

# North Sea Hydrographic Commission NSHC

Presented by RAdm Angus Essenhigh, OBE  
NSHC Chair

# 37<sup>th</sup> Conference of the NSHC (NSHC37)

- Arranged as in-person meeting in Malmo, Sweden from 08-10 April 2024.
- Meeting convened with Sweden as Chair and UK as Vice Chair. As per the NSHC 'Chair timeline' the UK assumed Chair position in the last session of NSHC37 with Germany being chosen as the new Vice Chair.
- During NSHC37, Members visited the IMO World Maritime University (WMU) with workshops and presentations focused on the new S100 ECDIS and navigation systems.
- NSHC38 will be held via VTC from 8th – 9th April 2025.



IRCC16

Santa Cruz Island – Galapagos, Ecuador

10 – 12 June 2024

# Key Achievements

1. During NSHC37, the members reviewed the IHO Strategic Plan Indicators. Top-Level feedback:

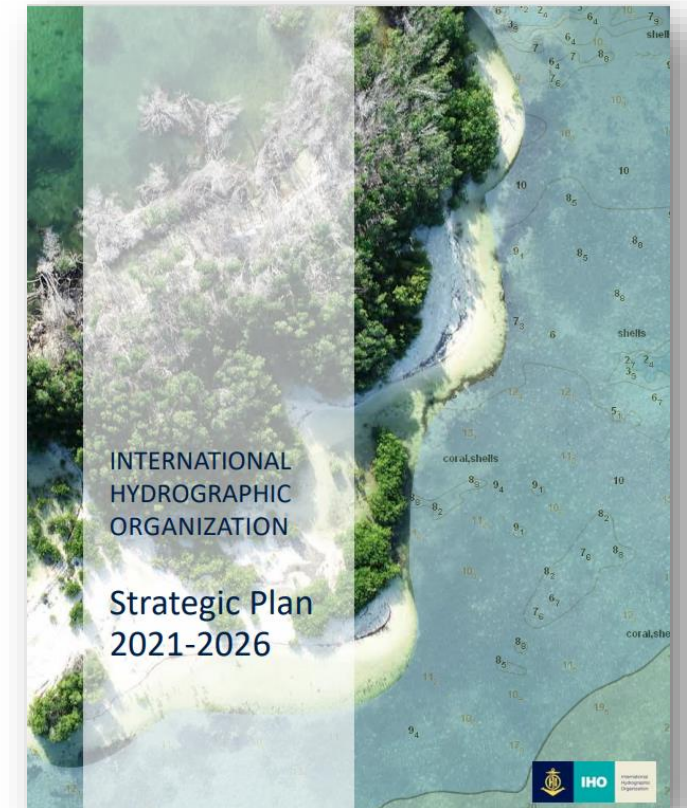
Maintain the 3 main goals but update and refine targets to better align with strategic objectives

The SPIs should be objectively reviewable and applicable for all Member States

Targets should be measurable and identifiable with clear responsibilities assigned

2. The NSHC Statutes and WG TORs are now fully gender-inclusive in language.

3. It is clear from NSHC37 discussions and the NSICCWG S1XX questionnaire that NSHC Members wish to work collaboratively to ensure that the IHO's S100 implementation roadmap is successful.



# Reminders and Outputs

**North Sea MSI WG:** the proposed updates to the TOR were approved, the MSI WG should report on the implementation of S-124 to the NSICC as a regular ongoing action.

**North Sea MSDI WG:** it was agreed to close the MSDI WG and Germany volunteered to be the MSDI ambassador on behalf of NSHC.

**Leadership:** RAdm Angus Essenhigh confirmed as the new chair and Thomas Dehling as VC.

**S-100 ed 5.2.0:** MS were encouraged to respond ASAP if they had not already responded.

**ECS PT:** MS were encouraged to ensure they have responded to the questionnaire.

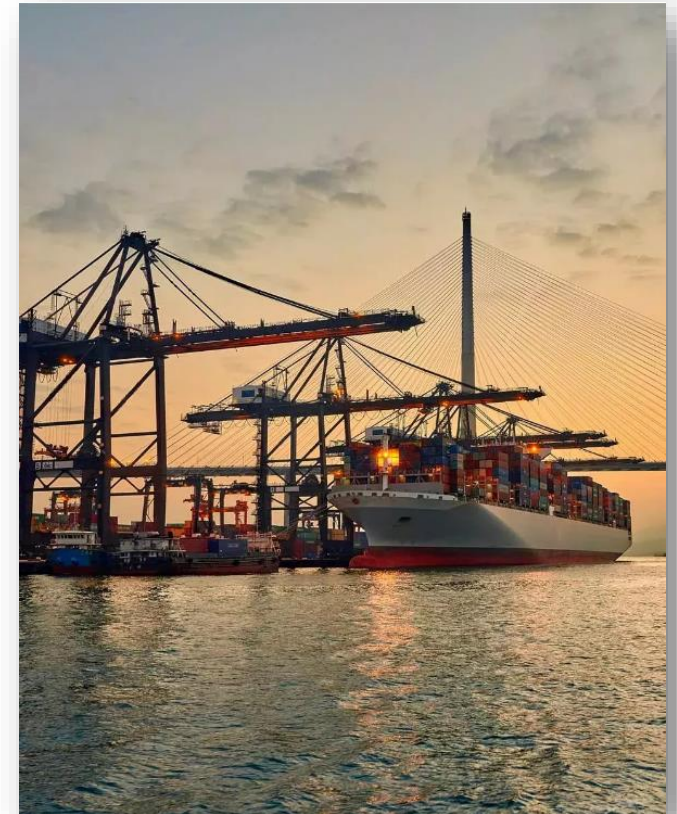


# Important Findings (RHC top 3 challenges)

**S-100:** It is anticipated that the first continuous suite of S-100 information to be established between North America, crossing the North Sea into the Baltic.

**Resurvey Working Group:** NSHC has challenges to find volunteers to chair some of the working groups and manage the NSHC website. The RWG remains dormant at least until next NSHC meeting. Sweden advised that outputs from the Baltic RWG has directly led to EU funding to support survey work.

**Green and Shipping optimisation:** NSHC believes that there should be improved communication and advertisement regarding the developing S-100 world including all socio-economic benefits e.g. Decarbonisation, Voyage Optimisation, Green Corridors and other Green/sustainable initiatives, as these support each of the 3 principal strategic goals.



# Lessons Learned

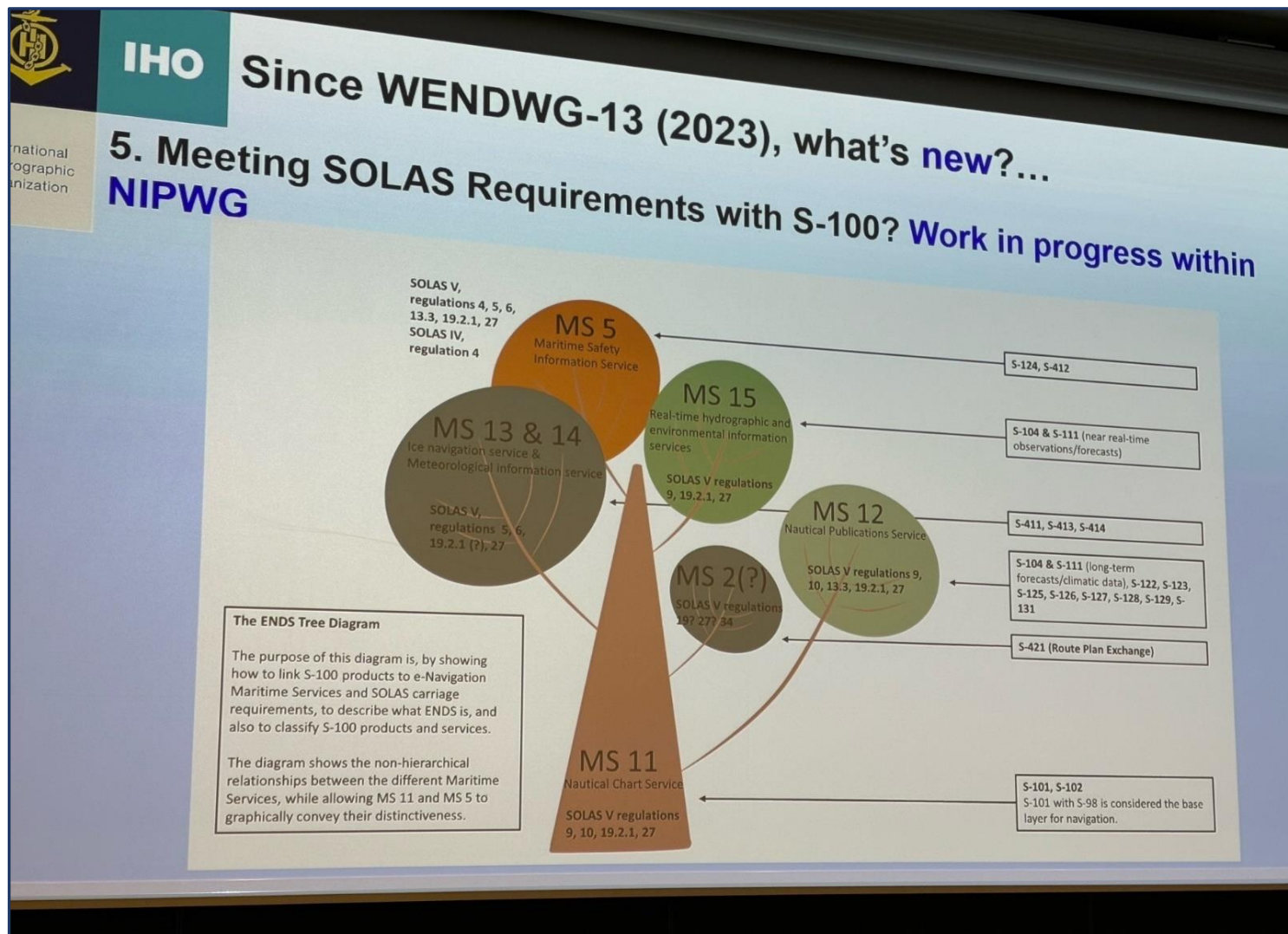
- **S-100 Awareness:** It is vital that the S100 era is showcased not just within the realm of Hydrography. This was highlighted during the visit to the IMO World Maritime University (WMU), a question was put to the students to see how many of them were aware of the future S-100 standards, no hands were raised.
- **North Sea International Charting Coordination Working Group:** all MS who responded to the first S-100 readiness questionnaire (created by Belgium) also responded to the latest questionnaire created by the UK, providing a good basis for comparison.
- **UN Ocean Decade:** MOUs have been signed by NHOs as part of the UN ocean decade, the Nordic HC is the first HC to sign the MOU – Norway encouraged the NSHC Member States to consider signing the MOU to express the Hydrographic Commission's support to SeaBed 2030.

# Proposals

- IRCC to note the NSHC report
- **2026 Meeting:** the NSHC Chair has tentatively suggested hosting the event on the East Coast of the UK in a port with links to the Offshore Industry and including representatives from the North Sea Offshore Energy industry.
- **Diversity and inclusion:** the IHO structure should be representative of the MS.
- **Making IHO events more geographically inclusive and environmentally friendly:** was supported by many nations and supported the work of the ad hoc drafted group in creating a survey to understand more regarding the 4 principal options i.e., in person, in person with streaming, hybrid or full VTC. The outcome of the survey will become a draft resolution to be submitted to MS for approval.

# Tree Diagram

The ENDS Tree Diagram to tie together Maritime Services (MS) = MS5, MS15, MS13 and MS14, MS2 and MS12 is a WIP with the NIPWG and will be presented to HSSC by NIPWG. **This is a customer centric diagram designed to explain how they are supported by S-100.**








# S-101 and S-102 Scheming in the Baltic

The table shows the approach to scheming in the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Region. UKHO is openly sharing the UKHO Gridded Scheme parameters and has provided SHP files to several of the NHOs in the region to test and trial the results in their region to aid data aligning at the data limits rather than only abutting.



**IHO** **S-101 (S-102) SCHEMING PLANS IN THE BALTIC SEA**  
(STATUS 05/2023)

International Hydrographic Organization

Country	S-57	S-101	S-102	Remarks
Denmark	Grid/regular grid	Regular grid	Regular grid	
Estonia	Grid	Grid	Grid	
Finland	Grid	Grid	Grid	No plans to change now
Germany	Grid/regular grid	Regular grid	Regular grid	Have tried regular grid before
Latvia	Grid	Not decided	Not decided	
Lithuania	Grid	No info yet	No info yet	
Poland	Grid	Grid	-	Has studied reg grid
Russia	Grid	No info	No info	
Sweden	Grid/regular grid	Grid/regular grid	Grid/regular grid	