



Royal Netherlands Navy

**To:** Rear Admiral Tom, Karsten, Chair of IRCC  
**Copy:** NSHC members  
IHB, Director M. Iptes

Netherlands Ministry of Defence

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**Our reference**  
CZSK/2015001160

**Enclosed**  
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*Please quote date, our reference and  
subject when replying.*

**Date:** 9 March 2015

**Subject:** Progress report IRCC actions

**NSHC CIRCULAR LETTER No 02/2015**

Please find attached the response to IRCC Circular Letter 05/2014 for the North Sea Hydrographic Commission.

It consist of 3 parts.

- Report of the North Sea Hydrographic Commission (NSHC) for the 7th IRCC meeting, 2015.
- North Sea Hydrographic Commission progress report on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2014 Work Programme for the 7th IRCC meeting, 2015.
- North Sea Hydrographic Commission report on estimated values of Strategic Level Performance Indicators and Working Level Performance Indicators for the 7th IRCC meeting, 2015.

This response takes into account the feedback of the NSHC member states on the earlier preliminary response send by mail on 13 February 2015.

Yours sincerely,

*Captain RNLN M.C.J. (Marc) van der Donck*  
Hydrographer of the Royal Netherlands Navy  
Chairman, North Sea Hydrographic Commission

## **Report of the North Sea Hydrographic Commission (NSHC) for the 7th IRCC meeting, 2015**

Submitted by the Hydrographic Service of the Royal Netherlands Navy, 9 March 2015

### 1. chairman:

Evert Flier (NO): until June 27, 2014

Peter Kortenoeven (NL): June 27, 2014 until September 12, 2014

Marc van der Donck (NL): September 12, 2014 until present

### 2. vice-chairman:

Peter Kortenoeven (NL): until June 27, 2014

Declan Black (IE): June 27, 2014 until present

### 3. membership:

BE, DE, DK, FR, IE, IS, NL, NO, SE, UK

### 4. meetings:

31st meeting: Amsterdam (NL), 25-27 June 2014

32nd meeting: Dublin (IE), June 2016

### 5. Working Groups:

- North Sea ENC Harmonization Working Group and Region D International Chart Coordination Working Group (chaired by UK)
- Resurvey Working Group (chaired by NL) and Dover Strait Survey Policy Working Group (BE, FR, NL, UK)  
*Pending approval of the four MS, the DSSP WG will become part of the Resurvey WG.*
- Tidal Working Group (rotating chair, currently NL)
- EU Marine & Maritime Policy Working Group (chaired by FR): disbanded on September 2, 2104  
*The group continues as the IHO/EU Network Working Group under IRCC.*

## 6. Overview of relevant IRCC actions

Action identifier	Topic	Actions taken	Status
IRCC6/01	Pending applications for IHO membership	Not applicable, all relevant HOs are a member.	permanent
IRCC6/02	Ratification of the IHO Convention by pending applicants	BE is making progress; all other MS have ratified.	permanent
IRCC6/03	Participation of stakeholders	Stakeholders participate on a regular basis. The next Conference will consist of an open and a closed session, to accommodate the various needs.	permanent
IRCC6/04	Suspended Member States	Not applicable	permanent
IRCC6/05	Progress reports on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2014 Work Programme	See separate document " <i>North Sea Hydrographic Commission progress report on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2014 Work Programme for the 7th IRCC meeting, 2015</i> ".	permanent
IRCC6/07	Estimated values of Strategic Level Performance Indicators and Working Level Performance Indicators	Estimated values as of 31 December 2014 and target values for 31 December 2017 are given in the separate document " <i>North Sea Hydrographic Commission report on estimated values of Strategic Level Performance Indicators and Working Level Performance Indicators for the 7th IRCC meeting, 2015</i> ". The indicators are complemented by comments on the difficulties encountered and suggestions for a way forward.	permanent
IRCC6/08	Attendance of GEBCO Guiding Committee / Bathymetric Regional Project Chairs	The GEBCO Digital Atlas Manager attended NHSC31, aiming at strengthening collaboration with a priority on improving high resolution shallow water bathymetry at the North Sea level. GEBCO will be invited for NHSC32 again.	permanent
IRCC6/09	Promotion and cooperation relating to Satellite Derived Bathymetry	The NSHC Resurvey Working Group is monitoring developments, and it is a regular agenda item for NSHC Conferences.	permanent
IRCC6/15	Material provided to IHB to promote the achievements of IRCC bodies	The MS are encouraged to provide materials.	permanent
IRCC6/16	Promotion of the achievements of IRCC bodies	The MS are encouraged to promote achievements on a national level.	permanent

## 7. Conclusions and achievements

NSHC focuses on the following topics:

1. shared European contacts and projects, in cooperation with other European HOs;
2. shared progress to reach an up to date bathymetric dataset for the North Sea, taking into account resurvey strategies for dynamic areas and emerging survey methods (LIDAR, SDB, CSB);
3. shared experiences relating to Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures, notably through establishing a BSHC/NSHC MSDI Working Group;
4. shared progress on the establishment of vertical reference frames, including national Chart Datums, references suitable for the coastal zone, and Ellipsoidally referenced Surveying.

The level of cooperation is excellent and progress on those four topics is satisfactory, although the region needs to accept a limited survey capacity (topic 2), and lacks an international initiative to establish a consistent set of references for the entire North Sea area (topic 4).

## 8. Acknowledgements

BE, DE, FR, IE, NO and SE are kindly acknowledged for their useful feedback.

## North Sea Hydrographic Commission progress report on the relevant tasks in the IHO 2014 Work Programme for the 7th IRCC meeting, 2015

Submitted by the Hydrographic Service of the Royal Netherlands Navy, 9 March 2015

### IHO Work Programme 1 – "Corporate Affairs"

*Element 1.1: Co-operation with International Organizations and participation in relevant meetings.*

Task	Topic	Actions taken
1.1.4	European Union	The NSHC EU2MPWG was disbanded, and the new IHO/EU Network Working Group was established. NSHC MS are involved in several projects of DG Mare: EMODNet (current phase and planning of next phase); tendering for the future Coastal Mapping project; interaction about the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive.
1.1.5	FIG	The NSHC Tidal Working Group provided input for the new FIG Publication 62 "Ellipsoidally Referenced Surveying for Hydrography", published by Working Group 1 "Ellipsoidally Referenced Hydrographic Surveys" of Commission 4 "Hydrography"
1.1.6	IFHS	Several MS attended the Hydro14 conference in Scotland in November.
1.1.12	International Maritime Organization	MSC: Several MS are involved in MSC meetings. NCSR Subcommittee: Several MS are involved in NCSR meetings.
1.1.14	UNESCO-IOC	GEBCO: A close relation with GEBCO is maintained through the GEBCO Atlas Manager.
1.1.18	United Nations	UN-GGIM: The NSHC EU2MPWG appointed FR as its representative to UN-GGIM.

### IHO Work Programme 2 - "Hydrographic Services and Standards"

Element	Topic	Actions taken
2.7	Tides and Water Levels	UK liaises between the Tidal and Water Level Working Group and the NHSC Tidal Working Group.
2.9	Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures	The NHSC was invited to the BSHC MSDI Working Group. NHSC aims to expand this group into a combined NSHC/BSHC Working Group. To that end, the chair of BSHC will be approached.
2.13	Surface Currents	NL liaises between the Surface Current Working Group and the NHSC Tidal Working Group.

## IHO Work Programme 3 – " Inter Regional Coordination and Support"

### Various Elements

Task	Topic	Actions taken
3.1.1	Arctic Region Hydrographic Commission	As a European RHC, ARHC was represented in the NSHC EU2MPWG.
3.1.2	Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission	The NHSC Tidal and Resurvey Working Groups are in contact with their BSHC sister groups. The NHSC was invited to the BSHC MSDI Working Group. NHSC aims to expand this group into a combined NSHC/BSHC Working Group. To that end, the chair of BSHC will be approached. As a European RHC, BSHC was represented in the NSHC EU2MPWG.
3.1.4	East Atlantic Hydrographic Commission	As a European RHC, EatHC was represented in the NSHC EU2MPWG.
3.1.6	Mediterranean & Black Sea Hydrographic Commission	As a European RHC, MBSHC was represented in the NSHC EU2MPWG.
3.1.7	Nordic Hydrographic Commission	As a European RHC, NHC was represented in the NSHC EU2MPWG.
3.1.17	WEND Working Group	UK represented the NSHC during WENDWG4 in Brazil in March 2014.
3.1.18	Industry participation	Industry participation is common and appreciated during the open session of NSHC Conferences.
3.2.11	Approval of pending IHO membership	The MS are encouraged to approve pending IHO memberships.
3.2.12	Ratification of IHO Convention	BE is making progress; all other MS have ratified.
3.3.1	Capacity Building Subcommittee	UK represented the NSHC during CBSC12 in France in May 2014.
3.6.1	C-55 Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting World-wide	Status of hydrographic surveying is monitored by the NSHC Resurvey Working Group. Status of Nautical charting is monitored by the Region D International Chart Coordination Working Group.
3.6.2	Implementation of the WEND principles	NO represented the NSHC during WENDWG4 in Brazil in March 2014.
3.6.3	ENC schemes, consistency and quality	ENC schemes, consistency and quality are monitored by the North Sea ENC Harmonization Working Group.
3.6.4	INT Chart Schemes and availability of the INT Chart Series	INT Charts are managed by the Region D International Chart Coordination Working Group.
3.6.5	Global status of hydrographic surveying	Status of hydrographic surveying is monitored by the NSHC Resurvey Working Group.

**North Sea Hydrographic Commission report on estimated values of Strategic Level Performance Indicators and Working Level Performance Indicators for the 7th IRCC meeting, 2015**

Submitted by the Hydrographic Service of the Royal Netherlands Navy, 9 March 2015

Indicators for IRCC

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Value as of 31 Dec 2014</b>	<b>Target value for 31 Dec 2017</b>	<b>Comments and suggestions</b>
SPI7	Increase in participation/ membership in RHCs	full participation and full membership	full participation and full membership	All relevant HOs are a member.
WPI18	Percentage of IHO MS updating C-55	hydrographic survey: 100% of respondents INT charts: 100% of respondents ENC: 100% of respondents MSI: 57% of respondents	hydrographic survey: 100% INT charts: 100% ENC: 100% MSI: 100%	43% of the respondents indicated that MSI is outside of their responsibility.
WPI19	Status of hydrographic surveys	<i>Metrics yet to be defined.</i>	<i>Metrics yet to be defined.</i>	<i>Metrics yet to be defined.</i>
WPI20	INT charts	Percentage of agreed INT chart schemes: 100% Percentage of INT charts available: 100%	Percentage of agreed INT chart schemes: 100% Percentage of INT charts available: 100%	Mature INT-scheme, subject to incidental change
WPI22	Increase in effective MS participation	MS participation stable at a high level.	MS participation stable at a high level.	None
WPI29	Coastal States with a national SDI	As all MS have obligations under the EU INSPIRE Directive, there is a national SDI for each MS.	As all MS have obligations under the EU INSPIRE Directive, there is a national SDI for each MS.	None
WPI40	Agreements signed	RENC membership: none, all MS already are a RENC member bilaterals: 4 reported other: 5 reported	RENC membership: none, all MS already are a RENC member bilaterals: no target value applicable other: no target value applicable	NSHC HOs signed RENC agreements with MS outside of the NSHC region.

## Indicators for WEND

Indicator	Topic	Value as of 31 Dec 2014	Target value for 31 Dec 2017	Comments and suggestions
SPI1	Number and percentage of Coastal States providing ENC coverage	10, 100%	10, 100%	None
SPI8	Percentage of available / agreed ENC schemes.	100%	100%	Mature INT-scheme, subject to incidental change
WPI15	Growth in ENC coverage, as reported in the IHO on-line catalogue	0%	0%	The North Sea region is fully covered by ENCs.
WPI16	Number of additional IHO MS starting to produce & maintain (with/without support) relevant ENCs	0	0	All MS produce & maintain ENCs.
WPI21	Percentage of agreed ENC schemes, percentage of ENC available	100%, 100%	100%, 100%	The North Sea region is fully covered by ENCs.
WPI28	Percentage of Coastal States which provide ENC coverage	100%	100%	None



## Indicators for CBSC

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Value as of 31 Dec 2014</b>	<b>Target value for 31 Dec 2017</b>	<b>Comments and suggestions</b>
SPI3	Percentage of Coastal States which provide hydrographic services	100%	100%	None
WPI17	Percentage of Coastal States delivering hydrographic services	100%	100%	None
WPI26	Percentage of Coastal States which have achieved CB phase 1, 2 or 3 and established a National Hydrographic Office	100% for phase 3	100% for phase 3	None
WPI27	Number of States which have achieved CB phase 1, 2 or 3 and established a National Hydrographic Office in the reporting period	0	0	All MS have established a National Hydrographic Office earlier.