

Formation of an Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission.

1. The formation of an Arctic Hydrographic Commission (ARHC), under the terms of IHO Resolution T1.3 is now under active consideration by the bordering States. The areas of interest to the US-Canada Hydrographic Commission, the North Sea Hydrographic Commission and the Nordic Hydrographic Commission all border the areas of the Arctic and are expected to fall within ARHC.

2. Part of paragraph 3 of IHO Resolution T1.3 states that:

..... Geographical areas of the RHC will normally coincide with INT chart regions, modified as appropriate to meet regional requirements and special circumstances. There are special provisions for Region M (Antarctica) because of its special status.

3. The proposed statutes of the ARHC Article 2.a. defines: "Arctic Ocean Region" means the Arctic Ocean in the area not included in the geographical area of any other Regional Hydrographic Commission on the date of entry into force of these Statutes."

4. In view of the conditions set out in IHO Resolution T1.3.3 and particularly in view of the likely formation of an Arctic RHC in the near future, and the consequent requirement to define southern limits for the Arctic RHC, the NSHC is requested to consider how best to characterize its geographic area of interest.

5. Diagrams showing the designated boundaries of the existing RHCs, together with the boundaries of the INT chart regions are shown at Annex A.

Action Requested of the NSHC

6. **Consider** how best to characterize the geographic area of interest of the NSHC, taking into account IHO Resolution T1.3.3., and the likely establishment of an Arctic RHC in the near future.