NSHC, incl. S-100 implementation (HSSC Chair)
- C2, NSHC questionnaire results on S-100 implementation (Belgium)  
*NSHC 36, March 2023, took a decision to change focus on the ICC WG to also include overall coordination of S-100 implementation in the North Sea and in addition coordinate and harmonize implementation of S-101 ENC and S-102 Bathymetry.*
- C3, Report of the Resurvey Working Group (RWG Acting Chair)  
*The NSHC thanked the acting RWG Chair for his effort during the year. No MS had offered any nominations as chair for the RWG. The NSHC 36 had to take the decision to make the WG dormant until nominations are received.*
- C4, Report of Tidal Working Group (TWG Acting Chair)  
*The Tidal and Water Level WG has been tasked to coordinate and harmonize the implementation of S-104 Water Level and S-111 Surface Currents.*
- C5, Sunsetting of ADMIRALITY paper charts (UK)
- C6, French project to modernize nautical charting: The unified cartographic source (France)

### D. IHO work program 3 – Inter Regional Coordination and Support

- D1, Actions requested by IRCC /NSHC Chair/IRCC Chair)
- D2, IHO-EU Network Report (Germany)
- D3, Report of the Baltic Sea North Sea Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (BS-NSMSDIWG Acting Chair)  
*The BSNSMSDIWG report concluded that there were different opinions within the WG regarding the actual purpose of the WG. NSHC 36 decided to make the working group dormant during the coming year, in order to take a final decision on either starting up again or finally close the group at the next Conference. Meanwhile, MS will focus their efforts on the global MSDIWG where applicable.*
- D4, Report of the North Sea MSI Working Group (NSMSIWG Chair)  
*The North Sea MSI WG has been tasked to coordinate and harmonize the implementation of S-124 Navigation Warnings.*
- D4.1, PING: French national digital platform for navigational warnings based on S-124 (France)
- D5, Report of the NSHC representative to WENDWG, (UK)
- D6, Report of the North Sea INT Chart Coordination Working Group (NSICCWG Chair)  
*NSHC 36 decided that the NSICCWG should have the overall coordination role for S-100 in the region and coordinate and harmonize implementation of S-101 ENC and S-102 Bathymetry. Until now this WG has only worked by correspondence, but it is now expected to become a more active WG.*
- D7, IHO Capacity Building Sub-Committee Issues Review (Norway)
- D8, Status CSB/GEBCO/Seabed 2030 (Norway)
- D9, NSHC Website (Germany)  
*The former NSHC website is not operating anymore and no MS volunteered to host such a website.*

### E. Any Other Business

- E1, NSHC Statutes

*The NSHC Statutes have been reviewed in accordance with IHO Resolution 2/1997 and with respect to gender neutral language. A draft version has been prepared by the Chair and Vice-Chair and will be circulated to NSHC MS.*

#### **7. NSHC cooperation with stakeholders (organizations, industry, etc.):**

All NSHC member states have contributed with bathymetry data to the EU EMODNet Bathymetry portal. Bathymetry data from EMODNet is subsequently used in the IHO-IOC GEBCO global grid.

#### **8. Difficulties encountered and challenges yet to be addressed**

NSHC has challenges to find volunteers to chair some of the working groups. Two of the working groups, the RWG and the BSNSMSDIWG, are dormant at least until next NSHC meeting. To some extent it is natural that the focus now has to be on S-100 implementation, which must result in that some other areas need to be less prioritized.

#### **9. Achievements and lessons learned:**

NSHC 36 took decisions to coordinate the implementation of the most prioritized S-100 products and tasked suitable working groups to secure that the implementation of respective product is harmonized within the region.

Belgium prepared a questionnaire to get a compilation of the NSHC MS plans for the implementation of the prioritized S-100 products. The questionnaire was appreciated as an easy way to gather all MS plans and was the basis for the NSHC WENDWG IGIF matrix response.

#### **10. Conclusions:**

The cooperation within the NSHC is focused on the implementation of the coming S-100 products. MS have continued to contribute to the work of the IHO and have been active in the IHO working groups and Committees.

#### **11. Actions required of IRCC:**

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. note the NSHC report, and
- b. take any further action as it may consider appropriate.

Magnus Wallhagen

NSHC Chair