

# **Report of the NORTH SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION 29<sup>th</sup> meeting in Brest France 28 to 29 September 2010**

## **A. OPENING FORMALITIES**

### **A1 Opening Remarks**

Director Svend Eskildsen – chair of the meeting - gave a cordial welcome to the delegates of the 29<sup>th</sup> NSHC Conference, especially to Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos, IHB. He informed that The Chair of the Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) Gilles Bessero, would arrive on the 29. September and therefore suggested that agenda items related to IRCC should be postponed to the second day.

Svend Eskildsen also thanked France for the reception held in the lounge Richelieu of Brest's city hall on Monday 06:00 p.m. and offered by the president of Brest Métropole Oceane Francois Cuillandre (mayor of Brest).

A round of introduction was made for the benefit of participants attending a NSHC meeting for the first time.

The chair thanked the host for the invitation and invited him to welcome the meeting.

The host of the conference, Director General of SHOM, Bruno Frachon, welcomed the participants to the SHOM facilities.

### **A2 Administrative Arrangements**

FR gave details of the practical arrangements for the conference.

### **A3 Adoption of Agenda**

The secretary introduced the list of documents. He presented the final revision of the Agenda, 3th version. The chair underlined that the agenda was very ambitious and recommended that the agenda items was introduced shortly followed by questions and answers.

The Agenda was adopted by the NSHC members.

### **A4 Conference Conclusions**

Conclusions from former meetings were all covered by the agenda.

#### **A4.1 Report of responses to UK's review of NSHC conclusions**

UK presented a report of responses to the review of NSHC conclusions (EN A4.1). The UK proposals for each active conclusion were considered by the commission.

UK's review of NSHC conclusions was accepted with the following modifications:

Conclusion items No's:

28. Resurveying of critical areas

Should be kept active until a coordinated survey plan is produced.

72. Report of the Tidal Working Group

Should be kept active, since there is still work to be done by the NSHC Tidal Working Group. NSHC tasked the TWG in accordance with the conclusion under item E.1

There was a general acceptance of UK's proposal to make NSHC conclusions easily accessible on the IHO web page.

### **A5 NSHC outstanding/ongoing agenda items**

The secretary mentioned that the actions from the 28th NSCH meeting were covered by the agenda.

### **A6 Review of Statutes**

UK proposed the NSHC to Amendment of NSHC statutes, to include conclusion 11.

#### **A6.1 Amendment of NSHC statutes, to include conclusion 11**

NSHC agreed to amend their statutes to include a new paragraph 3 of article 19 with the wording:

3. *"The Commission shall lay down its decisions in the form of conclusions, to be annexed to the summary; reports to be numbered consecutively and to consist of a preamble containing the main considerations, followed by one or more operative paragraphs containing the actions decided upon and taking into account the provision in paragraph 2 of article 19, of the Statutes of the North Sea Hydrographic Commission."*

#### **A7 Activities of the IHO**

Vice Admiral Maratos, President of the Directing Committee of the IHB, reported on the ongoing activities and current issues within IHO, with special attention to the status of the adoption of the amendments to the general regulations of the IHO and the approval of pending member states.

Iceland and Ireland reported that they have recently approved the amendments to the general regulations of the IHO.

The formation of the Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) and its tasks was also presented. The preparations for the formation of an Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC) and the importance of this commission were also highlighted.

### **B. STRATEGIC ASPECTS OF THE WORK OF HOs – TECHNICAL ISSUES**

#### **B1 ENC consistency and display issues / user feedback and lessons learned.**

The commission took note of the information presented by UK (EN B1). The examples presented by UK were very illustrative and raised a discussion on the need for a consistency WG (similar to the one set up by BSHC). The NSHC Conference was invited to note the increasing user feedback on ENC's and to consider setting up a harmonization working group on similar lines to that employed by the BSHC and as recommended by CHRIS20.

The item resulted in the following conclusion:

##### **North Sea ENC Harmonization WG**

*The 29<sup>th</sup> NSHC Conference recognized the need to study the harmonization of the ENC's within the commission region (INT chart region D) in order to promote increased consistency, common encoding standards and an improved level of ENC quality to better satisfy the needs of the mariner.*

To progress this task the NSHC 29<sup>th</sup> Conference established the North Sea ENC Harmonization Working Group hereafter referred to as NSEHWG

UK to draft TOR's and circulate to MS for approval.

UK to provide chair of NSEHWG.

The chair to propose program of work including actions related to ECDIS display issues (NAVAREA1 warning 230/210).

#### **B2 Use of remote updating services for ENC's.**

The commission took note of the information presented by UK (EN B2) on experience and user constraints. The Conference was invited to note the issues affecting ENC files sizes and as appropriate, consider national encoding policies in order to promote the use of remote updating services.

#### **B3 Accepting CUBE surfaces as survey deliverables.**

The commission took note of the information presented by UK (EN B3).

Opinions were shared among members. BE and DK use other methods for cleaning depth data.

The Chair suggested that the issue is taken up again at another meeting.

#### **B4 Changes in organization and operations of hydrographic surveys at the Swedish HO**

The commission took note of the information presented by SE (EN B4).

#### **B5 New Marine Research Vessel**

The commission took note of the information presented by EI (EN B5).

#### **B6 Methodology for assessing and displaying survey status, taking into account navigational and MSDI requirements**

This item was discussed under item D.1.2

**B7** Proposal for new TSS and route systems through the Baltic Approaches.  
The commission took note of the information presented by DK (EN B7).

**B8** Development of Print on demand solution

The commission took note of the information presented by NO (EN B8).  
Following a discussion on how to ensure SOLAS requirements are fulfilled and a discussion on the cost benefit of print on demand. Since the knowledge of the service is not yet widely spread it is too early to make any reliable analysis.

**B9** Status for the Norwegian Bathymetric Database – NMDB

The commission took note of the information presented by NO (EN B9).  
NO stated that data is available for national government and public use for non commercial

**B10** Implementation of Tracings service integrated with NtM

The commission took note of the information presented by NO (EN B10).

## **C. STRATEGIC ASPECTS OF THE WORK OF HOs - ADMINISTRATIVE AND MARKETING ISSUES**

**C1** Survey Program for Ireland.

The commission took note of the information presented by IR (EN C1).

The discussion that followed resulted in the conclusion no. 90:

NSHC members are invited to share, at the next NSHC conference, the governance principles for the definition and monitoring of their national civilian hydrographic and charting program.

**C2** Harmonized Coastline for Norway

The commission took note of the information presented by NO (EN C2).

FR noted that SHOM has a similar product available on the internet:

**C3** Norway Digital

The commission took note of the information presented by NO (EN C3).

## **D. CO-OPERATIVE NSHC/IHO PROJECTS**

**D1** NSHC-IRCC cooperation.

It was agreed to adopt this subject on the NSHC standing agenda, as recommended by IRCC.

**D1.1** Items from last IRCC meeting for consideration by NSHC. (CHAIR)

The chair of IRCC Mr. Gilles Bessero (FR) gave a presentation of the work done by the IRCC, with special attention to the actions for the regional hydrographic commissions. (NSHC29-EN D1.1)

**D1.2** Methodology for assessing and displaying survey status, taking into account navigational and MSDI requirements. (Ref to IRCC2 Action 5a)

There was a discussion on the subject, where it was noted that BSHC has a webpage, hosted by Sweden, which shows the status of the harmonized resurvey of routes in the Baltic.

GE noted that they display their national survey status on the BSH web site.

DK noted that the display of survey metadata is one of the objectives of EMODNET.

**D1.3** Items from NSHC for consideration by IRCC.

No further items were raised by NSHC for consideration by IRCC.

**D2** Report on WEND WG activities by NSHC representative at the WEND WG

The commission was asked to take note of the report from NSHC representative at the WEND WG. In order to present NSHC better within WEND WG-activity, it would be valuable to canvass NSHC member state opinion and feedback on the following key areas:

- the WEND WG work plan detailed in the report (EN D2)
- proposed ideas or solutions to solve ENC gap and overlap issues

- the continuation of the ECDIS Stakeholder's Forum

Following some discussion NSHC proposed the following recommendations to the WEND WG:

#### NSHC recommendations to WEND WG

NSHC members support the WEND WG work plan. They also supported the set-up of an IHO gateway for ENC collection and dissemination under the IHO-WEND principles presented by DE-FR following up the IPCC WGs meetings in Amsterdam (given in enclosure).

NSHC recommended the establishment of an inventory of global ENC gaps and overlap under the auspices of the NSEH WG. Recommendations to be forwarded to WEND WG via NSHC representative (Also WEND Chair) in accordance with decision IRCC2/14.

NSHC members supported the continuation of the ECDIS stakeholders forum.

#### **D3** International charting coordination working group (ICCWG)

This agenda item was treated in conjunction with E4.3: Report of NW European Charting WG.

The discussion resulted in the following conclusion:

The NSHC members agreed to change the name of NW European charting WG in accordance with the regulations agreed in IHO S 11. The new "North Sea International Charting Coordination working group" will amend their TOR in accordance with S-11, Ed. 2.003, March 2010, Part A, Annex C<sup>1</sup> to include the coordination of ENC's in addition to paper charts keeping IHB informed on the changes.

Action UK.

#### **D4** Report from BSHC re-survey Monitoring WG

DK reported from the BSHC meeting in Poland and informed that the Helsinki Commission had agreed to expand the re survey program of the major shipping routes in the Baltic Sea, to also include other areas of interest to navigation. BSHC members are tasked with producing a harmonized plan, based on national survey plans, which cover the entire Baltic Sea area by 2015.

The commission took note of the information presented by DK.

#### **D4.1** BSHC MSDI WG

The commission took note of the information presented by DK (EN D4.1).

#### **D5** PRIMAR report 2010

The commission took note of the information presented by NO (EN D5).

#### **D6** Formation of Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC)

The commission took note of the information presented by DK (EN D6)

A discussion on the subject of the northern borders of the NSHC area of responsibility ended in the following conclusion:

NSHC cooperation with Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC)

NSHC did not decide on a northern border for their area of responsibility.

NSHC decided to ask the ARHC, at their inaugural meeting, of the commission's position on the subject of southern borders of the ARHC, before deciding on the limits of NSHC area of responsibility. DK to report the response from ARHC to NSHC members after the ARHC meeting. (Done. See *post meeting note below.*)

NSHC chair to consolidate NSHC responses and report them to ARHC.

Action DK / NSHC Chair

#### **Post meeting note by DK:**

**The ARHC, at their inaugural meeting in Ottawa CA, on the 4-6 October 2010, decided that the area of interest for ARHC is the area of the Arctic Ocean covered by new arctic NAV-AREAS.**

---

<sup>1</sup> Terms of reference for International Charting Coordination Working Groups.

## **E. NSHC WORKING GROUPS**

### **E1 Report from NSHC Tidal WG**

The NSHC was requested to:

1. Note the present state of the reference surfaces for the North Sea area, presented in EN E1 Annex D
2. Discuss potential ways forward to create seamless reference surfaces for the full North Sea area relative to the ellipsoid, based on the presented information
3. Task the TWG with the formulation of recommendations on the creation of such surfaces
4. Task the TWG to adapt their Terms Of Reference and Work Plan accordingly

The conference strongly congratulated the TWG for its valuable work and important results.

It is the opinion of the conference that the way forward to create seamless reference surfaces is to be decided by the TWG as they are the experts. Likewise it is the TWG to formulate recommendations on the creation of such surfaces.

The TOR proposed by the TWG in EN E1 Annex C was approved.

The Work Plan (EB E1, Annex A) was approved.

The following conclusion was agreed by NSHC:

NSHC congratulated the NSHCTWG with its great effort and achievements.

NSHC tasked the NSHCTWG with the formulation of recommendations on the ways forward, to create a common and unique reference surface for the full North Sea area relative to the ellipsoid, based on the information presented in the annex D to the report of the 17th TWG meeting in Copenhagen in May 2010.

NSHC approved the NSHCTWG Terms of Reference and Work Plan according to the recommendations.

TWG are to act as an important stake holder in BLAST WP3.

TWG are to anticipate on BLAST WP3 results and implement outcome in TWG work plan.

Action NSHC TWG.

### **E2 Report from Dover Strait survey strategy working group**

The commission took note of the information presented by FR. The commission was requested to consider amending the tasks of the WG in accordance with the proposals given in EN E2.

NSHC decided on the following conclusion:

Dover Strait Survey Strategy WG

The NSHC agreed to task the Dover strait survey strategy WG.

With the following list of actions:

- a) To discuss the results of the studies presented on the subject. (All)
- b) To adopt common dunes characterization criteria (all)
- c) To discuss on areas of responsibility for survey vs. charting (all)
- d) To implement a survey strategy (each nation)

UK calls for a working group meeting in Brussels NLT January 2011. (Done, Cf. Email Nigel Sutton 8 Nov. 2010).

Action: UK /BE/NL/FR/Dover Strait Survey Strategy WG.

Deadline NLT Jan. 2011.

### **E3 Report from NSHC RE-SURVEY WG**

NSHC took note of the report presented by GE (EN E3) and agreed on the following conclusion:

NSHC Re-survey WG

NSHC decided to task the NSHC resurvey 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

-to include conclusion 28 "Resurveying of critical areas" in their work program.

NSHC Re Survey WG to liaise with Dover Strait Strategy WG for coordination of effort.

Action NSHC Re-survey WG.

**E3.1** Netherlands estimation of seafloor dynamics, to improve bathymetric survey planning.  
NSHC took note of the information presented by NL and pointed out the use of estimation of dynamic sea floor as a tool for re survey planning.

**E.4** EU Marine and Maritime Policies WG

FR gave an introduction to the activities of the European Commission regarding hydrography and maritime issues. The issues were discussed in more detail under items:  
E4.1, F1, F2 and F3.

**E4.1** Report from NSHC EU Marine and Maritime policies working group.

FR presented the work of the NSHC EU marine and maritime policy WG.

There was a general impression that the EU activities is of great importance to NSHC members. It was agreed to follow the development closely. NSHC EUM2PWG is to continue as focal point.

Since the issue is of importance to other IHO/EU member states, it was agreed to open the NSHC EUM2PWG for participation by EU HOs.

All HOs of EU member states and HOs of non EU members of the NSHC are to be informed of the results from NSHC EUM2PWG.

**E4.2** Netherlands quick scan for variety in finance models in an EU perspective.

NL presented the results of the quick scan for variety in finance models in an EU perspective.

NSHC took note of the presentation. See the overview of national responses in NSHC29-E4.2

**E4.3** Report of NW European Charting WG

The commission took note of the report presented by UK (EN E4.3).

See also agenda item D3 for conclusion.

**F. MISCELLANEOUS**

**F1** EU Marine Strategy Directive

FR presented the EU Commission's strategy communication: "Marine knowledge 2020"

NSHC requested EU M2PWG members to provide their provisional comments on marine knowledge 2020 policy to FR , as soon as possible and at least 2 weeks prior to the MOU signature, which is planned to take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2011.

**F2** IHO-EU MOU

FR reported on the development of the MOU between EU and IHO. NSHC congratulated FR and IHO on the progress and took note of the importance of cooperation between IHO and EU in matters related to hydrography and marine information.

FR in cooperation with IHB will coordinate the preparation of the MOU signature meeting, which is planned to take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2011.

**F3** EMODNET-hydrography

FR presented the EU paper "European Maritime Observation and Data Network Impact assessment" (EMODNET)

NSHC took note of the presentation.

Two hydrographic surveyors with relation to NSHC have been members of the expert group, advising the EU Commission on EMODNET.

**F4** EU INTERREG IV-B BLAST project

The commission took note of the information presented by NO (EN F4).

**F4.1** Status BSEHWG and ENC's in the BLAST project

The commission took note of the information presented by DK.

**F4.2** The MAREANO program

The commission took note of the information presented by NO.

**F5** The MAREANO program

The commission took note of the information presented by NO.

**G. UNSCHEDULED ITEMS**

**G1** Production of inland ENC's by the Belgian HO

The commission took note of the information presented by BE.

**G2** Charting in Greenland and Faeroes

The commission took note of the information presented by DK.

**H. CONCLUDING FORMALITIES**

**H1** Approval of Conference Conclusions and Recommendations

The Secretary presented the meeting conclusions and recommendations.

After some modifications, the conclusions were approved by the Commission.

Following some correspondence, with minor editorial changes, the conclusions have been posted on the IHO web site.

**H2** Place and date of next Conference

Norway volunteered to host the 30<sup>th</sup> ordinary meeting of NSHC in week 39 of 2012.

Details of date and venue to be determined.

Action Chair /NO

**H3** Election of new Chairman

The Chair thanked FR, for the excellent arrangement of the 29<sup>th</sup> NSHC meeting and expressed his sincere thanks to all the contributors of the presentations given at the meeting.

The Director General of SHOM, Ing. Gen. Bruno Frachon was elected new chairman of NSHC.

**H4** Closing Remarks

The New NSHC Chairman, Director of SHOM, Ing. Gen. Bruno Frachon expressed his thanks to the participants and acknowledged the work of the former Chair Svend Eskildsen and Secretary Lars Hansen. He noted that in spite of a tight agenda, all items were covered successfully.