

**16<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
IHO-IRCC16  
Santa Cruz Island - Galapagos, Ecuador, 10-12 June 2024**

**NORDIC HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

**NHC report to IRCC16**

**1. Chair**

**Chair:** Mr. Rainer Mustaniemi, (Finland) from April 2024  
Mr. Magnus Wallhagen, (Sweden) from March 2023  
Ms. Pia Dahl Højgaard, (Denmark) from April 2022

**Vice-Chair:** Mr. Jarmo Mäkinen, (Finland) from April 2024  
Ms. Annika Axne, (Sweden) from March 2023  
Ms. Elizabeth Hagemann, (Denmark) from April 2022

**2. Membership**

Members: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden

Associate member(s): None

Observers: IHO Secretariat

**3. Meetings:**

Following NHC meetings have taken place:

66<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Aalborg, Denmark (21 - 22 March 2023)

67<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Malmö, Sweden (11 - 12 April 2024)

Next meeting: 68<sup>th</sup> NHC will take place 1 - 3 April 2025 in Helsinki, Finland

**4. Current NHC Working Groups:**

- a) Nordic Chart Production Expert Group (NCPEG)
- b) Nordic Survey Expert Group (NSEG)

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

**a) Status of actions (relevant for the NHC):**

No actions relevant for the NHC.

**b) Status of Recommendations to RHCs:**

*IRCC15/Recommendation 8: RHCs, if not done already, establish the S-100 Coordinator role or assign S-100 Coordinator duties as appropriate.*

S-100 Coordination are taken care by BSHC and NSHC so there is no need for actions for NHC.

*IRCC15/Recommendation 11: RHCs to appoint MSDI ambassadors and inform the MSDIWG with contact details.*

**NHC Decision:** The Commission appointed Christian Thellufsen (DK) as MSDI ambassador.

**NHC Action:** The Commission decided on an action to add a permanent agenda item for report from the NHC MSDI Ambassador to the upcoming NHC meetings.

*IRCC15/Recommendation 14: RHCs to encourage Member State and stakeholder bathymetric data contributions to the DCDB, regardless of origin.*

*Recommendation 16: To encourage RHCs to actively contribute with new data to GEBCO.*

**NHC Decision:** The Commission unanimously decided to sign the MoU between NHC and the SEABED2030 to acknowledge the importance of bathymetry and knowledge of the oceans and contributing to the GEBCO DTM.

## 6. Agenda Items:

### S-100 implementation

S-100 implementation is a standing agenda item on NHC meetings. At the NHC 66<sup>th</sup> meeting, HO's actions and plans for S-100 implementation were reported and discussed. Additionally, actions related to a national coordination on S-100 products and services was also reported. All Member States reported at least some level of contacts to other S-100 data producers in their countries and in best case the coordination already covers all S-100 products that are included in the Phase 1 of the IHO S-100 Implementation Strategy.

### Priorisation of the work of NCPEG and NSEG

NHC has two expert groups namely NCPEG (nautical cartography) and NSEG (hydrographic surveys). These groups are important forums where experts from Nordic HO's share information about technologies, production systems, processes, development projects and studies. Currently, the NCPEG is working on guidance for temporary and preliminary notices in ENC's, a new practise to present rocky areas in nautical charts, quality methods or assurance of products and S-101 ENC implementation while the NSEG will discuss Geoid based bathymetric surveys.

### Discussion about the Sub ECDIS Market

The Commission has a lot of interest to monitor the work of the IHO ECSPT and discuss further on problems and possible solutions on the matter. In order to support the work of IHO ECSPT, the Commission decided have this topic under it's agenda in the near future.

### NHC Input to the revised IHO Strategic Plan

Inputs for the IHO Strategy Plan review have been discussed resulting in a document that can be found as Annex to this report.

### The Nordic Hydrographic Commission become first regional hydrographic commission to partner with Seabed 2030

The Member States of the Commission signed the MoU between NHC and the SEABED2030 project to acknowledge the importance of bathymetry and knowledge of the oceans and contributing to the GEBCO DTM. The MOU represents a strengthened collaboration between the NHC and Seabed 2030. It builds on the foundations of support already established through data contributions from respective Commission Member States via EMODNet, which itself is an official Seabed 2030 partner. The signing ceremony was attended by Seabed 2030 Project Director Jamie McMichael-Phillips.



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

Cooperation with the SeaBed2030 project was officially established by signing the Memorandum of Understanding between the parties.

The Commission is constantly looking opportunities to arrange Open Forums with relevant stakeholders. This apply both annual Conferences and expert groups meetings.

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

### a) Difficulties:

In order for all HO's to be able to start S-101 and S-102 production timely manner, some technical obstacles and additional resource allocations still needs to be solved.

### b) Challenges:

How to better serve Sub-ECDIS customers with reliable, inexpensive and easy to access digital navigational products.

## 9. Achievements and lessons learned:

The Member States HO's plans for S-100 implementation were reported and discussed. This exchange and related productive discussions are of great value for the NHC member states providing ideas, shared understanding, and ultimately a common ground for future S-100 services in the region. This also includes a common NHC perspective and directions for the experts groups, to address S-100 implementation in the region.

With the NHC - SeaBed2030 MoU, NHC strengthens its contribution to share open bathymetry data through the EU EMODNet Bathymetry portal, which again feeds IHO-IOC GEBCO global grid.

## 10. Conclusions:

The collaboration and technical exchange within the NHC is very active and productive. Every Member States participate actively in NHC annual conferences, its expert groups meetings and extraordinary sessions between the meetings. Member states have continued to contribute extensively to the work of the IHO and have been active participants in IHO's Committees, working groups and project teams. The Commission select focuses of its work based on needs and objectives of the Member States HO's, the IHO Committees and WGs, for the benefit of maritime stakeholders.

**11. Actions required of IRCC:**

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. Note the report of the Nordic Hydrographic Commission
- b. Take any action considered appropriate.

Rainer Mustaniemi

NHC Chair

**Annex:** NHC Input to the IHO Strategic Plan review