



Nordic Hydrographic Commission



Minutes
of the
64th Nordic Hydrographic Commission Meeting 2021
Hosted by Icelandic Coast Guard
April 20th-21st 2021 08:30-12:00 GMT

Online Meeting using Teams video conferencing software

Participants

DK: Elizabeth Hageman, Jens Peter Weiss Hartmann
FI: Jarmo Mäkinen, Juha Korsi, Maarit Mikkelsen, Rainer Mustaniemi
IS: Árni Þór Vésteinsson, Georg Kr. Lárusson
NO: Birte Noer Borrevik, Evert Flier
SE: Annika Kindeberg, Magnus Wallhagen, Patrik Wiberg
IHO: Mathias Jonas
Secretaries: Niels Bjarki Finsen, Sigríður Ragna Sverrisdóttir

Day 1 - April 20th 2021

A. Opening formalities

A.1 Opening of NHC 64

Docs:

[NHC64_2021_A.1_List of Participants](#)

Mr. Georg Kr. Lárusson, Director General of the Icelandic Coast Guard, opened NHC 64 and welcomed all participants to the meeting. He encouraged cooperation such as the NHC and emphasized the importance of such cooperation and discussed the changes in meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the general familiarity of online meetings and the side-benefits of those for such cooperation. He then handed control of the meeting to Vice Chair Árni Þór Vésteinsson, head ICG Hydrographic and Maritime Safety Department.

A.2 Adoption of the Agenda

Docs:

[NHC64_2021_A.2_Draft Agenda](#)

The meeting approved the draft agenda.

A.3 Minutes and Actions

[NHC64_2021_A.3.1_NHC EO3 021120 - Minutes_Final.pdf](#)

[NHC64_2021_A.3.2_NHC EO3_2020_Final_List of Actions](#)

Minutes of NHC EO3 were approved.

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

B. IHO Work Program 1 – “Corporate affairs”

B.1.1 Report from the IHO Secretariat and outcome of Council 4

Docs:

[NHC64_2021_B.1.1_IHO_SEC_Report_V0.1](#)

Dr Mathias Jonas elaborated on Georg Lárusson’s discussion on the positive effects of the COVID situation regarding online meetings and technological advances. The last Assembly of the IHO resulted in a series of important decisions. The assembly was followed directly by the 4th Council Meeting.

Dr Jonas mentioned that it is a shame that the pandemic has hit us in this 100-year anniversary year, where there were great plans for meetings. This date cannot be postponed, it is June 21st, 2021 and there will be events to celebrate the past, the present and the future of hydrographic work.



All member states discussed the report of the IHO Sec. Focus on capacity building, VTC-meetings, e-learning and widening the angle on data acquisition, use and distribution.

B.1.2 NHC strategic work, second Nordic workshop

Denmark

Docs:

NHC64_2021_B.1.2_NHC strategic work

DK opened the discussion on a NHC project team on strategy and user issues.

The overall scope should be to identify the data set we need and the different user groups and user needs. How can we facilitate these needs and share our knowledge?

Once we have been able to define these user groups and how different user segments need different data sets. Norway has focused on this and this analysis should give us a good understanding of this and give us a new focus on maybe data we do not have. NHC should investigate the need for existing data but also for possible new data needs and focus areas. The value of data and prioritization of data acquisition.

What is it we want the project team to focus on, what should the deliverables be? Should the NHC actually focus on these user needs, do we have the resources to establish such a project team? Should we do this?

Action 3. Workshop on NHC strategy. Denmark

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

Docs:

NHC64_2021_B.2_DK_National Report Denmark

NHC64_2021_B.3_FI_National Report Finland

NHC64_2021_B.4_IS_National Report Iceland

NHC64_2021_B.5_NO_National Report Norway

NHC64_2021_B.6_SE_National Report Sweden

Brief verbal updates on national reports.

C. IHO Work Programme 2 – “Hydrographic Services and Standards”

C.1 Status Seabed 2030

NO: Making existing data available. A big challenge to get access to intelligence data or even polygons of where intelligence data is available. Focus on gathering data. Another challenge is data sharing between states, for data within EEZ. The Nordic countries are setting a good example with data sharing. Generally strict restrictions within Territorial Waters. If we are to face the challenges of the UN Ocean Decade, access to bathymetric data is essential.

C.2 Launch of website “dybdetata.no” (depthdata)

NO presented the Depth data website <https://dybdedata.kartverket.no>

C.3 NHC NCPEG_Draft ToR and RoP

Docs:

NHC64_2021_C.3_NCPEG_Draft ToR and RoP

IS Opened a discussion into NCPEG ToR and RoP. Should those be re-evaluated or should NCPEG and NSEG possibly be merged to one? Now that Covid has brought us online meeting efficiency and meeting online, maybe more often than until now.

NO: A good idea to evaluate where we want this expert group to go. Time has passed and things change. Should this meeting evaluate the edits or should we task that to the working group.

FI: We are back to the discussion from before. Maybe we should have a principal discussion on what the goal of this work should be and what should be the expected deliverables?

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The meeting also discussed possible cooperation with Teledyne CARIS as most HO's are using their software for charts and ENC's.

IS: Proposes changes to the NCPEG ToR. IS suggests NHC finish this work per correspondence.

Action 2. NCPEG to make draft ToR and RoP to be approved by NHC per correspondence. Iceland.

C.4 Norwegian Ports Database

Docs:

[NHC64_2021_C.4_Norwegian Ports Database](#)

NO presented the Norwegian Ports Database. Discussions on possible opportunities on an international level. The responsibility of updating is key, the old harbour pilots had an update interval of up to seven years. If the responsibility is the harbours' this increases update frequency enormously.

IHO: We need a user case and data for the harbours themselves. They need an easy-to-use front end for a database. I see great use for this to stimulate this development internationally.

NO: You can have a "squeeze" when you have a system that fits well nationally but maybe not Internationally. Kristiansand is a harbour that is at the forefront of this.

FI: Finland has taken a first step to a similar arrangement with the ports, based on that the ports themselves update the information.

Day 2 - April 21st 2021

D. IHO Work Programme 3 – "Inter Regional Coordination and Support"

D.1 WENDWG10&11

Docs:

[NHC64_2021_D.1_WENDWG report](#)

SE: reported on WENDWG-11. NHC nations are well represented within WENDWG. Annika Kindeberg was re-elected as vice-chair of WENDWG.

D.2 New Shipping Routes in Danish and Swedish waters

Docs:

[NHC64_2021_D.2_New_Shipping_Routes](#)

DK: Presented new shipping routes system in Kattegat and Skagerrak July 2020. Implementation went well, cooperation between DK and SE was excellent and resulted in a good cooperation with users, both large shipping and smaller vessels.

SE: Spoke of routing measures along the Swedish coast where fuel consumption was considered when choosing the route. A theoretical reduction in fuel consumption of 6% was calculated.

D.3 - IHO MSDIWG/OGC MWG/UN-GGIM WGMG

Docs:

[NHC64_2021_D.3_IHO MSDIWG 2021](#)

DK: Presented the work of MSDIWG. Denmark aims to participate and support this. We would like to test how we can deliver data, using OGC (Open Geospatial Consortium) standards. We would also like to do a pilot project in the Arctic.



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NO: One of the good things happening because of this work is that MSDI is no longer just a niche but a real issue to be discussed generally. MSDI, we have said is “more for the more mature activities” but in fact it should be right from the start of activities. On the comment from IHO on the hydrographic infrastructure in Norway. This work should be able to influence other HO’s in how this has been done, the cooperation is key in this work.

IHO: MSDI and SDI have developed very differently in different countries. This is a challenge for such large international working groups, and we need to have more of a regional approach for this. How can we use the governments in the regions to promote this?

D.4 Pilot projects:

Docs:

[NHC64_2012_D4.1_Chart ambassadors in Greenland](#)

[NHC64_2021_D4.2_Production of Greenlandic ENC Simple – ENC Basis](#)

D.4.1 Chart ambassadors in Greenland

DK presented Nautical chart ambassador pilot project in Greenland. Social media has been used to reach out to users, to get information to and from them. The users have shown great interest.

D.4.2. Production of Greenlandic ENC Simple – ENC Basis

DK introduced a new type of ENC’s with basic information for Greenland. These Basic ENC have a detailing on their “limitations”. The ENC’s will be sold as normal ENC’s and in the same way. Areas without multibeam surveys will be presented as “unsurveyed”.

D.5 IRCC13 preparations. NHC report to IRCC13

IS: The responsibility of delivering the NHC report to IRCC is with the new chair, with assistance from the previous chair.

E. Any other business

E.1

Discussion on a new strategic plan and a possible update of Statutes of the NHC. Comparison of focus between commissions, especially NHC, the Baltic Sea and North Sea HC’s. Are there issues that are not being covered by any of the three commissions and if not, should NHC take those to consideration? **DK suggests an action item and that the new chair should prepare a discussion document and send it out two months before the meeting, for the member states to be able to discuss it internally before the meeting, see Action 3 & 4.**

FI: It would be very useful to have a contact network for actual technical issues to ask from the other member states experts. It would be fine to add a list of contacts to minutes. This contact network can be under NCPEG and consist of members of NCPEG.

IS proposed changes to NCPEG ToR. IS will initiate this work per correspondence and send draft for consideration no later than October 2021 as per Action 2.

IS started a discussion on public access to hydrographic data and data resolution.

DK: I think we will change our restrictions on data and are moving towards 50x50m (currently 500x500m) this will require some changes in the law, so it may take some time. Denmark shares data with EMODnet.

IHO: EMODnet is a great place to channel this, they also supply to GEBCO so that should be a great platform to share this data.

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NO: Look at the data centric approach, use as few points as possible. EMODnet has some of the best systems in the world. Possibly EMODnet could become a global standard for this.

F. Election of new Chair and Vice Chair

Norway will host next NHC meeting. Chair: Birte Noer Borrevik, Vice Chair: Evert Flier.

G. Place and date of next Meeting

Stavanger, Norway. Tuesday 26th and 27th of April 2022.

H. Review of NHC List of Actions

Docs:
[NHC64_2021_H_List of Actions_draft_v2.0](#)

I. Closing of Meeting

Vice Chair thanked all and closed the meeting.