

Report of the NSHC Re-Survey Working Group

1 Introduction

At the NSHC 27th Conference held in Rostock in September 2006 it was decided to establish a Working Group to determine a survey strategy for the North Sea area. The Working Group had one initial meeting, held in Rostock in 2007. After that the WG worked only by correspondence.

The use of a resurvey-plan for the different MS was revealed and the advantages of such a scheme on a political level were underlined.

It was agreed that AIS-tracks, radar-tracks or other traffic information is a good basis for the definition of main routes and areas of significant traffic. Data of other national administrations like MCA (UK) will be necessary to create a complete overview, where no IMO Regulations are in place. In some busy areas, e.g. Skagerak, traffic documentations like AIS-plots show no main shipping-routes. The definition of shipping-routes could compress the traffic to small areas and force the danger of collisions. In this areas no main shipping-routes should be defined.

2 Activities

At the 28th NSHC Conference the WG was tasked to

- define Routes and areas of significant traffic
 - provide the status of the surveys in the areas
 - complete the overview
 - merge additional information from all MS to provide a basis for jointly decisions
- Since then the work was mainly limited to the Dover-Strait area and an some minor updates of the overview of all available re-survey information from the North Sea.

3 Proposal

MS are invited to send updates or amendments to the existing scheme and to confirm or renominate members of the WG

To task the WG

- to complete the overview where applicable
- to publish the scheme on the internet
- to propose a way forward to harmonize the presentations of the resurvey schemes and of C55