



The 65th Nordic Hydrographic Commission Meeting

26 – 27 April 2022 Stavanger, Norway

Final Minutes

Participants

DK: Pia Dahl Højgaard, Elizabeth Hageman, Jens Peter Weiss Hartmann

FI: Rainer Mustaniemi

IS: Árni Vésteinsson,

NO: Birte Noer Borrevik, Evert Flier, Edward Hands

SE: Annika Kindeberg,

IHO: Mathias Jonas

A. Opening Formalities

A.1 Opening of Conference

Docs:

[NHC65_A.1_List of Participants](#)

A.2 Welcome from the host country

Docs:

[NHC65_A.2_NHC63 Program](#)

Birte Borrevik, Director of the Norwegian Hydrographic Service opened NHC 65 and welcomed all participants to the meeting. She encouraged continued cooperation and good discussions. Evert Flier, International Coordinator from the Norwegian Hydrographic Service was introduced as the Chair of the meeting. He welcomed participants and provided a short introduction to the area.

A.3 Adoption of the Agenda

Docs:

[NHC65_A.3_Draft Agenda](#)

Evert Flier noted that a new version of the agenda, version 6 had been prepared and highlighted the relevant changes. Several additional topics were suggested for discussion during the meeting including: changes to the structure of National Reports, the future of the two NHC expert groups, and issues surrounding NHC Member States representation at IHO Council. It was agreed that all topics could be addressed under existing sections of the agenda and the agenda was approved as amended.

A.4 Minutes and actions from NHC64

Docs:

[NHC65_A.4.1_NHC64_Final Minutes](#)

[NHC65_A.4.2_Status of NHC64 List of Actions](#)

The Minutes of NHC 64 were formally approved

The list of actions from NHC 64 was reviewed and updated accordingly (See Annex 1)

Action 1: Nordic member states to establish CATZOC policies and provide information to DQWG. – Action ongoing and the following action was agreed.

ACTION 1: DQWG Chair (NO) to make a fresh call for CATZOC 'best practice' from NHC Member States.

Action 2: NCPEG to make a draft ToR and RoP to be approved by NHC per correspondence - **Completed.**

Action 3: Workshop on NHC strategy - **Completed.**

Action 4: MS to assign strategy workshop contact person- **Completed.**

Action 5: MS to inform on data distribution policy with regards to resolution, TW and EEZ. - It was agreed that this was an ongoing action.

All member states provided a short update on the current status regarding data distribution.

DK: In the process of distributing a 50M model for free.

NO: 50M grid is currently provided for free. Areas along the coast shallower than 30m will be provided for free once the legislation is in place.

SE: Have encountered problems with classification and distribution but a 300M model is currently provided for free.

FI: Territorial waters are still restricted, no changes foreseen. Inside EEZ 2m model distributed for free

IS: 3-5 year plan to build a database to provide public access to data but questions around resolution.

Action 6: NHC chair to prepare a discussion document on NHC strategy and distribute to MS two months before strategy WS. - **Completed.**

Action P1: To consider inviting employees from other HO's to national Hydrographic and Cartographic courses when appropriate. – This action was originally proposed by DE with consideration to the Faroe Islands. It was noted however that Faroe Islands could be included as part of the Danish Delegation and therefore it was agreed that this action could be removed. – **Removed.**

Action P2: To report status and developments under S-100 (under agenda item e- Navigation). – This is an ongoing request and was retained.

Action P3: Coordinating all actions needed within the NHC in case of a disaster. – It was agreed that the working relationships between NHC Member States are already sufficient to enable effective cooperation in case of disaster and that this action could be removed – **Removed.**

Action D1: Member states to follow IHO Res 2/1997 recommendations in their national reports to RHC. – It was noted that this issue would be discussed in greater detail later in the meeting but that the action could be removed as a permanent action. – **Removed.**

B. IHO Work Programme 1 - "Corporate affairs"

B.1 Report from the IHO secretariat and outcome of Council 5

Docs:

NHC65_B.1_Report from the IHO Secretariat

IHO C-5 Summary Report

Dr. Mathias Jonas Secretary-General of the IHO, reported on the Secretariat's work, Council matters and Work Programme items. Various topics were included for consideration including updates on IHO membership and contributions, implementation of the IHO Strategic Plan and the HSSC dual fuel governance document. Proactive support for the Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH) project was encouraged and it was noted that there is a vacancy for manager of this project. NHC

members were invited to consider providing contributions of online learning materials to the Project Team established for the IHO e-Learning Center at KHOA and it was emphasized that this initiative was very much dependent on contributions from Member States. NHC MS were encouraged to consider extending the production of HD ENC's and to continue to follow and evaluate the possibility to contribute to the CB Programme and were encouraged to become actively involved in the GEBCO Programme a. The importance of MSDi was emphasized. Members are invited to submit papers for publication in the International Hydrographic review (IHR). Details were shared regarding the forthcoming 3rd IHO Assembly 2023 and The NHC was invited to discuss and put forward its view for strategic directions on the portfolio of work items to be incorporated into the plan with a particular focus on goals 2 and 3. In closing the need for S-100 showcase projects was highlighted. However it was acknowledged individual Member States are usually too small and there is therefore a need for regions to provide synchronized approaches to better display the possibilities.

B.1.1 Status from the NHC strategic workshop

Docs:

NHC65_B.1.1 Status NHC Strategic work shop 2021

DK provided a report on the work from the NHC strategic workshop held in 2021. Potential users were divided into 5 different user groups, the user groups were again divided into 12 different subgroups. The Workshop participants developed 12 matrices covering all subgroups, specifying the different datasets that it expected would be of interest for the subgroups. It was recommended that this document should be seen as a living document that can create the framework for internal and regional discussion about the user needs in a forward-looking perspective.

NO noted the value of the work and resulting matrix and questioned if it should be included as an annex in the IRRC report.

It was acknowledged that the strategy group had produced some valuable work and participants discussed the way forward for the group. It was proposed to close the group but to continue to have strategic topics on the agenda and address these issues on a case by case basis establishing ad-hoc groups as required.

B.1.2 Alignment of the NHC statutes with the IHO strategy

Docs:

NHC65_B.1.2 Alignment of the NHC statutes with the IHO strategy

DK presented a summary of work related to the alignment of the NHC statutes with IHO strategy.

IHO has developed a new strategic plan. An important question is how this new strategic plan can/will impact NHC and where that can be best reflected. Two issues have been identified. Firstly NHC is a slightly different RHC in that the regional geographical area is already taken care of through both the NSHC and the BSHC. NHC can therefore focus on the IHO strategic goals and targets on a more conceptual level and not on the SPI's as those are taken care of through NSHC and BSHC. Secondly the current objectives in NHC statutes are very generic, provide little guidance and it could therefore be beneficial for NHC to align our statutes to the IHO strategic plan. DK conducted analysis of the IHO goals with regards to existing NHC objectives in order for them to be aligned and drafted new NHC objectives for the NHC Statutes. The implications of the work were discussed and resulted in the following action:

ACTION 2: DK to circulate statutes to NHC Member States and request:

- 1) Comments and feedback on the revised objectives.
- 2) Suggestions for necessary adjustments to the statutes.

And evaluate next steps following feedback.

B.1.3 Strategy work at the Norwegian Mapping Authority

Docs:

NHC65 B.1.3 Strategy work within the Norwegian Hydrographic Office

NO set out the high level strategic goals for the Norwegian mapping Authority for the period up to 2025 and presented a roadmap for how these will be achieved. The importance of ensuring they have a complete overview of data owners they need to use was highlighted. It was agreed that the proposed strategy was very ambitious but was also very visionary and was heading in the right direction.

B.1.4 Strategic Manning for the Hydrographic Office of the Future

NO opened the discussion surrounding the changing requirements for the kind of personal hydrographic offices will need in the future. It was agreed there would be a need to employ people with a much wider range of professional backgrounds in coming years to address changing demands.

B.2 - B.6 National Reports

Docs:

NHC65_B.2_DK_National Report Denmark

NHC65_B.3_FI_National Report Finland

NHC65_B.4_IS_National Report Iceland

NHC65_B.4_National Report of Iceland presentation

NHC65_B.5_NO_National Report Norway

NHC65 B.5 Norway Standardization and digitalization of Port data.

NHC65_B.6_SE_National Report Sweden

Brief verbal updates were provided by member states on key elements contained within their national reports.

NO took the opportunity to provide information on their work surrounding the Standardization and digitalization of Port data.

C. IHO Work Programme 2 - "Hydrographic Services and Standards"

C.1 S-100 implementation: discussion how to make S-100 data sets we do not own available + distribution of S-102

Docs:

NHC65 C.1 S-100 datasets S-129 UKCM Operational Test Tjeldsundet

NO initiated a very interesting discussion around S-100 implementation and how mariners can access S-100 datasets by providing a presentation of several operational tests that have taken place in Norway as part of the S-100 demonstrator project. It was noted that defining who owns what data is fundamental in the delivery of S-100 datasets. Questions were also raised regarding the distribution of dynamic datasets such as S-111 and how these would be updated.

C.2 High density contours in ENC

Docs:

NHC65_C.2.1_High density contours in the Finnish ENCs

FI provided a presentation on their work to provide enriched depth information in the Finnish ENCs A new Nautical Chart Production System (AHTI) with an automatic depth contouring and (semi-) automatic sounding selection tools are in use. The Rolling coin method is used for depth contour processing. A high density contours will be applied for the major merchant fairways and ports in large scale ENCs. As a general rule: A one meter interval for range between 6 meter depth and safe clearance depth as well as one meter over the safe clearance depth of the fairway in question.

DK highlighted the legal constraints between HD depth contour created by HO's and those generated from S-102 datasets on-board ships. – HO's will need to investigate ensuring consistency between HD ENCs and S-102.

IS requested further details from FI and it was agreed that this would be useful for all. This resulted in the following action:

ACTION 3: FI to share contact details related to the generation of HD Contours with all NHC Member States.

C.3 NHC NCPEG

*Docs:
NHC65_C.3.1_NCPEG_Meeting report*

NO initiated an open discussion regarding the future of the two expert groups NCPEG and NSEG

FI noted that NCPEG was a fairly active group.

DK considers NCPEG to be a very useful group and intends to raise its participation level.

IS presented a revised draft of the TOR's and ROP for NCPEG. This was then distributed to all participants.

DK Enquired as to what it is we want the group to discuss .

NO suggested that there was a clear need for more specific guidance to the groups.

IS noted that there was a need for contact points and more defined tasks for the groups.

DK suggested that it would be desirable for the groups to highlight issues they believe are useful before the NHC meeting and advise on topics that could be covered by NHC meetings.

Based on the discussions the following actions were agreed upon:

ACTION 4: NHC Member States to appoint suitable representatives to determine the future tasks of both the NSEG and NCPEG and provide contact details to DK.

ACTION 5: DK to arrange meetings of the appropriate NHC Member States representatives in order to collaborate and define the scope, tasks, and way forward of both the NSEG and NCPEG.

ACTION 6: NSEG and NCPEG to appoint Chairs and arrange meetings. And agree on how best to share information.

C.4 Status of the OGC pilot project about S-122 (Marine protected areas)

*Docs:
NHC65_C.4_Status of the OGC pilot project about S-122*

DK presented a status report on the OGC Pilot project concerning S-122 – Marine Protected Areas. It was noted that the main challenge was determining the owners and getting access to the data.

C.5 The need for harmonization of T&P information in ENC

Docs:

NHC65_C.5_The need for harmonization of TP information in ENC

DK made a presentation of the DGA policy for including T/P messages in ENC's. Different MS have different guidelines/policies for the inclusion of T/P messages in ENCs and this can result in uncertainty among the mariners with regards to what kind of information is included in ENCs

More frequent updating of ENC due to updating with T&P is expected to increase this uncertainty. In order to minimize this uncertainty it was recommended that the NHC MS initiate activities with the aim of harmonizing policies for T/P messages. It was suggested that the NHC NCPEG could be the best placed to carry out this work and the following action was agreed upon:

ACTION 7: NCPEG to compile best practice from all NHC Member States on procedures relating to the provision of T/P in ENC messages and make recommendations for standardization of practice.

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

D.1 WENDWG12

Docs:

NHC65_D1_WEND report

SE reported on WENDWG-12. NHC nations are well represented within WENDWG Annika Kindeberg is Vice Chair of WENDWG. The WENDWG recommendation that each RHCs appoint an S-100 Coordinator was noted however it was agreed that this role will generally be covered from within the Baltic and North Sea HC's.

D.2 Status Seabed 2030 / CSB / GEBCO

Docs:

NO provided information from the last GEBCO meeting and stressed the importance for increased public engagement. Furthermore the meeting was informed of the establishment of a new education and training subcommittee and strategy process drafting group.

D.3 IRCC14 preparations. NHC report to IRCC14

Docs:

IRCC13-13C_Draft_List_Recommendations to RHCs

DK opened a discussion around what to include in the report to IRRC 14. A number of topics were raised during the discussion and they were assigned to different sections of the report:

1. Key achievements:

- 100% response rate form NHC MS to CSB Questionnaire
- Strategic work
- S-100 Discussions
- Several countries have made progress with national MSDI activities e.g NO and IS

2. Important findings:

- Recognition of changing needs with regards staffing requirements in HO's in the future
- Need to harmonize T/P practice in NHC MS
- HD Contours – NO and FI
- Gap Analysis – Consider changing statuses.

3. Lessons learned:

- Highlights need for a review of the two Expert groups in terms of membership, TOR's and work.
- S-100 Showcases NO: S-131 DK: S-122
- Pilot Project

4. Proposals:

- Other RHC to discuss T/P issues.
- Use the IHO portal to showcase S-100 activities.
- HO's to assume a geo-coordinating role to help ensure provision of data.

In addition the meeting considered the list of recommendations to RHCs from IRRC 13 and it was considered that the NHC had met all applicable recommendations.

Workshop Session:

The meeting discussed the various scenarios surrounding Council representation and agreed on a number of possible ways forward.

Consideration was also given to the structure of National Reports; it was acknowledged that some of the information currently included could be considered unnecessary or could be disseminated via alternative methods. Furthermore there was agreement that not all national reports from the NHC need to follow the same format. As a result of the discussion the following actions were agreed:

ACTION 8: NHC Member States to rethink the structure of their National Reports to make them more effective and better suit their utility in HC discussions.

ACTION 9: Chair to circulate questionnaire relating to action 8 to gather views for discussion ahead of NHC 66.

E. Any other business

No items were raised

F. Election of new Chair and Vice-Chair

Denmark will host the next NHC meeting. Chair: Pia Dahl Højgaard, Vice Chair: Jens Peter Weiss Hartmann

G. Location and date of next Meeting

Alborg, Denmark Tuesday 21st and 22nd of March 2023.

H. Review of NHC65 List of actions

Docs:
[*NHC65_2022_List of Actions_draft_v1.0*](#)

The list of actions from the meeting were reviewed and amended as appropriate.

I. Closing the Meeting

The Chair and Vice Chair thanked all for their participation and closed the meeting.

Annex 1

NHC64 List of Actions

No.	Agenda item	Action	Responsible	Timeframe	Remark Status from NHC 65
1	NHC63 B.1	Nordic member states to establish CATZOC policies and provide information to DQWG.	All MS	May 2021	Ongoing
2	NHCEO1 B.1.	NCPEG to make a draft ToR and RoP to be approved by NHC per correspondence.	Iceland	May 2021	Complete
3	NHC64 E.1	Workshop on NHC strategy	Denmark	2 nd half 2021	Complete
4	NHC64 E.1	MS to assign strategy workshop contact person.	All MS	June 2021	Complete
5	NHC64 E.1	MS to inform on data distribution policy with regards to resolution, TW and EEZ.	All MS	NHC65	Ongoing request
6	NHC64 E.1	NHC chair to prepare a discussion document on NHC strategy and distribute to MS two months before strategy WS.	Chair	2 months before strategy Workshop	Complete

No.	Agenda item	Permanent Action	Responsible	Time	Remark
P1	NHC63 D.6	To consider inviting employees from other HO's to national Hydrographic and Cartographic courses when appropriate.	All MS	Permanent	Can be removed
P2	NHC63 D.3	To report status and developments under S-100 (under agenda item e- Navigation).	All MS	Permanent	Ongoing request
P3	NHC62 D.6	Coordinating all actions needed within the NHC in case of a disaster.	All MS	Permanent	Can be removed
No.	Agenda item	Decision	Responsible	Time	Remark
D1	NHC63 B.1.1	Member states to follow IHO Res 2/1997 recommendations in their national reports to RHC.	All MS	Permanent	Can be removed

