



Proposed amendments to the NSHC Statutes

Introduction/Background

The current version of the NSHC Statutes was agreed upon at the 32rd NSHC Conference in Dublin 2016. Since then the new IHO organization has taken place, the IHO Resolution 2/1997 on the Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions has been amended and a NSHC decision has been taken to arrange annual NSHC Conferences, biannual as a physical meeting and biannual as a VTC. These were reasons why then NSHC35 Conference in Reykjavik tasked the NSHC Chair to draft an amended version of the NSHC Statutes to reflect these changes.

When drafting the amended statutes, it was in addition identified that there was a need to amend the language to be gender neutral. In front of NSHC 36 2023, Sweden as the Chair of the NSHC and UK as the Vice-Chair of the NSHC cooperated to propose an amended version of the statutes in accordance with the identified needs. In addition, Sweden and UK also proposed an additional Annex B to the statutes to show the draft order of the NSHC Chair, Vice-Chair and responsible organizer of the NSHC Conference. A draft version of the amended version was presented by the Chair at NSHC 36.

Analysis/Discussion

NSHC 36 tasked the NSHC Chair to circulate the draft amended version of the Statutes to the Member States (MS) for feedback and comments (NSHC 16/2023). The Commission also decided that it intends to approve the amended statutes by correspondence, followed by a formal signing procedure at the NSHC 37 conference.

During the following review by correspondence additional proposed changes from the MS was received. France also suggested that Annex B, which included the order of NSHC Chair, Vice-Chair and organizer, should be removed from the statutes and be posted under the IHO NSHC to allow more flexibility. This was agreed upon and the document is now posted at the IHO NSHC website under Basic Document with the title "[Draft order of the NSHC Chair, Vice-Chair and Organizer](#)".

After the proposed changes was received the NSHC Chair circulated an updated version of the NSHC Statutes, which was endorsed by the Member States 30 September 2023. You will find a **clean version of the draft NSHC Statutes in Annex A** to this paper and a **redline version as Annex B**.

Recommendation

Sweden propose that the NSHC agree upon the formal approval and signing of the NSHC Statutes as presented in the annexes to this paper. After approval at NSHC 37 the amended NSHC Statutes will be deposited to the IHO Secretariat.

Actions requested by NSHC

- Note this paper
- Formally approve the endorsed version of the NSHC Statutes and sign the Statutes
- Take any further action as deemed appropriate