

**Statutes
of
the Nordic Hydrographic Commission
(NHC)**



Revised 22 March 2023

Article 1. Preamble

Considering that the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) is a competent international organization recognized in the IMO SOLAS Convention and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);

Considering that the IHO has a consultative and technical nature;

Considering that the IHO aims at coordinating on a worldwide basis the setting of standards for the production of hydrographic data and the provision of hydrographic services as well as facilitating capacity building of national hydrographic services;

Considering the guidance in the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended regarding the Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions;

Considering that the Nordic Hydrographic Commission (NHC) has been established in 1929, and has worked actively and successfully since that;

The Hydrographic Offices of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden have agreed to continue the existence of the NHC and to review and update these NHC Statutes.

Article 2. Interpretation

- a) These Statutes are not binding under international law. Activities by Members and Observers under the Statutes are undertaken voluntarily, on a consultative basis, and are subject to the availability of funds. The NHC has no authority over Members.

Article 3. Objectives of the NHC

The NHC has the following objectives:

- a) To promote technical cooperation in the domain of hydrographic surveying, marine cartography and nautical information in order;
 - To evolve the hydrographic support for safety and efficiency of maritime navigation, undergoing profound transformation;
 - To promote the development of new standards for hydrographic data and specifications of hydrographic products; support their regular production; and coordinate regional and global services for their provision;
- b) To promote new tools, services and methods to accelerate and increase coverage, consistency, quality and interoperability in order to increase the use of hydrographic data for the benefit of society;

- c) To support initiatives related to the knowledge and the sustainable use of the Ocean;
- d) To support and contribute to the work of mapping the ocean seabed;
- e) To commit to engage in the work of the IHO;
- f) To cooperate in the case of crisis and disasters affecting one or several Members;

Article 4. Membership

- a) Members are the Hydrographic Offices of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

Article 5. Chairmanship and Secretary

- a) The NHC Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected at NHC Ordinary meetings.
- b) The Chair should preferably be the head of a Member's Hydrographic Office. The Vice-Chair is normally the deputy of the Chair.
- c) The Chair and Vice-Chair assume their responsibilities from the closing of the Meeting where elected to the closing of the next Ordinary Meeting.
- d) The order of the Chairmanship is Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland.
- e) The Chair is responsible of the Secretary services for the NHC and its Meetings.

Article 6. Meetings

- a) Normally, only Members may participate to the Meetings, that can be held either physical or online.
- b) A quorum of four members is necessary for any decision to be taken.
- c) A representative of the IHO Secretariat shall be invited to Meetings;
- d) Ordinary meetings (physical or online) should be held at least twice between IHO Assemblies.
- e) The Chair may invite to extraordinary meetings.

- f) The Chair is responsible for organising and preparing the Meetings. The Chair conducting a Meeting is responsible for the Minutes of that Meeting.
- g) Working language of the NHC is English.
- h) In connection to NHC Meetings there may be open forums where Observers or Stakeholders may be invited by the Chair.

Article 7. Decisions and Resolutions

- a) Decisions and Resolutions should be approved as far as possible by consensus amongst the Members.
- b) If voting is needed, each Member has one vote and the decisions will be made by simple majority of votes of all Members.

Article 8. Participation to the IHO Council

- a) The selection of a NHC representative to the IHO Council shall follow the procedures endorsed at the 60th NHC meeting, as stated in Annex to the NHC Statutes.

Article 9. Working Groups

- a) NHC may establish Working Groups, Expert Groups or Project Teams when found feasible.

Article 10. Expenses





- a) All expenses connected to meetings or working groups shall be defrayed by the participants.

Article 11. Enter into force, amendments and abrogation

- a) These Statutes enter into force when signed by all Members.
- b) These Statutes replace all previous NHC statutes.
- c) These Statutes may be amended by consensus decision of the Members.
- d) These Statutes may be dissolved by consensus decision of the Members.
- e) The IHO Secretariat is the repository of these Statutes.

Signatures

Monaco, May 2023

Member State	Duly authorized representative	Signature
Denmark	Pia Dahl Højgaard	
Finland	Rainer Mustaniemi	
Iceland	Georg Larusson	
Norway	Birthe Noer Borrevik	
Sweden	Magnus Wallhagen	