



# Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC)

Report to IRCC15

Tokyo, Japan  
12 – 14 June 2023

By Denmark

on behalf of ARHC Chair Pia Dahl Højgaard



# IHO Meetings

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- 12<sup>th</sup> ARHC Meeting – St.John’s, Canada (12 - 16 Sep. 2022)
- Next meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> ARHC Meeting will take place 5 - 8 Sep. 2023 in Nuuk, Greenland



ARHC12, St.Johns (Canada)

IRCC15  
Tokyo, Japan, 12 – 14 June 2023



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# Key Achievements

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- **Community Engagement**

Open forums preceded the formal ARHC sessions and encouraged local scientific, governmental, and community representatives to contribute perspectives regarding hydrographic matters. The ARHC has placed particular emphasis on community hydrography and fostering involvement with local and/or indigenous communities.

- **Arctic Chart Adequacy Assessment**

Collecting information to update the ARHC's 2018 Arctic Chart Adequacy Assessment – conducted every five years by the ARHC OTWG partnering with PAME to develop a report mapping Arctic vessel traffic locations and the current state of Arctic Charting. The new report will be published in 2023.

- **Associate Membership**

Following the process for Associate Membership, the United Kingdom formally joined ARHC as Associate Member in November 2022



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# Important Findings (RHC top 3 challenges)

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- The Arctic region's vastness, remoteness, and emergence as a unique operating environment present a challenge to the ARHC and the hydrographic offices.
- S-100 Regional Coordination in the Arctic will require more serious considerations. The AICCWG took over the S-100 coordinator role.
- Need and will to increase external outreach and communication to inform of hydrographic interests and developments bearing on the safe navigation and marine environmental protection in the Arctic. (Arctic Council PAME Working Group, the Arctic SDI, IMO Polar Maritime Seminar).



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# Lessons Learned

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- ARHC-12 was convened in person for the first time since 2019 in St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador Canada. Face-to-face meetings are crucial to strengthen collaboration across the Arctic region.
- Collaboration and investigation of the advantages of a pan-Arctic grid. The ARHC ICCWG has been involved in the Arctic Grid Study project by IIC Technologies.
- ARHC Implementation of the IHO Strategic Plan through a annual Strategic Plan gap analysis. Relevant questions based on observations by the project team were addressed at ARHC12, concluding with a list of possible actions or work plan items for the ARHC.



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# Proposals

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- IRCC is invited to,
  - Take note of the summary Report of the ARHC;
  - Note the efforts described to support the goals of the IHO and the IRCC within the region;
  - Note the ARHC Year-in-Review 2022 summary: (Annex B of report).