



Nordic Hydrographic Commission



Minutes
of the
NHC – Extra Ordinary Meeting 3 2020
Hosted by Icelandic Coast Guard
November 2nd 2020 12:00-16:00 GMT

Online Meeting using Teams video conferencing software

Participants

DK: Jens Peter Weiss Hartmann, Pia Dahl Højgaard

FI: Jarmo Mäkinen, Maarit Mikkelsen, Rainer Mustaniemi

IS: Auðunn Kristinsson, Árni Þór Vésteinsson, Georg Kr. Lárusson, Guðmundur Birkir Agnarsson

NO: Birte Noer Borrevik, Evert Flier

SE: Annika Kindeberg, Magnus Wallhagen

IHO: Mathias Jonas

Secretaries: Niels Bjarki Finsen, Sigríður Ragna Sverrisdóttir

A. Opening formalities

A.1 Opening of NHC EO3 VTC

Docs:

[NHC_EO3_A.1_List of participants_ver1](#)

Mr. Georg Kr. Lárusson, Director General of the Icelandic Coast Guard, opened NHC extraordinary meeting. He welcomed delegates from Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland and especially Dr. Mathias Jonas, Secretary General of the IHO. He then handed control of the meeting to Árni Þór Vésteinsson, head ICG Hydrographic and Maritime Safety Department.

A.2 Adoption of the Agenda

Docs:

[NHC_EO3_A.2_Draft Agenda_ver_5](#)

The meeting approved the draft agenda.

A.3 Minutes and Actions

Docs:

[NHC_EO3_A.3.2_NHC EO2 160620 – Minutes](#)

[NHC_EO3_H.1_List of Actions_ver3](#)

List of Actions to be reviewed at the end of the meeting.

B. IHO Work Program 1 – “Corporate affairs”

B.1 Report from the IHO Secretariat

Docs:

[NHC_EO3_B.1_IHO_SEC_Report_V1](#)

Presentation from Dr. Mathias Jonas IHO Secretary General. IHO has declared a force majeure regarding the IHO assembly and considers an online meeting not meeting the needs of the Assembly as well as discussions and decision making of the Assembly. Therefore, a planned online Assembly event will be cancelled but the Council meeting held as a remote event. The Assembly will be postponed but not cancelled as it cannot be held under current conditions. ¹

¹ *PostScript: Due to a positive change of circumstances the IHO Secretariat was able to manage the conduct of the 2nd Assembly successfully as hybrid event, directly followed by the 4th Council.*



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Several IHO decisions have been made via correspondence. Number of IHO members is constant 93 member states. It is frustrating that the COVID19 pandemic coincides with the 100 year anniversary of the IHO. Hopefully the IRCC meeting celebrating this anniversary can still take place.

B.2 – B.6 Brief verbal updates on National Reports

Denmark: Staff working from home, working on strategy for the next 10 years. In the first quarter of 2021 Denmark will be able to present a clearer the view towards the future.

Finland: No changes from the written national report except that new editions in the Northern Baltic Sea have been postponed until late next year due to vertical reference problems. Both new paper charts and ENC's will be published 2021.

Iceland: Little changes from the written report last April. Preparation for bathymetric database implementation will start this month.

Norway: The Norwegian Hydrographic Service is presently evaluating bids for a new hydrographic infrastructure where they opt for a modular approach. The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly influenced how they work, at present a large majority works from home but still mostly meeting set production goals. Norway is in the middle of reorganizing their organization and will report on the outcome at the next NHC meeting. The Norwegian Mapping Authority has a new Director General since April 2020. They are in the process of revising the strategy with the first phase of analysing their environment through a PESTEL analysis completed. They have started the process of taking over data management for bathymetric data on behalf of the Norwegian Armed Forces.

Sweden: New strict pandemic restrictions affect the staff and the organization. Most are working from home. These restrictions are valid at least for the next 3 weeks. New routing measures in Kattegat and ENC's, paper charts and NM's have been issued in cooperation with Denmark and fortunately were not hampered by the pandemic work situation. This was an achievement by Denmark and Sweden, to be proud of. Helcom areas CAT 1 and 2 will be finished by the end of next year and will then be covered by S-44 survey data. After that the need will be to look into shallower waters, which demands smaller survey vessels. A new version of CARIS HPD software has been implemented successfully and will assist in implementation of S-100.

C. IHO Assembly – A2

C. IHO Assembly – A2, Provisional Agenda

Docs:

[A2_2020_G_01_EN_Rev1](#)

[List of Proposals to A-2](#)

[ACL30/2020 Annex B](#)

[ACL27/2020](#)

[HSSC12 report](#)

[IRCC12 report](#)

[IRCC12-AnnexC-List_Recomendations_V1](#)

[A2_2020_G_02_EN](#)

[A2_2020_G_03_EN_Rev1](#)

[A2_2020_F_01_EN](#)

[A2_2020_F_02_EN](#)

IHO Assembly – A2 has been postponed².

IHO Secretary General went through the list of proposals. He explained that the Secretariat has received

² PostScript: Due to a positive change of circumstances the IHO Secretariat was able to manage the conduct of the 2nd Assembly successfully as hybrid event, directly followed by the 4th Council.



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comprehensive comments for many of these proposals from Member States. A substantial number of those proposals have been decided by correspondence already.

The meeting discussed item C.1.6, S-100 implementation strategy at length. IHO States should have S-101 coverage available, at least partly by 2024 and a complete coverage in early 2025.

D. IHO Council – C4

IHO Secretary General informed the meeting that the IHO Council meeting will be held remotely and further information will be distributed by Circular Letter soon.

Any IHO Member State can attend the Council as observer but only regular Council Members are entitled to vote.

E. Any other business

E.1 NHC Expert Groups ToRs

Docs:

[NHC_EO3_E.1.1_ToR and RoP_NSEG](#)

[NHC_EO3_E.1.2_ToR_Draft_NCPEG](#)

E.1.1 NSEG ToR and RoP for approval. – APPROVED (Action 25)

E.1.2 NCPEG ToR and RoP for review. – Iceland will continue this work in cooperation with member states.

F. Election of new Chair and Vice Chair

G. Place and date of next Meeting

Time is fixed for next meeting, NHC 64, 26th-30th April 2021 in Iceland.

Contingency plan is to host the meeting as an online event.

H. Review of NHC List of Actions

Docs:

[NHC_EO3_H.1_List of Actions_ver3](#)

The meeting agreed on the updated List of Actions.

I. Closing of Meeting

Chair thanked all and closed the meeting.