

## 13<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE ARCTIC REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (ARHC)

**NUUK, GREENLAND, DENMARK**

**5 – 8 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2023		
Task 3.2.1.1	Prepare for and report meetings of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) / ARHC	

The 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC) was held in Nuuk, Greenland, Denmark, from 5 -8 September 2023.

Nineteen participants representing four ARHC Members (Canada, Denmark, Norway, and the USA) and four Associate Members (Finland, Iceland, Italy and United Kingdom) participated in the Conference.

The ARHC Conference was chaired by Ms Pia Dahl Højgaard, National Hydrographer of Denmark. The IHO Secretariat was represented remotely by Secretary-General Dr Mathias Jonas who reported on the recent Secretariat's activities affecting the Arctic Region.

The Secretary-General informed the ARHC Members of the strategic issues that will be on the agenda of the upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IHO Council. His presentation placed special emphasis on the parallel activities of the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica in view of a coordinated approach for the implementation of future regional S-100 based data services. Dr Jonas highlighted the overarching importance of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts decision to adopt of the Operational Framework for Integrated Marine Geospatial Information Management UN-IGIF-Hydro (Part One & Two). The UN-IGIF-Hydro aims to ensure the inclusion of the marine domain in the larger geospatial information ecosystem and is intended to be used by both developing and established geospatial programs which wish to implement the UN-IGIF Strategic Pathways in the marine domain. The UN-IGIF-Hydro framework recognizes hydrography and ocean mapping as important contributors to other geospatial domains.

All participants reported on their national activities in the Arctic region since the last Conference. Motivated by a paper "Navigating to a Greener Future" presented by United Kingdom, the Committee started a discussion on the greening of hydrographic operations and the possible impact of hydrographic data to climate-related research. ARHC noted the Arctic Risk Assessment Report submitted by its Operations and Technology Working Group (OTWG), and requested the report to be updated to include Southern Greenland in its geographic scope. Of special note, all ARHC members expressed their willingness to share the underlying data of the Arctic Risk Assessment.

ARHC confirmed Evert Flier (Norway) as ARHC representative to WENDWG and task him to coordinate the regional answers on the implementation of the S-100 roadmap.



*ARHC13 participants*

At the end of the meeting, Ms Birte Noer Borrevik, National Hydrographer of Norway, was elected as the new Chair of the ARHC. It was agreed that the next meeting of the ARHC will be hosted by Norway in Tromsø from 3 to 5 September 2024.

All available documents of the meeting are posted on the ARHC page of the IHO website.